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## GREEN CHALK

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time—a week or less will do. I've got a business transaction to make with a certain fashionable painter. Do you understand ? ”

“ No, I don't.”

“ I think you do,” she said gently.

“ Be quiet ! ”

“ Don't you need money ? Of course you do ! Philip Lenormand's got more than he needs. George, are you going alone this time ? ”

“ You're the worst woman God ever made,” he told her.

“ And the most loving,” she added. “ I was very angry with you last time we met, now I'm only sorry for you. Won't you take me with you ? ”

“ No.”

“ Why not ? ”

“ Because I hate you. I don't want to go through life with a serpent wound round my neck.”

“ Your simile isn't good—I'm not cold blooded and I have got arms to wind round your neck. Are you quite sure you want to go alone ? ”

“ Yes.”

“ Then before you go away alone for the second time, will you give me another cigarette ? ”

He held out his open case to her.

“ I didn't like the last one much,” she said.

“ Are these brown ones Russian ? ”

“ Yes.”

She took one daintily and put it between her lips saying :