

Instead of answering, she walked to the window, and stood there so long, with her back towards him, that he thought a reply would never be forthcoming.

At last she moved slowly away, and holding out both hands, looked up with clear, sweet eyes into her father's face.

"I don't know, papa. I've been trying to make sure of my feelings, but," suppressing a sigh, "they are difficult to analyse. It may, and it may not, mean a renewal of our engagement. This is the only answer I can give you"

"Rather an ambiguous one, certainly. Has Captain Dornay written to you since his illness?"

"No, not a word. I don't know where he is, or anything about him. Perhaps he has left Fieldborough."

"Not yet," answered Sir Hector. "I heard from Harry this morning, for the first time for weeks."

"Does he—does he say how B—Captain Dornay is?" asked Dolly faintly.

"Yes, he is still very feeble, and makes but slow progress. To do him justice, he appears terribly cut up by recent events, as well he may be. Harry writes me that he can hardly get him to move out of the house, and that although the doctor strongly recommends fresh air, there is no inducing him either to drive or walk. He has a morbid horror of meeting any of his former acquaintances, and sits all day brooding over the past. Altogether, I gather he is in a bad way."

"Poor fellow! Poor Beau!" murmured Dolly, with the tears springing to her eyes.

"It appears," continued Sir Hector, "that they have made up their minds to return to India, where Captain Dornay can avoid the unpleasant notoriety he has gained here. They sail next week, according to what Harry says in his letter."

"Next week!" gasped Dolly, seizing her father by the arm. "Oh! papa, we must go back at once—this afternoon."

He looked at her with an air of concern. Her pale face and dilated eyes told their own tale.

"Must it be so, my dear?"

"Yes, it must. When you asked me that question a minute ago, I was not sure of my answer. Now, I am certain—quite certain of it. Don't ask me to account for this sudden change. I can't."

For all of a sudden, when she heard that Beau was leaving

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