

## THE INCOMPATIBLES

On a beautiful morning in June a young husband and wife were seated opposite each other at a well-appointed breakfast table. Beyond a table "Good-morning!" when his wife entered the room, the master of the house had not uttered a word. From time to time she regarded him with glances now contemptuous, now gleaming with suppressed anger. As he was about to leave the table, apparently unconscious of her mood, as his eyes had been fixed of the morning paper during the greater part of the meal, she coughed slightly. He looked at her, and she inquired:

"Winston, do you know what day of the month yesterday was?"

"The twelfth, was it not?" he replied.

"The twelfth of what?"

"Of June."

"Is that all?"

"What do you mean, Dora?"

"I do not remember."

"I do not follow you."

"No! Well, can you lend me your attention for a few moments?"

"I can give it to you," he rejoined, leaning back in his chair.

"Very well," she said, her voice tremulous, though she tried to make it natural and indifferent. "Yesterday was the anniversary of our marriage."

"Ah, so it was?"

"Had you forgotten it?"

"No. But I saw no reason why attention should be called to it, or why we should make it an occasion of celebration."

"Perhaps you were right," she went on. "It would have been a silly thing to do. But henceforth it will be a double anniversary—for me at least, for last evening I decided something which has been agitating my mind for some time."

He lifted his eyebrows but said not a word.

"I have come to the conclusion that life with you is no longer possible, and I have resolved to end it."

"To end your life, Dora?" he asked meekly.

"Do not jest, Winston. I am serious. I cannot live with you any longer."

"You mean that you will not?"

"That is what I mean."

"Perhaps you are right. I shall not coerce you."

"You dare not. And it would be altogether useless."

He drummed lightly with his fingers on the table, but made no reply.

After a moment she spoke again:

"I do not think that either of us was anything serious with which to reproach the other."

He interrupted her:

"Grounds for a divorce, you mean?"

"Winston! We are Catholics. I would never think of such a thing for a moment. Neither would you."

"Thank you! We took each other for better or worse, you know."

"We did. But, in my opinion, the meaning of that—of those words—is seldom understood. Poverty, sickness, misfortune of all kinds, a man and woman should consider themselves bound to endure together, but there are other things."

"Still worse?"

"Still worse. You know it as well as I do. One of them is absolute incompatibility. Our characters are so opposite that they must constantly diverge farther and farther. Now I have resolved to end it all, as I told you."

"Do all other married persons live in perfect harmony?"

"An idle question. Some of them succeed in adjusting themselves to each other, no doubt; some are naturally in accordance; others live in a hell upon earth. I do not propose to do this any longer."

"I was not aware that we had come to such a pass."

"Probably not. Your indifference is really harder to bear than—"

"A terrestrial inferno? No, Dora, I was not aware that things were so bad as that."

"Your indifference again! And yet you are so contrary that it is difficult to believe you are not often actuated by malice."

"In what way?"

"Everything I do seems to meet with your disapproval."

"A moment ago you said I was indifferent. Are you not a little inconsistent?"

"You look your feelings and moods. Your eyes express a great deal."

"I might wear blue glasses—"

"You cannot have a particle of feeling," she continued, impatiently.

"If you had, you could not answer me as you do. Either my words vex you or you ridicule me. Your laugh strikes on my nerves, it is so cold, so unnatural."

"I might always keep silent."

"We both might. But that would not mend matters. Fancy two persons living together in perpetual silence!" (She brushed a tear from her eyes.) "Your moods are so variable! One day you are like the Sphinx; the next day you talk so much that I cannot get in a single word."

"That is only when you have been complaining of my silent moods."

"Yes, when you remind me of a mortuary chapel. And then you are so tyrannical!"

"Tyrannical! I!"

He was evidently surprised. He had not looked upon himself in that light.

"Yes. When on rare occasions you are gay, you think every one else must be gay; when you are gloomy you think others should be so."

"I was not aware of it, Dora."

"Nevertheless, it is true. You are eccentric, changeable, irritable. You will not suffer the least contradiction. You interrupt me when speaking, if my views do not change to coincide with your own."

"Is that all?"

"You do not love those whom I love."

