MC2465 POOR DOCUMENT

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"Yes."

did she say?"

"Nothing."

"Nothing!" Mrs. Stephany's eyebrows climbed her forehead. "What did she do then?" she inquired with a sigh.

"Laughed," answered Sir Deans ruefully. I had looked for a little tender regret at least, and . . . she laughed."

"She is very young," murmured Mrs. Stephany consolingly.

Meanwhile in a distant part of the hotel gardens, Elia Stephany was talking with a tall, erect young man, named Richard Havers. That they were perilously near the verge of a quarrel was plain from the ugly scowl on the young man's face and from the girl's looks of expostulation.

"How can I help it?" she was saying.

"It seems to me" he said morosely "you don't try to help it. But of course he's a baronet, and rich and all that. And I—"

"You are a most disagreeable boy," she pouted. "And unreasonable, too," she added.

"I'm not disagreeable," he protested, or unreasonable. I'm just sick that's all. Why he wears stays! He is old enough to be your grandfather. He ought to be thinking of the grave not marriage. Fatuous dotard?"

"He is not really old at all," said Elia.

'And Cosway Park is a paradise, simply."

"He being the old serpent in it," muttered Dick. "Ella faced her, frowning darkly. not stand it, Elia. I wi t to your mother—she a e—and tell her just ho about you. She was young erself once. She—"

"I shouldn't begin by saying that to her," said Elia. "Don't be cross, Dick. Haven't I refused him?"

"But you don't send him away?"

"How can I send him away? The hotel is open to him as well as to us.

And, she went on, with a sudden opposite contraction of the lips, "I don't see why I should send him away, even if I could. He amuses me. He talks most wittily. And he pays me the most delightful compliments.

. . . .

That night she flirted shamelessly with Sir Deans.

Elia's bosom yearned for Dick, whom she passed and repassed again and again in the chattering crowd. t she clung to Sir Dean's arm.

esently they sat down, and Dick on this opportunity to come accost them.

vening, Mrs Stephany," he rained, husky voice, to ive mother. Ella he

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and I do . . . while it stands to reason she can't possibly feel any genuine—"

"Pardon me," interposed Sir Deans blinking rapidly. "I have no desire to baulk your confidence. But surely you must now agree with me that it is indiscreet to be so much in earnest after dinner? Let me put it to you as a man of the world, that it would be wiser for us to return to the ladies at once."

"I don't want to be wise; I want to be happy," Dick answered miserably; "Sir give a chance. Don't dyzzle Ella. She is only a child, really. Don't lead her on to act unworthily, to behave in a way that she would be sure to regret—regret bitterly, with tears—in the future. I'm not rich as you are. I cannot make her my lady as you can. But I—God how I love her!" And the boys eyes filled with tears.

"but I am not aware, sir," exclaimed Sir Deans, "that you personally have any sort of claim whatsoever upon my consideration. You see, I leave myself out of the matter entirely—as you do . . . No, no." he added hastily, testily. "I have heard enough—more than enough. You assume too much, young man." He put up a deprecatory hand between them. "Not another word. Let us go back to the ladies."

And then they walked slowly back.

"Ah-h! I am tired," sighed Sir Deans. as he sank into his old place Mrs. Stephany. "I say Havers, why don't you take Miss Ella and show her that waterfall? Most wonderful sight, with all those wonderful lamps hung about it," he remarked, addressing the dumfounded Mrs Stephany. Ella rose slowly, regarding her lovers face curiously.

Then as the two young people wondered off together. Sir Deans turned to Mrs. Stephany, again with his rare charming smile wrinkling the crow's feet about his eyes.

"Tonight," said he, endeavoring by an unwonted tenderness of tone to soften the asperity of her demeanor; "tonight, Amelia, I have been indulging in a pernicious habit that I thought I had completely disgarded many years ago."

"Indeed!" quoth the lady.

"I have been . . . what is called . . . thinking things over," he explained.

"And, if I may say so, Sir Deans, you have also made me think," said softly, after a pause.

"When we were young together," he said, "we were sometimes grateful for a little kindly interference, were we not?"

"I don't know what you mean," she said.

"I mean what I mean then," he replied; "in those golden days when we had dreams of a future in common. I think it was because Ella reminded me much of you that I thought I wanted to marry her."

Mrs. Stephany fingered the stuff of her dress. "I hardly follow you even now," she faltered.

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7.45	St. John West	6.30
7.59	Duck Cove	6.15
8.13	Spruce Lake	5.55
8.15	Allan Cot	5.52
8.30	Prince of Wales	5.38
8.43	Musquash	5.25
9.10	Lepreaux	4.58
9.27	New River	4.35
9.35	Pocologan	4.17
9.55	Pennfield	4.00
10.30	St. George	3.30
10.52	Bonny River	3.10
11.22	Dyer's	2.45
11.35	Cassell's	2.37
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