

her choice, and embrace a state of life altogether opposed to her inclinations.

As soon as the carriage returned home, and the servants announced that Magdalen was going to stay in the Abbey for a few days, nothing could equal the excitement caused by this unpleasant news. The father's surprise and displeasure, the mother's anguish and sorrow, the sister's regret and disappointment, the tears of the whole household, marked that day as one of deep mourning. But her father was, of all, the least resigned to lose her. She was his favorite, and he had already determined that, as long as he lived, his dear Magdalen should not dwell two days in a convent. He immediately ordered the carriage, sent invitations to his friends to meet him at home that evening, drove off without delay, and in less than an hour was standing