

The Reason Why. (Eva Wilder McLean in Ju-les.) She did not see to me, the I Am not she saw me passing by...

DAWN: A NOVEL BY H. RIDER HAGGARD.

Author of "King Solomon's Mines," "She," "The Witch's Head," etc.

When I have an end in view I march straight to it, I do not vacillate—that is all. But never mind me; here we are near home.

"Ay," reflected George, "that is a wonderful woman, a woman it is good to have some hold over." We left Hilda, stretched on her face sobbing, but it did not last long.

Three o'clock came in due course, but no Hilda. Philip was seriously disturbed; but there was now no train by which she could arrive that day, so he was forced to the conclusion that she had postponed her departure.

At one o'clock old Mr. Caresfoot, as was his rule, sat down to lunch, which, frugal as it was, so far as he was concerned, was yet served with some old-fashioned ceremony by a butler and a footman.

"I don't rightly know, squire; but it's a lady, and she's wonderful tall." Just then the footman returned, and said that a lady, who would not give her name, wished to speak to him in private.

The night of the dinner-party was a nearly sleepless one for Philip, although his father had so considerably regretted his wearied appearance. He could do nothing but walk, walk, walk, like some unquiet ghost, up and down his great oak-paneled bedroom, till about dawn his legs gave way beneath him, and think, think, till his mind recoiled confused and helpless from the dead will

of its objects. And out of all this walking and thinking, there emerged, after an hour of stupor that it would be a misnomer to call sleep, two fixed results. The first of these was that he hated his father as a lost soul must hate its torturing demon, blindly, madly, impotently hated him; and the second, that he could no longer delay taking his wife into confidence.

Fortunately for Philip, there was an engagement of long standing for this day, the first of May; to go, in conjunction with other persons, to affect a valuation of the fallows, etc., of a large tenant who was going out at Michaelmas. This prevented any call being made upon him to go and see Maria Lee, as after the events of the previous evening it might have been expected he would.

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he spoke with overpowering politeness. "So, madam—then I have to congratulate myself on the possession of a very lovely daughter-in-law." A silence ensued that they were both too moved to break; at last the old man said, in an altered tone.

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"My dear, pray confine yourself to your own affairs, and leave me to settle mine. There shall be no harshness, none shall suffer more than they deserve. There, don't break down, go and rest, for there are painful scenes before you." He rang the bell and sent for the householder. She came presently, a pleasant-looking woman of about thirty years of age, with a comely face and honest eyes.

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and other memories came upon me as I think. It was here upon this very table that they stood my mother's coffin. I was standing where you are now when I wrenched open the half-fastened shell to kiss her once more before they screwed her down for ever. I wonder would you do as much for me? I loved my mother, and that was fifty years ago. I wonder shall we meet again? That was on the first of May, a long-gone first of May. They threw branches of black-thorn bloom upon her coffin. Odd, very odd! But business, lad, business—what was it? ah, I know, and his manner changed in a second and became hard and stern.

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his father had got it out in order to burn it, and this idea was followed by another that for a moment stilled his heart. "If he should die now, he can now destroy it! If he does not take the medicine, he will die." Thought flies fast in moments of emergency. Philip, too, was a man of determined mind where his own interests were concerned, and his blood was heated and his reason blinded by fury and terror. He was not long in settling on his course of action. Taking the bottle from the cupboard, he poured out its contents into one of the wine-glasses that stood upon the table, and coming up to his father with it, addressed him. He knew that his attack, although they were of a nature to cause intense pain, did not rob the sufferer of his senses. The old man, though he lay before him gasping with agony, was quite in a condition to understand him.

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