

UNDER THE CHESTNUTS.

"There!" said Nan, patting the last box she had tied on a dozen little fancy wicker baskets. "They are all done now."

"How very pretty they are!" said Lucy Tate, taking up one that was trimmed with fringe and cherry-colored satin. "My dear, they are far too nice to gather chestnuts in."

"Nothing is too nice for me," said Nan, smiling. "I believe in enjoying the good and beautiful things of this life. Besides, I mean to have my nutting party as usual, at any cost, and these little baskets will be pretty souvenirs of the occasion."

"So they will," said Lucy, sipping the chocolate Nan had ordered for her. "But are you sure you'll have anything to put in them? I've gone chestnutting a great many times, and never found any nuts worth speaking of."

"Oh, there will be plenty of nuts!" Nan said, with a peculiar smile. "I've told our man to go out early tomorrow morning, and—going on that everything's all right. We're going on a private place, you know, and—don't worry about the nuts, Lucy. There will be plenty there."

"Is Owen Prescott going?" Lucy asked, with a slight glance at Nan's face. "I invited him, of course," Nan said, coldly. "I wouldn't have the heart to separate him from Miss Duncan for a whole day."

"It's very funny—that affair," Lucy observed, musingly. "What did you do to him, Nan, that drove him away from you so suddenly? We all knew he was wildly in love with you, and Florence Duncan isn't his style at all, dear, I think that you and I have rather been his soap-ga."

"That it was you who made the trouble!" Nan persisted. "You were awfully jealous of Harry."

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