

Their Hearts' Desire

fortable and homelike, that I want to stay."

"Even with no diamond tiaras and ruby stomachers in prospect?"

"Even so," she said, her gaze wandering to the dish of violets on the table.

He wondered, as, resting his hands for an instant upon her shoulders to stay his arms from quite encircling her, could she mean to be so temptingly sweet?

He took the coat and carried it to the farther side of the room and put it with his own; a simple act, affording him some degree of satisfaction and a moment's time to renew his resolutions.

Barbara walked over to the fire, observing as she did so a Flying Mercury upon the mantle shelf. Quite like an old friend, he seemed, and she smiled upon him with real affection. There had been one in her father's room at home. She laid one hand caressingly upon its base.

"Do you know, Robert," she began, and