

FAN. No, he says she is apt to take a bad spell and die very suddenly.

JUNE. Poor thing! Really, Fanny, I feel right sorry for her. Say, let's begin and be good.

FAN. Oh, that would be all very fine if Charlotte wasn't here.

*(Enter Charlotte L.)*

CHAR. Ah, girls, it was too bad to break up your game, and now I'm sorry to disturb you, but Aunt Eleanor is coming in here while her room is being arranged.

JUNE. Why, we don't mind, we'll go out. I guess we were pretty noisy just now.

FAN. And you may be sure Charlotte did not fail to call her patient's attention to it.

CHAR. On the contrary, Fanny, I did nothing of the kind.

FAN. You've been trying to supplant us here ever since you came. I'd like to know what right you have to make yourself mistress in this house. If Aunt Eleanor wants someone to take care of her, 'tis we who have the first right.

CHAR. That is exactly what I think, Fanny.

FAN. Why, then, did you not go when the term of your visit was up?

CHAR. Because Aunt Eleanor begged me to remain near her. And besides I had not the least idea that you were anxious, or even willing, to take care of her.

JUNE. Sister! Shame!

MISS F. *(without)*. Charlotte! Charlotte!

CHAR. Yes, Aunt, here I am!

*(Exeunt June and Fanny, enter Miss Fairfax.)*

CHAR. How do you feel now, Aunt Eleanor?

MISS F. *(peevishly)*. Where have you been? I sent you ten minutes ago to prepare this room, and now, where are the pillows?

CHAR. Here they are, Aunt. I'm very sorry to have kept you waiting. Let me put this one under your feet.

*(Charlotte sits and fans Miss F.)*

MISS F. How awkward you are, Charlotte! I'm not get-