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little lady said in flurried accents. "I only saw her the other day for the first time. She is staying with my brother and sister. She,—well,—really she is a paying guest," Helen added, her face flushing, her head a little more erect than usual.

"She is the young lady Sylvia liked so much?" Giles said with a smile. "Sylvia has told me about her charm. By all means ask her over here. Would she come to lunch? Or would she spend

"It is very good of you, very kind indeed," Helen answered, with gentle dignity. "I can't understand why she should take it for granted that we shall be expecting her one day. She writes as if—as if I had spoken of her coming here, but I really think she must have misunderstood."

misunderstood."
Seeing her troubled face, Sir Giles laughed kindly.
"Don't worry yourself as to how the idea came about," he said. "In whatever way the idea of her coming originated, Miss Muller is more than welcome to come. Sylvia's eyes are shining like true ctars over the prospect of seeing

like two stars over the prospect of seeing her new friend."

"I did like that lady," the child said simply, "she had eyes like the forgetme-nots down by the river, and her voice is all deep and soft. I liked the doctor, too, and I think he liked that pretty lady."

"So you liked the doctor?" Giles, rising to leave the drawing-room, laid his hand on Sylvia's soft hair, "is he going to cut me out in your heart?"

Sylvia laughed, her low, rippling laugh, and catching at the hand that caressed her hair, she pressed a loving like two stars over the prospect of seeing

caressed her hair, she pressed a loving

little kiss upon it.
"You're different from everybody else," "You're different from everybody else," she said, looking up at him with a world of adoration in her eyes. "There couldn't be more than one monsieur: you are—my very perfit, gentil knight." "Bless the child! I can't aspire to be a Chaucer hero," Giles said laughingly, but his eyes were very tender as they

be a Chaucer hero," Giles said laughingly, but his eyes were very tender as they met those loving eyes, and in his letter to Grace that day he allowed himself to paint glowing pictures of a future in which she would play the part of loving mother to the child who had wound herself about his heart.

The easy success of the scheme by which to obtain access to Manderby Court almost startled Rosa. The sim-Court almost startled Rosa. The simply worded, kindly invitation to spend the night at the Court because it was a long expedition for one day, gave her an uncomfortable sense of having schemed overmuch, simplicity and straightforwardness would have gained her ends for her as easily as subtlety, only she had never learnt to do anything simply and straightforwardly. And though now her point was gained, she was almost ashamed to take advantage of Sir Giles' kindly hospitality, the old instinct of obedience to her evil genius prompted her to accept the invi-tation, and make the most of the time at her disposal. Her resolution was not a little shaken when, on the day she went to Manderby Court, she came face to face with Hugh Berners in the station; and when, moreover, she noticed that his greeting was less spontaneous, less cordial than it had been hitherto. Her flippancy had hurt him, as she had intended it to do, and now his more distant manner hurt her in return. She all at once felt absurdly young and girlish as she looked at his tall figure; who experienced a guiden longing to said she experienced a sudden longing to seize his hand, to tell him the whole truth about herself, and the life of scheming and adventure: she wanted to feel his arms about her and cry like a little child upon his breast. But she resisted all impulses towards confession, and the very quietness of his greeting checked the wave of impetuous longing that had swent over her. and he left the station feeling disturbed and sore, yet obsessed by the thought of her face, haunted by the sound of her voice, the touch of her

"She is hard, she is flippant, she is the type of woman I have always disliked and despised, and yet I can't help thinking about her," the young doctor reflected as he went his rounds. "I have let myself imagine her something quite different, and now that I have found she is just a smart, hard woman of the world, a sexless peacock, it is too late. I can't undo my feeling for her." Which train of thought, if she could have known of it, would have gone far to comfort Rosa for his stiffness of demeanour to