"I was not aware that you loved any one in particular. I have felt surprised sometimes that you had no intimate friends."

"I have never felt the need of them."

"Is that a compliment to me or to yourself?"

"Neither. I was thinking of Minka when I alluded to your dislike of those whom I love."

"Whom you love, Dora! Minka—a little spaniel! I am astonished. I can't help it if caresses and kisses lavished on a dog are disgusting me."

"I must have some one—something to love," she rejoined, in a tearful voice.

"Oh, if he had only known! The man and the occasion were there,

but he did not avail himself of his opportunity. If he had only said to her even playfully, 'You have me, Dora,' the situation might have been saved. But he let it pass. Perhaps it never occurred to him to improve it."

After a moment, piqued at his indifference, she resumed in a more acid tone than she had hitherto used:

"It is enough that I have an opinion for you to take the opposite view. You pretend to be a connoisseur in music, whereas you know nothing about it—save that you have a pretty good ear. You say that I am an ignoramus where politics is concerned, whereas the contrary is true. My father was not a Senator for ten years without my having learned something of politics. You are cross to my maid, and allow your man to drink up all the wine in the cellar. You cannot bear low-backed dresses—will not let me wear them without a scold, and will not give up smoking when you know I cannot endure it."

"I have never been cross to your maid, Dora. I seldom speak to her."

"That is what I mean. You treat her like a machine."

"And what should I say to her? What possible excuse could I have for speaking to her, unless I wished to ask her some question or other as to your whereabouts?"

"You might say 'Good-morning' now and then."

"Has she complained?"

"Of course not. What a question! But I have remarked it."

"It seems to me, Dora, you are magnifying your woes. With regard to Justin, you know I have given him warning."

"Well, perhaps you have. But he does not seem in a hurry to go."

"I had paid him a month's wages in advance. He had represented to me that his wife was ill. He will leave in a few days."

"You might have told me that long ago, Winston."

"You asked no questions. And to me the matter was unimportant, so far as you were concerned."

"You never explain anything."

"When I endeavor to do so you make me draw it out to such a length that it tires me. And you invariably get angry, and I hate—"

"It is you who get angry, sir, with a cold-blooded, implacable anger which exasperates me. To be brief, we are thorns in each other's flesh. We are constant sources of ir-

ritation to each other. I feel and I know that the sound of my voice, of my footsteps, the flutter of my gown are odious to you. This very moment I can see in those cold eyes of yours that you are longing to seize me by the hair and throw me out of the window."

"No, indeed. I was thinking how becoming to you is a little color, if it were not the result of ill temper."

"You are a monster! I have finished. I shall say no more."

"Forgive me, Dora! I cannot take this seriously. We have not lived happily, perhaps—in fact, I know we have not. But there are others in worse condition."

"It is impossible!" she exclaimed. "No one could be in worse condition. You shall, you must take it seriously. I am tired of your manner of life. I will endure it no longer. I have means of my own. I do not ask anything from you. Happily, we have no child to make matters more complicated than they are."

"Perhaps if we had, things would never have come to this pass," she said, sorrowfully.

"It is idle to speculate," she replied. "I am going. I bear you no ill-will. We shall both be happier. I promise you that you will be a different man when I am not here to cross you. Possibly you will think of me more kindly than you do at present; and I shall remember you as a perfectly honest and entirely disagreeable man. Do not let us prolong this discussion. Let me go."

"You have not asked my permission heretofore. My giving or withholding it would matter nothing. I see that you are in earnest. If you are determined to leave me, so be it. But I have still left some shreds of respect for you as well as for myself. Let us not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish. I will not break off abruptly, so as to make ourselves the subject of gossip. You know we had proposed to go to South Carolina this summer. You may not believe me, Dora, but I had anticipated considerable enjoyment from the trip. I still would like you to see the place. Besides, my old friend and governess will be expecting us; she has had everything put in readiness for us. She has been more than a mother to me; I cannot bear to disappoint her. Let us go down there together, as we had planned. I will remain a few days—we can preserve appearances that long—and then I shall arrange to leave for Europe on business of great importance. You may do as you please—stay at Longwood for some months if you wish, or leave as you wish.