

## LADIES MUST LIVE

of game I played because I did not know any other. But only part of me was alive then. I was like a blind person; and they were my stick; but now that I can see, the stick is just in my way. It is n't silly and romantic to believe in love, Max. The hardest-headed, most practical people believe in it — every one who has any sense really believes in it, when they find it. To be poor, to be uncomfortable — it's a price, but a small one to pay for love. Is n't that true — true, at least, as far as you're concerned?"

"Oh, yes, as far as I'm concerned —"

"Then what right have you to think it's not true to me? Don't be such a moral snob, Max. If love's the best thing in the world for you, it's ever so much more so for me — I need it more."

"Nobody could need it more than I do," he answered, suddenly clasping her to him.

"It's the way it's going to be, anyhow," she murmured.

"I can't let you go," he said, as if arguing with an unseen auditor.

She nodded in a somewhat contracted space. "That's it," she announced. "It has to be."