

heart gives a great leap. What a fool he has been! Instead of living a life of solitude for the past three years, he might have had this dear girl by his side, for dear to him she is still, although he has been unconscious of the fact till now. He has loved her too well to permit another to occupy the place he once dreamed she was to fill.

"Are Mr. and Mrs. Hathaway with you?" was his next question.

"No, I am alone. The fact is, I became jealous of Mr. Hathaway, after being forced to divide my mother's affections with him, and struck out for myself. I have been spending my vacation with my uncle John and his young wife at their Hudson villa, and am now returning to Boston and my duties as a hospital nurse. You see, my mother's and my uncle's marriages have considerably diminished my prospects of ever becoming an heiress, consequently I have to depend upon my own exertions for a livelihood."

A great feeling of compassion swept over him, as he detected the undercurrent of bitterness in her last remark.

"There appears to be a similarity in our positions. Both are alone in the world. Why should we not live the rest of our lives out in each other's companionship?" he murmured, as he drew nearer to