

Evelyn's face fell. It was evident the news was a disappointment to her.

"Oh! Then the best thing I can do is to go and help Sarah."

"Are my shirts ready?"

"Yes. I laid them on my bed. Shall you want anything more?"

"Only a clean white tie. And I think there's a button off my new gloves."

"Your ties are in the left-hand drawer, and I sewed the button on your gloves last week."

"Thanks, that's a good girl. And now, do let me have my tea. And, I say, Eve, is there anything to eat in the house,—something substantial, I mean,—cold meat or bacon?"

"I will manage it," she answered cheerfully, as she left the room.

It was more of an effort than some might imagine for her to answer cheerfully at that moment. She had been looking forward all day to her cousin's return, and to a pleasant evening spent with him. For it was Saturday, and on Saturday Will Caryll received his weekly stipend, and always seemed in better spirits for it. He had not to get up so early on the following morning, either, so it did not signify how late he stayed up at night, and on Saturdays he had been used to take his cousin Evelyn for long strolls, riding on the omnibus or street tram, into the surrounding country, leaving dingy, smoky Liverpool far behind, and wandering about all the summer evening with her upon his arm.

These were the girl's happiest moments,—would prove, perhaps, to be the happiest moments of all her life,—although she was unconscious why they were so. And now, Will was going out somewhere by himself, and she must find her Saturday evening's recreation in toasting Miss Fletcher's bread, or catering for Mr. Gamble's supper. But she did not grumble, even to herself. She heaved more than one sigh as she prepared her cousin's tea-tray, but even then she felt a certain pleasure in producing coppers from her own pocket and running round the corner to buy a few shrimps to make his meal more palatable to him. And she sat down afterwards to peel them, whilst he ate, and would have asked no better fate than thus to minister to his wants for the remainder of her life.