

"Those who were present said that Clairmont went mad. He drew a pistol, and in the twinkling of an eye had shot the blustering braggart through his false heart. In the trial that followed Clairmont faced grimly a jury of his peers. His outraged honor, and the broken sanctity of his home, alike persuaded him that he had acted the man's part. But man-made laws counted his act of justification a most heinous crime.

"The dead Sheldon had many friends at court, and there seemed scant hope for his slayer.

"When all else failed, Pamela came to his rescue. Her early training stood her now in good stead. Never in her life had Pamela reached such a pinnacle of perfect acting, as when in the crowded court house she accused herself of all that Sheldon had insinuated. She won the day. Clairmont's life was spared, but his faith and trust in the wife he had so greatly loved were shattered. Pamela bowed her head beneath the terrible yoke of circumstance. She had falsified herself for love of her husband. With the characteristic blindness of all our race, he scorned that sacrifice.

"His sentence was changed from death to life imprisonment. No sooner had the prison doors closed behind him, than memories of those awful revelations which Pamela had made at his trial, began to scourge him as with whips. Torn as he was by the shame and agony of remorse, he could not discern that out of the greatness of her love for him, she had gladly immolated herself, and that all she had said was but a gigantic falsehood told for his sake. He knew nothing of the agony of conscience in which she agreed to falsify herself to save his life. Thus when her son was born he fiercely denied the child its birthright. Smarting under this injustice she left his house forever. She returned to the stage and became a great favorite.

"Clairmont escaped from prison and through the influence of friends in Canada, he obtained the little island. Barren and desolate though it was, he found it a haven of rest after all his troubles. It was there he dwelt in silence as penance for his deed of blood. It was there that he taught Ben that wonderful music."