

## 428 The Dream and the Business

"No man likes to acknowledge that he has made a mistake in the choice of his profession or of his party—or of his religion; no woman likes to acknowledge that she has made a mistake in her marriage. But whether acknowledged or disavowed, if a mistake has been made, it works misery. I have never believed in unnecessary suffering."

He hesitated, but an expression of unwonted firmness settled over his features; he spoke gently but his eyes shone with something at once proud and shy.

"I'll go off by myself for about a month," he went on; "this will give us both a chance to sift our thoughts."

"Don't leave me alone. I should enjoy the yacht. Please let me come."

"I'm afraid you say that as a dreary sort of duty."

"No—out of sheer egoism. I really want to come. It would be a most unkind thing to leave me behind. People who are only in each other's company for amusement and happiness never really like each other so much as those who work together."

He remembered his pleasant hours with Sophy Burghwallis.

"And suffer together," added Tessa, with a break in her voice.

"I can scarcely like the idea of our suffering together," he said.