

the place you and you alone could fill. It is right you should know the outs and ins of that episode now. Before my mother died she asked me to marry Effie Lawrence, whom she loved as her own daughter. I gave my promise, and I would have done my utmost to make her happy had she lived. But it was an awful mistake; I knew it that day when I saw you on the steps of the Schweizerhof. Neither of us is young, Elizabeth, but we have still a goodly portion of life before us. If you can care for me, for God's sake don't let anything come between us this time. You are a lonely woman here. Flisk is empty without a woman's presence, and I love you as my own soul.'

"I could not answer him in a moment, and I saw the quick shadow of disappointment gather in his eyes.

"'Is it too much to ask?' he began, breaking the painful silence. 'It is all very well just now—when you are able to enjoy your work, and feel no need of anything else. But another day will come, Elizabeth. It is that which makes me bold. Weigh it all well before you send me away.'

"Still I could not speak.

"'I don't even ask you to give up your profession