LILIAN, THE HEIRESS.

"I beg your pardon a thousand times. I had no idea it was a touchy subject with

"She will have her wish," says Lilian, to be admired. "Nor is it," shortly.

"She will have her wish," says Lalian, alluding to Cyril's unfortunate quotation, and ignoring the remark that followed.
"I am sure it will be moonlight by ten" making a critical examination of the sky through the window, near which she is sitting. "How charming moonlight is! If I had a lover"—laughing—"I should never go for a drive or walk with him except beneath its cool white rays. I think Miss Beauchamp very wire in choosing the hour she has chosen for her return home.

To be admired.

"My dear Guy, how you flatter!" says she, blushing a faint, sweet old blush that shows how mightily pleased she is. "Do you know," says Lilian, "in spite of being thought horrid, I like comfort—able-looking people? I wish I had more slesh on my poor bones. I think," going deliberately up to a glass and surveying herself with a distasteful shrug—"I think thin people have a meagre, gawky, hard look about teem, eminently unbecoming. I rather admire Mrs. Mount-George, for instance."

This is intolerable. The inference is quite distinct. Guy flushes crimson and opens his mouth to give way to some of the thoughts that are oppressing him, but his mother's voice breaking in checks him.

"Hateful woman!" says Lady Cuerwoode, who cherishes for her an old spite. "I rather admire her, too," says Sir Guy, unwisely—though he only gives way to this opinion through a wild desire to help out Lilian's judgment.

checks him.

"Don't have any lovers for a long time, child," she says: "you are too young for such unsatisfactory toys. The longer you are without then, the happier you will be. They are more trouble than gratification."

"I don't mean to have one," says
Lilian, with a wise shake of her blonde head. "for years and years, I was merely

Lilian? I'm never in luck."

"It didn't occur to me: in tuture I shall be more considerate. Are you fretting because you can't go to-night to meet your cousin? You see how insignificant you are: you would not be trust ed on so important a mission. It is only bad little wards you are sent to welcome."

She laughs gayly as she says this; but Guy, who is listening, feels it is meant as a reproach to him.

"There are worse things than bad little words," says Cyril, "if you are a little words," says Cyril, "if you are says the you would not care to go to meet Florence?"

"It thank you wust begin then and imagine her all over again. The only flesh there isn't about Florence is fool's flesh. It is hardly about Florence is fool worth will elow the with with whith with with watch, "will so soon be before you.

Guy, my friend, you should burry."

Lilian returns to the balcony, whither Chetwoode's eyes follow her longingly. It ries reluctantly to his feet, and says to Cyril, with some hesitation:

"You would not care to go to meet Florence?"

"It thank you kindly—no," says Cyril, with word watch, "will so soon be before you.

I the word watch, "will so soon be before you.

I the word watch, "will so soon be before you.

I the wore

puddings instead of one for the future." he speaks.
"If there is anything on earth I love,
"I am alw

"Not better than me, I trust." " Far, far better."

us this evening, mother," Guy says, lastily: "I must so soon be running away if I wish to catch the train coming pleasure in the frivolus conversation of pleasu

in."

"Very well"—re.seating herself—"we shall break through rules, and stay with you for this one night. You won't have your coffee until you return?"

"No, thank you." He is a little distrait, and is following Lilian's movements with his eyes, who has risen, thrown up the window, and is now standing upon the

me teel positively ill. Mrs. Boileau, when she called to-day, raised within me the keenest pity."

"She is a very distressing woman," says Guy, absently. "One feels thankful she has no daughter."

"Yes, indeed; the same thought occurred to me. Though perhaps not fat now, she would undoubtedly show fatal symptoms of a tendency towards it later on. Now you, my dear Lilian, have happily escaped such a fate; you will never be fat."

"I'm sure I hope not, if you dislike the idea so much," says Lilian, amused, letting the ghastly remains of her ill-treated flower fall to the ground.

"If you only knew the misery I felt on hearing you were coming to us," goes on Lady Chetwoole, "dreading lest you might be inclined that way; not of course but that I was very pleased to have you, my dear child, but I fancied you large and healthy-looking, with a country air, red cheeks, black hair, and unboun led gaacherie. Imagine my delight, therefore, when I beheld you slim and self possessed, and with your pretty yellow hair!"

