

the hide-out. He was there — within touching distance, but he moved only in the shadows.

Alice opened her eyes and clasped both her arms around her husband's neck.

"Oh, Sam! tell me it is you — and you are safe, and nothing has happened? Oh! Sam — I have been so wretched!"

"There, dear — compose yourself. It's all right — everything is all right, and we have nothing to fear anywhere. Come, now — let me help you to your feet and ——"

"No, Sam — not yet — not yet! Please listen — I've been so wicked — so foolish —— Please forgive me — please tell me you love me. Don't let it make any difference. I can stand everything but that. Sam, we once loved each other — can't we again? I love you — I do — *I do!*"

For an instant he held her from him gazing into her eyes. The revulsion was so great — the surprise so intense, he could hardly believe his senses. Then a great uplift swept through him.

"Hush," he breathed. "Tell me again that you love me. Say it again, Alice. Say it!"