

Their Hearts' Desire

milk, His Royal Highness was borne willingly to bed.

The hours following were never to be forgotten hours. In the absence of Dame Grundy and her set, the rarer spirits of love and perfect happiness stalked fearlessly abroad in laughter, tears unshed and honest congratulations; and more substantially evidenced in Maria's delectable wedding feast, supplemented later by a generous service of rice, old shoes and good wishes, a portion of which rested on the top of the carriage as Mr. and Mrs. Belden rode away.

After the closing of the carriage door, except for inquiries regarding her comfort, Robert left Barbara to herself. Passively she submitted to his solicitous care, dreamily content to watch the procession of street lamps, listen to the creaking wheels upon the snow, and as the carriages passed, wonder who the bride and groom were, and whither they were going.

But as the horses slackened their speed