

said, so low that close as she was to him she scarcely heard.

"To give me up," she answered. "To go away and leave me to my life."

"I will do it," he said, and lifted up his head. He still clung convulsively to her hands and his face, as he turned it up to her, was so full of passionate longing that her heart smote her almost to recall.

"Go, in God's name!" she said solemnly, and bending forward she kissed him on the lips. He let go of her hands and stood back from her, his face transfigured by the renunciation he was carrying out.

"In God's name!" he repeated, as if the invocation gave some needful consecration to the act. Then with the same even dignity and without turning round, he took up again his retreat and passed out slowly through the door. Lisa Fedorovna remained motionless, where she stood, until he was wholly out of sight. Then the reaction took her and, as she turned, she swayed unsteadily and her face looked worn and tired. Sara Lukievna sprang to her, but she pushed her gently back.

"No, I want Luka," she said softly and