

Eve fell into conversation with the Serpent, and at that moment an Angel came down to talk to Adam, and he withdrew with the heavenly visitant with every sign of pleasure. Eve watched them from a distance.

"You're quite as well able to talk to that Angel as Adam," said the Serpent.

"What do they talk about?" said Eve.

"Oh, the state of the government. Things are awfully wrong," said the Serpent.

"And does Adam know anything about it?" said Eve.

"Nothing," said the Serpent. "And neither does the Angel, but he can't get anyone to listen to him in heaven, where everyone knows more than he does, so he comes down here to impress Adam."

"But Adam is perfectly happy without him," said Eve, defensively.

"Oh, *perfectly* happy, of course," said the Serpent. "And so are you. Why don't you disturb his perfect happiness, Eve?"

"Could I?" said Eve, wondering. "What does 'play' mean?" she added; "I half know, but not quite."

"Play is what children do," said the Serpent.

"Children? What are they?" Eve asked eagerly.

"But you might begin by playing with Adam," continued the Serpent.

"Adam," said Eve, when the Angel had gone, "I never seem to see you now."

Adam laughed. "You see me all the time," he said.

"To see you isn't enough," said Eve. "You're always with other people. Yesterday it was the Keeper of the Garden, to-day an Angel. You leave me too much with the Serpent. Of course I like him, but——"

"You *like* him," said Adam angrily. "What would the Keeper of the Garden say?"

"Oh, *him!*" said Eve. What do *you* say; it's you I care for, Adam. I want to be alone with you. I hate all these people,