

At last the looked-for night came, and Mr. Morgan found himself among the guests at Mrs. Tupper's At Home. He was introduced to quite a few literary people; but although he usually found such persons to be kindred spirits and their society most congenial, yet to night they seemed to be quite tiresome. The truth was he had come with one object, and that object was not a literary one. Accordingly he felt very thankful when Mrs. Tupper came and led him, with several others, to another room. It was the library.

And there before him, stood—his queen!

"Miss Gray, Mr. Morgan," said the hostess, "Mr. Morgan. Miss Gray."

This name set Leonard thinking: could she possibly be a relative of the one whom he had been speaking to Harold about? But he had never heard the Grays speak of having any relatives in Brooklyn; and then Gray was quite a common name. However he would find out. How awkward it would be if she knew the story of his youth! More than once young ladies had told him that they saw in his dark brown eyes the story of some past romance. What if this one should think she saw it too? But he would be bright, and chase away all sadness from those tell-tale eyes—if there was any sadness in them, and he could never see any.

"You are interested in floriculture, I think, Mr. Morgan," continued Mrs. Tupper, "and I know Miss Gray is too. Come, let me show you our conservatory."

And so they followed her to the flower-room—flower palace Leonard would have said, for queens usually live in palaces; and he was with his queen.

Here they talked a long while, alone among the flowers; in her presence he was happy. And who can tell but what she too felt that secret pleasure which all girls love and deny, the pleasure of being fondly looked upon by noble eyes.

As she sat there among the lilies in the palm shadows, Leonard thought she lacked only one thing, and that one thing was—a crown.

At length he inquired if she had any relatives of the same name in Philadelphia.

"Not now," she answered; and he started slightly. "But years ago I lived there myself."