

THE HOUSE IN DEMETRIUS ROAD

I. GARROCH.

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EVERY house in Demetrius Road was severely separated from its neighbour by a strip of park fencing, six feet high. Between fence and house on one side, a narrow path squeezed its way to a door invisible from the road, a door whose functions were clearly indicated by the advertisement "Tradesman's Entrance," labelling the side gate. The larger gate, in two leaves, that opened on to a path almost wide enough for a carriage drive, bore the name of the house on each post.

Martin Bond, conscious that he was a little late for his appointment, was irritated by the necessity for keeping an eye on each side of the road; irritated also by the ostentation of the names that described so ill these modern suburban villas. They were all so recent, not only in material but in style. They showed the influence of the new movement in suburban architecture. No house was an exact replica of its neighbour. "Features" proclaimed themselves; a veranda borne on little stubby wooden columns, a flat segmental bay window, an excess of roof thrusting down to low walls apparently upheld by diminutive triangles of rough-cast buttress; each made some bid for distinction. But the names on the gate posts bespoke the individual tastes of owners uninfluenced by the spirit of the style. Hatfield, Oakleigh, Carn Voel, were representative titles, varied occasionally by a Nest or Retreat. Martin Bond had nearly reached the bottom of the road before he came to Garroch.