"You make me blush, you cover me Baansks, corner King and Regent Streets.

with confusion," says Miss Chesney hiding ber face in her hands. "Yes, yellow hair is my admiration goes on Lady Chetwoode, modestly: "
had golden hair myself in my youth." "My dearest mother, we all know yo

were, and are, the loveliest lady in creation," says Guy, whose tenderness towards his mother is at times a thing

admiring Miss Beauchamp's taste."

"Wise child !" says Cyril, admiringly.

"Why didn't you arrive by moonlight, Lilian? I'm never in luck."

"It didn't count to me, in tuture I

"There are worse things than bad little words," says Cyril, "if you are a specimen."

"Do you think so? It's a pity every one doesn't agree with you. No, Martin," to the elderly servitor behind her chair, who she knows has a decided weakness for her; "don't take away the ice pudding yet; I am very fond of it."

"So is Florence. You and she, I foresee, will have a stand-up fight for it now at least once a week. Poor cook! I suppose she will have to make two ice puddings instead of one for the future."

"Bo is standard the standard that has been lying neglected on its dish since dinner, crying vainly, "who'll eat me?"

"She nods and smiles sweetly at Cyril as he speaks."

"I am always glad to be with those who want me," she says, carefully removing the skin from her fruit; "specially you, "Far, far better."

"Take it away instantly, Martin; Miss Chemey musn't have any more it don't agree with her."

At this Martin smiles demurely and deferentially, and presents the coveted pudding to Miss Chesney; whereat Miss Chesney makes a little triumphant grimace at Cyril, and helps herself as she loves herself.

Dinner is over. The servants—oh, joy!

the skin from her fruit; "specially you, because you always amuse me. Come out and smoke your cigar, and I will talk to you all the time. Won't that be a treat for you?" with a little low, soft laugh, and a swift glance at him from under her curling lashes that, to say the truth, is met with a little low, soft laugh, and a swift glance at him from under her curling lashes that, to say the truth, is met with a little low, soft laugh, and sewift glance at him from under her curling lashes that, to say the truth, is met with a little low, soft laugh, and sewift glance at him from under her curling lashes that, to say the truth, is met with a little low, soft laugh, and sewift glance at him from under her curling lashes that, to say the truth, is patient.

"There, Guy, don't you eavy me with such a charming time before me?" says client a swift glance with a little low, soft laugh, and swift glance at him from under her

Dinner is over. The servants—oh, joy!

—have withdrawn; everybody has eaten as much fruit as the feel is good for them. Lady Chetwoode looks at Lilian and half rises from her seat.

"It is herelly most." "It is hardly worth while your leaving "The last thing Sir Guy would dream of

his eyes, who has risen, thrown up the window, and is now standing upon the balcony outside, gazing upon the slumbering flowers, and upon the rippling, singing brooks in the distance—the only things in all creation that never seemed to sleep.

After a while, tiring of inanimate nature, she turns her face inwards and leans against the window-frame, and, being in an idle mood, begins to pluck to pieces the flower that has rested during single processing the single process of the si being in an line mood, begins to pluck to pieces the flower that has rested during dinner upon her bosom.

Standing thus in the half light, she looks particularly fair, and slight, and childish:

"A lovely being scarcely formed or molded. A rose with all its sweetest leaves yet folded."

"A lovely being scarcely formed or molded. A rose with all its sweetest leaves yet folded."

"A lovely being scarcely formed or molded. A rose with all its sweetest leaves yet folded."

A rose with all its sweetest leaves yet folded."

Some thought crossing Lady Chetwoode's mind, born of the long and loving glances she has been bestowing upon Lilian, she says:

"How I detest fat people. They make me feel positively ill. Mrs. Boileau, when she called to-day, raised within me the keenest pity."

Worthy et transportation for me at the very least."

"I cannot remember that either. I think you purposely misunderstand me."

"What a rude speech! Oh, if I had said that! But see how late it is"— looking at the clock—"you are wasting all these precious minutes here that the search of the product of the pro

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