

with me and her to the small inn, I shall prove to his satisfaction and the young lady's that this *is* Josephine Beranger, the twin-sister of Monsieur Biddulph's late wife. With your permission we shall now take our leave, and I shall communicate with monsieur."

He bowed to Biddulph as he spoke, and offered his arm to the woman, who took it without speaking, and they left the room together. Nora and Biddulph looked at each other as they went out, and there was bitter pain in Nora's eyes.

"James," she said, clasping his hand, and forgetting the presence of Jock Fraser, "it is all false! We cannot believe her, nor the man!"

"He's a disreputable looking fellow, and I don't believe a word he has been saying," said Jock Fraser, bluntly. "Nora, my dear, you cannot act on such evidence as this."

"No," she answered. "James, don't go near them any more," she continued, looking up in Biddulph's agitated face; "we—we must forget what—we have hoped might be—we must still be friends."

She was very pale, and the bitterness of the disappointment was very great; but still she bore herself with a certain dignity, and displayed far greater calmness than Biddulph, whose face was black as night.

"Then you give up all doubt?" he said, abruptly.

"I—am afraid so."

"I *cannot*!" he answered, with bitter emphasis and passion.

"Biddulph," said Jock Fraser, kindly but firmly, "it's no use, my dear fellow, going on the word of such a man as that. Nora could not do it; you could not ask her. It's hard to have to say such a thing, but I believe this woman is your wife."

"I'll see the fellow, at any rate," said Biddulph, "and I'll try to find out about this Whitaker. It may be a patched up story, but there may be some truth in it after all."

"I fear not," answered Jock, and Nora's heart echoed his words.

Then, presently, Jock went away, and Nora and Biddulph were alone.

"Don't give up all hope, Nora," he said, taking both her hands.

She looked up in his face and smiled a sad smile.

"We shall always be friends, you know," she said gent-