

'I am your husband, Isabel.'

'Emanuel Elveda,' she went on, 'is a man of ancient lineage, as well as a man of intellect. His ancestry is far more ancient than that of any Christian family, even the Bourbons, can boast. In Spain his people pretended for generations to conform to the modern faith; they were ennobled. He is the Conde Elveda if he chooses to bear the title; but when I met my husband he was plain Emanuel Elveda. His family had lost their lands and their wealth; they had abandoned their rank; they had returned openly to their old faith. He was poor and proud.'

'I am still your husband, Isabel,' he repeated.

'I have said this, Emanuel, to show that I recognise your great qualities. This makes my rebellion the more daring, does it not? You remind me that you are still my husband? Does that mean still that you demand my submission?'

'It does.'

'Then—if I still refuse?'

'A wife is not a servant or a slave.'

'If you make her a slave, what matter for a name?'

'If you are my wife, obey your husband.'

'I have reflected, as you wished me to do. I hoped that you would also reflect and come back open to reason. My position is exactly the same as it was last year: my opinions are the same: my resolution is unaltered.'

'And mine.'

'Will you give me a bill of divorce?'

'I will not.'

'You have right by the law of our People, if not by the law of the land. When did the law of the land override the law of our People? You may divorce your wife, because you are a man and she is a woman, for any cause that you please, or for no cause; a notary will draw up the bill of divorce, the Rabbis will witness it. There is good and sufficient cause. Let me go.'

'I will not let you go.'

'Emanuel!'—she joined her hands and spoke earnestly—'if you ever loved me, or thought you loved me, by the memory of that time let me go. I will never, never, never again be your wife or any man's wife. Henceforth I will be free. Give me—that is give yourself—freedom; say to me in the language of the People and in the words of the Law: "I