

and nearer to her home Mrs. Cheston's counsel came to her as the best to follow. To go to her husband with this story was out of all question: to call upon Silvia's brother for help might seem at first glance almost as impossible, but in this lay her only chance of standing between the girl and what might possibly be a tragedy, for what could be more tragic to Silvia than the humiliation which generally follows on a clandestine attachment?

Suddenly there came into the woman's heart a rush of hottest anger. What manner of man could this be who incited a girl of Silvia's class and youth to meet him almost within touch of her home, to expose her to gossip and comment? It could be no one whom she had met in open and honourable fashion; it must be some stray person—probably one of the many men who appeared round and about in the neighbourhood when the hunting season began: some one unworthy, consequently, dangerous.

As she passed into the gateway and approached the house, a great feeling of comfort came over Mrs. Ambrose as she saw that a light was flaring in Silvia's room. She was so shaken, so troubled, that she had prepared herself almost for the very worst in that long walk homewards through the dusk.

The light in that window encouraged her to believe that the girl was still in the house, and, as she crossed the threshold and met one of the maids, she put this question hurriedly.

"Yes, ma'am, Miss Silvia's in. She hasn't been out all the afternoon. Neither has Mr. Dick," added the maid, with a perceptible shrug of her shoulders; but

she had other things to say, she said. "I got him a first-class station."

Helen Ambrose as she made her entrance, which she entered with a certain

Her husband was closing the telephone

"Sorry you are not at home, it is a great pity, but otherwise they would have called."

The telegram had come that her mother was to come at once.

There was no time to lose. He left no one to look after the children before he went.

Her first sensation was one of intense interest in any way that might concern Nigel Ambrose.

She ordered the maid and she also gave the maid, and told her that she was going to the station.

She was a lovely girl, she was in her charge to say good-bye to her mother.

He was very