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**Sweet Eva!**

CHAPTER XXVII.

Philip had more than once told him to drop in whenever he liked, but somehow it no longer mattered to Calligan what Philip said. It was not to see him that he came, and after the first visit he had seen enough to convince himself that the Winterdicks' marriage had merely been one of convenience.

He thought it astounding good luck that Philip should be out of the way to-night; a whole evening with Eva was something for which he had never hoped for.

There was no thought of wrong in his mind with regard to his friend's wife. He loved her—but he believed that he could always be content to be her friend.

Eva took a very short time to dress; it was barely a quarter of an hour before she was back again.

"Dinner will be ready directly—nothing grand, I warn you! I hope you're not very hungry."

"I'm not 'very' anything, except happy," he told her. He rose and followed her into the dining-room. "This is fine—just you and I," he said. "Do I carve?"

"If you like." She sat opposite to him—she was wearing a pearly grey frock, and the delicate colouring suited her well.

"Do you know," she said, suddenly, when they were halfway through the meal, "it seems impossible that I have only known you such a little while!"

"Yes, doesn't it?" Calligan helped himself to a second lot of salt absently. "Let me see, how long is it—a month?"

"More than six weeks—I've been married nearly six weeks."

"So it is." There was a pause, and the minds of both of them went back to that wedding day and both of them wondered a little—she that she could ever have been so happy as she had been that morning, he that she had ever married Philip. To do Calligan credit he was firmly convinced that Eva did not love her husband, otherwise perhaps he might have hesitated to so often seek her company; but he was used to knocking about with rather a Bohemian set, in which the fact of a man or woman being married was no barrier to friendship with another man or woman, and he was, without actually intending to do so,

considering Eva from the same standpoint.

"Peter's coming to stay with me next week," Eva said suddenly. "You remember my brother Peter, don't you?"

"Yes—I saw him several times after you were married."

"Did you—did you hear that he is engaged?"

Calligan raised his brows.

"Really! He seems rather young! Who's the lady?"

"Kitty Arlington." Eva was watching him closely as she spoke. She had been expecting the look of blank amazement that filled his eyes. "You remember her, too, I expect," she said quietly.

"Yes—I think I do . . . rather a dollydressed-looking little thing, wasn't she? Fluffy hair and all the rest of it."

"Most men admire her," said Eva generously.

"Do they? Well, there's no accounting for tastes . . . and so she's to marry your brother?"

"Yes . . ."

Calligan said "Humph."

Eva longed to ask what he was thinking, but she did not like to do so. She changed the subject, and they talked trivialities till they reached the theatre.

Eva was looking very pretty and animated. Calligan felt a little thrill of pride as he looked at her.

He was trying to imagine what life would be like if this girl were his wife. He could not for the life of him understand how Philip could remain so cold and indifferent to her.

Eva stood at the front of the box for a moment, looking into the crowded house. She told Calligan excitedly that she had never been in a box before. She thought the sea of upturned faces a wonderful sight.

"I wonder if there is anyone we know here," she said.

He laughed.

"I dare say—the world's a small place."

"There's not likely to be anyone I know," she said laughing. "I hardly . . ." She broke off; her eyes had rested on some people in the third row of stalls, and for a moment she stood quite still, her hands pressed heavily on the padded rail in front of her.

Twice she shut her eyes and opened them again, confident that she was the victim of an illusion; but, no, it was Philip—Philip, who had told her he was dining with a man at the club;

Philip and . . . She felt her whole body stiffen and grow cold as her eyes fell on the girl at his side. It was Kitty Arlington.

For a moment she could not move.

Philip and Kitty—Philip and Kitty—over and over again the words went through her brain. Calligan saw that she looked rather white. He spoke to her concernedly.

"I'm all right—it's only—looking down made me feel queer for a moment . . . No, I'd rather sit here, if you don't mind."

She drew her chair a little back in the box so that Philip could not see her if he chanced to look up—she sat there during the whole of the play; she never once turned her eyes again in her husband's direction.

He had lied to her and deceived her, deliberately! And for Kitty! And Kitty was engaged to Peter!

All power of thought seemed numbed; she could not rouse herself.

"I'm afraid you haven't enjoyed it very much," Calligan said anxiously when it was over and they were making their way out with the crowd.

"Does your head ache?"

"It does, rather," she caught eagerly at the excuse. "I'm sorry, I'm afraid it's been dull for you."

"No." The monosyllable told her nothing, and she did not see his eyes. When they reached the flat Eva hesitated.

"You don't mind if I don't ask you in to-night? she said. "I'm tired, and . . . you don't mind?"

