

evening frock cut rather low at the

She had done her hair differently,

"Had I known that this was to be a

"Oh, it doesn't matter, only some-

She laughed.

bright eyes.

her mood.

asked.

ner, because I am."

your smoking-room."

"But-what?" Philip asked.

so surprised to see him."

voice was dangerously quiet.

There was a little silence.

had tea, and then he saw me off.'

"No, he didn't, but I told him I

He lowered them again almost im-

The thought took her breath away.

If she could make Philip fealous!

considered Calligan in her calcula-

the tragedy such a thing might bring

Philip was her world. She adored

him! the further they grew apart the

more she longed for his love. And now

it seemed as if she had inadvertently

been shown the way in which to gain

She sat staring before her with

wide, excited eyes; her lips were a

little parted-she looked like an eager

child who has been shown some won

derful joy and half promised its pos-

hope that suddenly flushed her face

the thought that a chance meeting

with Calligan should have wrought such a change turned his blood to fire.

Later he followed her to the drawing-room; as a rule he left her to get

through the evenings alone, but she

He had never seen her so gay and animated since their marriage, and

Philip, watching her, put a very different construction on the tremulor

to race with a sudden wild hope.

Was he really jealous?

flashed through her mind.

into his life.

her desire.

after all.

She shook her head.

CHAPTER XXIV.

She laughed and charted with him too, and the thought struck Philip as till the last moment, but just as the she came into the room that he had Apsley train was moving, and Cal-never seen her look prettier. ligan had stepped back a little, she suddenly held her hand to him in annoyance. through the open window.

"Come and see me soon-come soon," she said with a little note of said, trying to speak lightly. entreaty in her voice.

She cared nothing for Calligan, save that he was always kind to her, and that to-day he had given her a grip self up-" She took her seat at her of herself again. He, at least, was husband's right hand, pleased to be with her, and the last weeks had been a nightmare of loneliness.

She would have been amazed and afraid could she have known the tumultuous feeling in Calligan's heart as he walked blindly out of the sta-

He had seen her again; it seemed now that he had only lived for this meeting.

She had been glad to see him, he knew, as he recalled her frank words-

"I don't know what it is about you, but you always make me feel very pleased with myself." He could not bear to remember the grief in her face, and the pathos of

making her home alone, and with Was Philip a brute after all? Had the years of their friendship blinded him to the true character of this man

this wife of little more than a month,

whom Eva had married? Calligan was honest, and careful research into the past revealed no incident at all in Philip's life that would

unkind to any woman. What was the meaning of it then? There seemed no answer to the ques-

CHAPTER XXV.

There was a new little air of selfimportance about Eva when she went in to dinner that night.

Philip, waiting for her in the dining-room, heard her singing as she came downstairs.

He listened with a faint sense of amazement. It was so long since she

seemed at all gay. Dinner was an informal affair at



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gan playing the opening bars of a song that stood on the rack. Philip looked at her, at her soft

white neck and shoulders and the dainty head with its crown of pretty hair, and his eyes darkened with sud-

She was his wife and he had neve kissed her since they were married. An almost brutal desire rose in hi heart to master her, to let her see that he was not always going to acquiesce so tamely to her indifference. He threw his cigarette away, and a

fighting look crept into his eyes. He crossed the room and stood be hind her, and, as if she knew what he was contemplating, she stopped playing suddenly and, rising swiftly to her feet, turned and faced him.

For a moment they looked at one another silently, and a dull flush crept into the man's face:

He only saw the indifference of his wife's eyes; he could not guess how every breath seemed to choke her, and a sudden boorish instinct to rouse her, somehow, anyway, seized him.

"I suppose if I were Calliganhe began, and stopped, ashamed of his own words.

Eva turned away; she was afraid the Highway House nowadays, and Philip still wore his tweeds, but to- that he would see the little triumphant night Eva had changed into a semi- light in her eyes.

