
Elfa

for all this strange confirmation of my former fears, but answered readily:

"I should think him a very lucky fellow to find so clever an ally in what I know must be a right good project."

"That is good. That is how I like you to speak. I love you to trust me so completely as that implies. Oh, I am happy now; so happy: and after such a doleful day. For all is going to happen just as I would have it."

She paused here as if collecting her thoughts; and when she spoke again she prefaced the words with a low silvery laugh, which she was wont to give when she was very pleased.

"Poor Captain von Unger! He has been so terribly in love, Ernst, and has had so many, many doubts and troubles, that when we were at Festen and he heard that I knew Aschern, he seemed to think I must be able to help him, and he could not keep himself from asking me in such a droll way whether I knew—I will tell you whom directly—who lives here at Aschern. And when I said I did, he questioned me so closely and so anxiously, and hung so eagerly on my replies, that I could not help but guess his secret. I had seen the symptoms in another man whose looks and words and acts I had learned to scan and study long ago on a certain great mountain. I suppose you don't know who that could have been, Ernst?"

"I think I could guess, little heart," I murmured.

"Well, I don't know whether every woman feels