

SELF-RAISED

BY

EMMA D. M. SOUTHWORTH

He stood alone on the pier gazing at the receding ship, and at his daughter, who was leaning over the bulwarks, waving her handkerchief. Swiftly, swiftly, receded the ship from his strained sight. First, his daughter's face faded from his aching vision, but still he could see the outline of her form. A minute or two, and even that grew indistinct and was lost among the rigging. And while he was still straining his eyes to the cracking, in the effort to see her, the signal gun from the steamer was fired. The farewell gun. The hail seemed to strike his own heart. All his strength forsook him; his well strung nerves suddenly relaxed; his limbs gave way beneath him, and he must have fallen but for the strong arms that suddenly clasped him and the warm bosom that firmly supported him.

Turning up his languid, fainting eyes, he saw—
"Ishmael!"
Yes, it was Ishmael, who with a son's devotion was standing there and sustaining Claudia's forsaken father in the hour of his utter weakness and utmost need.

At first the judge looked at him in surprise and incredulity, which soon, however, gave way before recognition and affection, as he rested on that true breast, and met those beautiful eyes bent on him in deepest sympathy.

"Oh Ishmael, Ishmael, is it you, is it indeed you? You here at need? Oh, my son, my son, would to the Lord that you were indeed my son! It is a grief and joy that you are not!"

What could Ishmael reply to these words? Nothing. He could only tenderly support the old man and turn to a gray-haired servant and say—
"Professor, go call a carriage here quickly!"

And Jim Morris started on his errand, with all the crippled alacrity of age and zeal.

"Oh Ishmael, she has gone! she has gone! My daughter left me!" he groaned, grasping the hand of his younger supporter.

"I know it sir, I know it. But this hour of parting is the bitterest of all. The heart feels the wrench of separation keenly now."

"Oh yes, yes, but every coming hour will bring relief. You will cease to look back to the bitter parting, and you will look forward to the happy meeting. And that meeting may be as soon as you please sir, you know. There is nothing on earth to prevent or delay your visit to Lady Vincent as soon after she gets settled at home, as you like. This is October. You may spend Christmas with her, you know."

"That is very true; that is very true, and Christmas is not so very far off. Ah! I ought not to have given you so, and I should not have done it, only I was quite alone when they sailed. There was no one with me to suggest these comforting thoughts, and I was too much prostrated by the wrench of parting to remember them of myself. Oh, Ishmael, what Providence was it that sent you to my side in this extremity?" inquired the judge, curiosity mingling with his interest in the question.

"I came here," said Ishmael, frankly, "with no other purpose than to be with you in your hour of trial. I knew that you would require the presence of some friend."

"Ah, Ishmael, it was just like you to drop all your business and come uncalled, travelling from Washington to New York, with the sole object of sustaining an old friend in the hour of his weakness. So that does not surprise me. But how did you hit the time so well?"

"I knew from Bee's last letter, dated from Tanglewood, the day that Lord Vincent had positively determined to sail. I knew also the name of the only steamer that sailed for Europe on that day. And so as Bee expressed her regret that her father could not accompany you to New York, and great anxiety because you would be left quite alone after the trial of parting with Claudia, I suddenly resolved to come on. I came on the same train that brought your party, although not in the same car. I reached the city this morning, and finding that the steamer was to sail at twelve noon, I walked down to the pier at half past eleven so as to be ready to meet you when you should come ashore."

"And you took all this thought and trouble for me? Oh, Ishmael, Ishmael, what a sorrow and shame it is that you are not my son!"

"I am your son in reverence and love and service, sir; and if I am not in any other way it is because the Lord has willed otherwise," said Ishmael gravely.

"Did you see Claudia off?" inquired the judge.

"I saw the steamer, I did not see Lady Vincent. I was in the rear of the crowd on the pier and looking out among them that I might not miss you," replied Ishmael. But he did not add that he had studiously avoided looking at Claudia, as she stood beside her husband on the deck waving her handkerchief in adieu to her father.

In a few minutes Jim Morris came up with a comfortable carriage and the judge, some what recovered now was assisted into it.

"You are coming too, Ishmael, are you not," said the old man, looking anxiously out of the window.

"Of course I am sir; for with your permission, I am not to leave you until we get back to Washington," replied the young man, preparing to spring into the carriage. But suddenly pausing with his hand on the door he inquired—
"Where shall I order the hackman to drive?"

The judge named his hotel which happened to be the very one which Ishmael was stopping, and so the young man gave the order and the professor climbed up to a seat beside the hackman, and the hack moved on.

As the carriage turned into Broad-entered the carriage.

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