

FATED TO LOVE HER

Many an eye was turned in deep interest toward the pair—he so tall, so handsome, so distinguished looking; she so slight, so graceful; both so young. No sooner had they reached the door than out crashed the bells again, while a cheer worthy of Yorkshire burst from the churchyard. And before them fell like a shower the beautiful, rare flowers which the committee of ladies had arranged—myrtles, orange flowers, oleanders, pomeanths—the little school-girls smiling and glowing and scattering with lavish hands. The sun, bright at first, was still brighter now. It beamed in Gabrielle's face, it irradiated James' dark eyes. Thus amid bells, chimes, flowers and sunshine the husband and wife made their first entrance into the outer world.

"For taking you away. Not from them only—from poor Olivia, turning her and Cissy out of Farnley—'Amek adding a fresh joy to my life every time I look at you every time you speak. But you are so pale, and so tired. Shall I tell you what I mean to do the first thing to-morrow?' "What?" "To take you to Dr. W. and make him give you a set of rules for your life abroad—your diet, as he will call it; medicines, hours, and all the rest."

"He will think you very absurd." "Never mind. Think what he may, I shall get the rules, and you shall keep them for me, remember, you have sworn to obey me." "But it is Dr. W.—" "Dr. W.'s word will be my law. However, I don't care to be too strict, to begin with. We'll make a bargain, if you will promise to obey these rules together, and I will promise to take you in the spring to see Yvonne, Naples, Rome and anything else that you like. What do you say?" "You may be sure I should never say no, James, when you would get me to Venice."

It was long afterwards toward the end of May. The London streets were all glare and dust. The foot passengers traversed them with inflamed faces and continual complaints. In the carriages the ladies looked languid, the coachman apologetic, the driver weary of their existence and of the flies that shorted the world was dead beat. Only Cissy was still cool and fresh and blooming. "Olivia, Olivia!" she cried, entering the drawing room—the drawing room of Sir Philip Peers' house, in Berkeley square, where she and James were staying. "Olivia, the most delicious, delightful, enchanting, superb, charming, brightest, tightest-gaitedest news in the world! To be had on guessing."

And Cissy, her hands folded behind her back, performed the stately in front of Olivia's chair. "My dear Cissy, pray keep still! How can you jump about in this weather?" "Olivia, have you any quicksilver in your composition? I wish I might dissect you and see. I'm sure I could put them together again, and I do so want to know. And—jump about! indeed! Jumping about is highly unbecoming. I'm not jumping. I'm dancing a Scotch reel. So you will be, I believe, in another minute."

"A prettier I never witnessed!" said Mrs. Barber, with emphasis. "And for me, Gabrielle, how well you behaved! I thought you'd faint or cry, or something—sure to. But not one blessed tear did you shed." "So much the better," said Cissy; "I always feel inclined to ask those crying brides why they do it, then. As for my husbands, if I saw a wife of mine weeping her eyes out all the time that I was swearing to make her happy, I should—don't be shocked, Olivia—box her ears."

"Lor me, Miss Cissy!" he thanked that Mr. Barber was not of your opinion. Good gracious, what floods I shed at my wedding, to be sure! And my mother—I verily believe that, between us, we might have filled the tank. Well, how do you like Mr. Goddard's working, afraid, on look just as you did when you were growing?" "Oh, I'm all right, thanks," said Charlie, hastily. "Gordon, I—I wish you joy. Then, regardless of observers, he turned to Gabrielle, and, bending toward her, wrung her hand."

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