

Let Not Man Put Asunder

"Considered merely as joys, income and independence are already thought to rank above the average. One can't have everything, and it is often best to keep the bone rather than try to seize the shadow."

"I don't believe you think so." Lechmere's tone was provocative.

"It is not a question of what I think, but of what is best for our poor, undefended sex. We never quite lose the sense that civilization has treated us somewhat badly. After nineteen centuries of the modern era we are not yet quite sure whether we are men's inferiors, superiors, or equals; and, whichever point of view we take, some one is ready to laugh us to scorn."

"So that safety lies in keeping one's income and independence unimpaired so long as one is lucky enough to have them?"

"Safety lies in living one's individual life with the least possible collision with any other life."

"But if the collision is inevitable?"

"In disentangling one's self and still going on one's way."

"Leaving the sinking ship to sink and the drowning men to drown?"

"You push the metaphor too far. When a woman is in danger it is more than she can do to save herself."

"Is that why women are growing so self-centred?"

"Our mothers and our grandmothers had all the daring of timidity. They committed themselves without question or condition to the care of some one else. This confidence was so little justified that what they gave into others' keeping women to-day prefer to reserve in their own. They find prudence better than protection."

"If men were half so cautious there would be no such thing as progress. Progress is the child of venture."

"Doubtless. But the woman has had to run with