

FOUND OUT. 'I wish I could do something for you, Mr. Clare,' said Imogen Lee, softly, 'you who do so much for me!'

'You are not a human nature not to be flattered at the wistful earnestness of this pretty young creature with the pink cheeks and round chin, just indicated by a dimple. Miss Lee's miniature drawing-room was the prettiest and most restful place in the world, with its portieres of dark blue plush, its stand of love-birds, wax-bills, and Java sparrows, its open boudoir piano, and the vase of rose-jasmine, filled all the air with sweetness; and Imogen herself was the fitting emblem of this fairy domain, daintily picturesque in her blue silk dress, and the blue flowers in her hair.

'You are doing a great work for me, Miss Lee,' he said, 'when you visit the poor and sick in my district, and constitute yourself my representative at the many places which I have not time to attend.'

'Oh, but I mean something for you yourself,' persisted Imogen. 'To wear, to use, or to decorate that little cotton study of yours, that I have such a curiosity to possess. Of course you have dozens of slippers, and pen-wipers and ash trays, and smoking jackets, and all that sort of thing; but—her eyes brightening with sudden inspiration—'do you wear a smoking-cap? I'm sure one would be very becoming to you.'

'I never had one,' said Mr. Clare, laughing. He knew she was making a fool of him, but the process was very pleasant, and he did not at all object to it.

'Oh, you must have one,' said Imogen, embroidering her hands. 'And I'll embroider it myself. Tell me, now, which is your favorite flower?'

'How can a man decide such a bewildering beauty? he asked, dreamily. 'But I think I have asked the gold-blossomed mimosa best. And the sweet wind that blows from the south—' 'Somehow—I am not certain where—I have seen a wreath of mimosa, embroidered in gold and emerald,' he added, thoughtfully.

'And you like it?' asked Imogen, nodding her head archly. 'Well, your taste shall be consulted, and now here comes the tea,—the real orange-scented Pekoe—just as you like.'

Mimosa! They had no such patterns at the fancy emporiums; they had never heard of the flower, some of them. They had never seen its embroidered. An ugly, ugly little blossom, which would produce no effect at all. For their part, they would recommend daisies, or pomegranates or passion-flowers. Nowhere could Miss Lee find the design she wanted.

I don't believe in people who put false sentiments before reason and common sense. 'I don't mind if I say ten shillings,' said Imogen. 'Come, if you are really so very poor, ten shillings ought to be an object to you.'

'Poor as I am,' said Mrs. Hyde, with a dignity which quelled even the parish vicar of St. Winifreda's. I am not yet poor enough to endure unprovoked insult. I have stated my determination, and I shall adhere to it. I wish you good-afternoon.'

'Six-button,' she said to herself, and the newest shade of myrtle green. I can't afford to lose it. So, unwillingly enough, she went back. Mrs. Hyde was not there. She had dragged herself from the cut-throat lounge into a neighbor's room, at the summons of a terrified young mother, whose child was in a fit; but the myrtle green glove lay close to the chair which Imogen had so recently occupied. She caught it up, rather relieved to have to face the dignified young widow again, and glanced hurriedly at the wall by the window where the violet velvet smoking cap had hung.

When Mrs. Hyde returned, in about fifteen minutes, the hat was empty—the pretty wreath of mimosa was gone.

'I hope you like it,' said Imogen, with her pretty head dropping, her eyes cast down. 'It is all my own work; I designed it myself.'

'It is beautiful,' said the young clergyman, as he looked at the violet velvet cap, with its circle of rare Eastern embroidery, its binding of gold cord and golden tassels.

'But—' He stopped abruptly. Where had he seen so exactly like it before? Every one knows how impossible it is to locate these provoking will-o'-the-wisps of the brain. And Mr. Clare left off trying, for the present.

'It was very kind of you to think of me, said Mr. Clare—'Bless me—two o'clock already, and I have an engagement at quarter past,' and he bade Miss Imogen Lee good-bye, and went off, with a little rose perfumed paper box in his hand.

'Really,' said Imogen, with a pout, 'I think he might have displayed a little more enthusiasm. And after all the trouble I had, too.'

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