

THE PRINCESS VIRGINIA

love with Helen Mowbray because it was your duty not to. Which makes it so much nicer."

"It was no question of duty, but of destiny," said the Emperor. "The stars ordained that I should love you."

"Then I wish —" and Virginia laughed happily, as she could afford to laugh now — "that the stars had told me, last summer. It would have saved me a great deal of trouble. And yet I don't know," she added thoughtfully, "it's been a wonderful adventure. We shall often talk of it when we're old."

"We shall never be old, for we love each other," said the Emperor.

THE END