

evident her spirit was not so broken as she had said. Presently, a mass of foliage hid the adventuress from sight, and Philip returned slowly and thoughtfully to the house. He managed to restore the glass and decanter to the dining-room without being observed; then, as he emerged into the hall again, he found Lena waiting for him. The anxious look on her face gave way to a smile as she saw the expression in Philip's eyes.

"Come into the garden," he whispered. "We shall not be missed by the others, and I have much to tell you. Don't be afraid, for everything has gone quite smoothly, and we shall never see those people again. Let us walk towards the lake."

In the stillness of the night and under the brilliant light of the moon, Philip told Lena the whole of the extraordinary story. She listened patiently to all he had to say, and had few questions to ask. She was too happy for that, too full of joy that this man had come back to her with a love that he had not felt before. Lena slipped her hand under his arm, her head reclining on his shoulder. There was nobody to see them there, nobody to listen but the shining stars.

"You are quite content now?" Philip asked. "There is nothing you want to make your happiness complete, not even these?"

As Philip spoke he drew from his pocket the handful of flashing stones. Lena glanced at them a moment, then very gently bade Philip put them in his pocket again.

"Not to-night," she whispered. "I daresay