

looked from the window, and sighed. "Yes, it's a very empty park—very dull—been so wet all the morning—but I should think you would be at no loss for amusements—got your harp and all the new books, I see. Are you going to Lady Maskingham's to night?" "Yes—no—why?" "Why? really, my dear Lady Glenallan, something must have happened, you're quite absent; you know every one will be there." "True,—yes—oh! I shall go certainly."—He shall not think I am sad for his sake, thought Bessie, and she sighed again.

Full of excellent resolutions, Lady Glenallan ordered her carriage—bathed her eyes—and drove to South Audley street. She found Lucy alone, and proposed to her to drive out, which was gladly consented to. As they returned, Bessie said to her little companion: "I shall call in the evening to see if you will go to the ball—do go; I never saw you look better." "And then," thought she, as the carriage drove off, "I will have a few words of explanation with poor Linton, and after that I will play the coquette no more, for it is all very true——" And again Lady Glenallan sighed. Lady Glenallan and Lucy were late at the ball, owing to the difficulty the former had found in persuading Miss Linton to go at all. But Bessie, like most selfish people trying to do a good-natured thing, would take no denial, and though Lucy persisted that she was more weak and weary than usual—her chaperone waited till she was dressed, and carried her off in triumph. The ball-room opened on an illuminated garden, and Lady Glenallan was standing on the stone steps which led to the principal walks, when Lord Linton hastily addressed her, "Let me speak three words to you—pray, pray, hear me..... Startled and confounded, Lady Glenallan neither spoke nor moved, while, in a rapid and confused manner, he explained that he had heard a story of her attachment to Claude Forester, of their parting, of her agitation at seeing him the night before; and he conjured her, not to trifle with him, but at once to confess, either her love for Claude, or her willingness to fly with himself to the uttermost parts of the earth. "May I dance? Do you think it would be safe for me to dance, Linton?" asked the gentle