"If you were Mr. Calligan-" she echoed lightly; but he did not con-

She stifled a little yawn-"What a pity you are not," she said deliberately. "It would be amusing to He glanced down at his own clothes have him here." She sat down in a big chair and dragged a cushion beneath her pretty head. She had no idea how gala night, I would have changed," he well she was acting; her heart and mind were in a turmoil, but the very strength of her desire drove her on. She looked up at him with a little tantalising smile. how I felt as if I wanted to dress my-

"How bad-tempered you look," she said casually. Her composure goaded him beyond

She looked at Philip now with endurance; he came and stood over "I'm so hungry . . ." she said. her; his hands were clenched; he "I hope you're going to eat a big din- looked down at her with burning eyes. "Perhaps it may amuse you to He made an effort to fall in with know that lately I've been cursing myself for all this business," he said "And how is London looking?" he hoarsely. "I've blamed myself because "Beautiful! I believe I shall like have given my right hand sometimes living there after all. We might move if I could have seen you—as you were in as soon as your mother comes back, when I first knew you; but now-He made a gesture of intolerance with don't you think? It's all ready-except his clenched hand. "It only shows

"And did you choose the carpet?" what a fool I was to waste the time -- " he rushed on violently. "To "No-I meant to-but . . ." She sounded rather surpresed at herself; waste my regrets-we're only a pair, she had intended going on to the after all—the balance is equal—" He stores when Calligan came, but his could not trust himself to go on; he presence had made her forget about flung out of the room, slamming the door behind him.

He went out into the darkness of the garden and walked up and down She laughed a little self-consciously. "Mr. Calligan came in. He thought He kept clenching and unclenching

we were settled there already. I was his hands impotently. To-night he felt at the end of his "Calligan!" Philip flushed; so this tether. He hated Calligan from the was the meaning of her cheerfulness, depths of his soul. His jealous im-"Yes--" She seemed quite uncon- agination magnified that chance meetjustify the suspicion that he would be scious of any change in her husband's ing at the flat into enormous propormanner. "He took me out to tea; 't tions. He believed that she had arwas so nice, seeing him again. I told ranged it. He was sure that she must him he would have to come to the flat care for the man to have looked so

a great deal when we move in . ," radiant as she had done at dinner. "Did you show him over it?" Philip's Philip had never wished to love any woman as much as he now loved his wife. He had always pictured himself "Oh, no! I didn't think about it. We as contented with a quiet, easy affection. He hated the suffering this new emotion entailed. For days past he "He didn't say anything about com- had been trying to think of some

ing down here I suppose?" Philip said means of escape from it. The thought of the constant, close companionship with her which would hoped he would-"She broke off, be unavoidable in the new flat he struck by something in her husband's could not tolerate. Down here at the eyes as for a flashing moment they Highway House one could always get out in the country and more or less escape from it all, but there in town mediately, but Eva had seen their -where the rooms were but a stone's passionate anger, and her heart began throw apart, and with Calligan always wandering round . . .

Was he jealous-and of Calligan? His agitated pacing had brought him round to the drawing-room win-If so, then perhaps—perhaps he dow. The blinds were undrawn, and was not quite so indifferent to her, the light from within streamed out into the garden.

He moved closer to it and saw Eva She trembled from head to foot as she still in the big chair where he had left her

A worthy flirtation just as a means There was a book on her lap, but to an end had never occurred to her she was not reading. Her hands were until now. She had liked Calligan clasped on the open pages, and her simply and uneffectedly because he so eyes looked out mournfully into the obviously liked her and sought her silent room. company, but now a sudden mad hope

Philip stood watching her with his angry heart in his eyes. It seemed impossible that he and she were She loved him so much that she never really, married. He thought of the days of their first friendship with a tions or had a thought to spare for sort of home sickness.

(To be continued.)

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> I've been in business places where the air was thick with gloom.
> And the men were sad and solemn like the mourners at a tomb,
> And there wasn't any business or an order coming in
> And, what's more, there never will be till those fellows start to grin.

There isn't any business"-aren't you weary of the cry?

Men have caught the gloomy habit asd
they sit around and sigh,
But the hustler, I have noticed, who has quit his easy chair Asd is confidestly working, seems to gather in his share.

seems to have a lot to do.

It is time to get th ebusiness, it is time With a man's faith in the future much too long we've scattered doubt, Much too long we've sobbed and whim-pered, much too long we've talked of wee, et ime for optimism and the hopeful phrase: "Let's Go!"

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