"Of course not. When shall I see you again."

She was silent for a moment, then she laughed bitterly.

"To-morrow—come to-morrow, if you have nothing better to do."

He held her hand.

"There isn't—everything's quite all right, isn't it?" he asked anxiously.

"Quite . . ." She drew her fingers gently away. "Good night, and thank you ever so much."

Calligan waited till he had seen her safely in then he turned away. It struck him as odd that he had not noticed before how dark the night was.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The hall of the flat was in darkness when Eva groped her way across it to the switch, and she drew a little quick breath of relief. Philip could not be in, that was certain. She unwound the chiffon scarf with which she had covered her head and had raised her hand to the switch to extinguish the light again when the study door opened, and Philip stood there, a big, uncompromising figure, in the doorway.

For a moment Eva could think of nothing to say. She just stood helplessly staring at him.

"Are you—alone?" he asked.

"Yes." It required an effort for her to speak, an effort, too, for her to move on again towards her room.

Philip came out into the hall.

"I want to speak to you a moment."

She answered hurriedly: "I am tired. My head aches. I want to go to bed . . ."

"I shall not keep you a moment."

She knew by the sound of his voice that it would be useless to refuse. She turned back into the study with him.

Philip shut the door.

"Have you been to the theatre?" he asked.

"Yes."

"Who did you go with?" His voice was so quiet and unemotional that she was deceived.

"I went with a friend—as I told you."

"A friend!"

"Yes . . ."

There was a moment's silence; then Philip brought his fist crashing down on the table against which he stood.

"You went with Calligan," he said in passionate fury.

Her eyes met his coldly.

"You saw us?" She shrugged her shoulders. "Very well, then, there is no further need to argue . . . Good-night." She turned to the door again.

Philip caught her by the waist and swung her round into the room.

"I'll not have you going out with Calligan, do you hear? I'll not have you go anywhere with him . . . I've suspected this all along. I've kept quiet and said nothing in case I should be mistaken. How many times have you been out with him since we came to the flat? How many times?"

She was breathing fast, and there was an angry spot of colour on either white cheek.

(To be continued.)

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**Ladies' Fleece-Lined Underwear**

During those chilly days every woman wants the feel of snug, warm Underwear when starting off to work. Recent shipments have brought complete ranges in many wanted styles and weights.

**Per Garment, 69c**



**Blue Linen**

The Fabric of Many Uses.

While many women will choose this material to make men's work shirts, it is also useful for many other needs; 38 ins. wide.

**Per Yard, 29c**



**Knitted Underwear for Gents**

Greatly Reduced.

It will pay you well to make your selection of Winter Underwear, for the qualities of this knitted weight Underwear will never be offered again at such remarkably low prices.

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**Ladies' Heavy Fleeced Bloomers**

We have just received another shipment of these splendid heavy Bloomers. This time the colors are Navy and Brown. A full supply of all sizes.

**Per Pair, 1.35**



**Men's Overcoats**

Don't worry your heads about your Winter Overcoat, we can give you a real bargain in one. Each garment is a model of good taste and skilful tailoring. The fabrics are worthy; the style and fit splendid. These Coats are regular \$18.00. Now on sale while they last.

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**Boys' Winter Overcoats**

There are not many of the Winter Overcoats for boys left, and they will go on sale for \$4.98 for as long as they will last. These Coats are regular \$6.98 value and it is not often that such bargains are given. Don't forget.

**Each, 4.98**



**Ladies' Heavy Fleeced Bloomers**

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In V. Rose, Pink, Blue, Red and Fawn. These Sweaters are made of pure wool, just the thing for this cold winter season. Come first and get your choice.

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**Ladies' Spats**

Made of Brown, Grey and Black Felt, 12 buttons. They are excellent to give a trim, high shoe effect. Very warm and waterproof.

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**Ladies' Veiling**

We have received a large assortment in Purple, Navy, Brown and Black; practical as well as useful.

**Per Yard, 45c**



**White Twill Sheeting**

Beautiful White Twill Sheet, 54 inches wide.

**Per Yard, 1.10**



**Boys' Winter Overcoats**

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**Ladies' Overshoe Bargains**

The popularity of these Rubbers has made us headquarters for Ladies' Overshoes. For comfort in wearing this Overshoe is unexcelled; all sizes; low cut.

**Per Pair, 88c**



**Children's Spats**

Come now and supply your little school girl with a pair of these High Spats in Fawn, Brown and Black; made of splendid felt with leather strap.

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**Per Pair, 88c**



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Beautiful White Twill Sheet, 54 inches wide.

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