

uneasiness were rather heightened than allayed by the glare almost ferocious of the woman's eyes as they met her own. To cross to the other side would show she was afraid, and she therefore tried to persuade herself in the few seconds elapsing before she was close to the woman that it was all her own fancy. This illusion was quickly dispelled by the woman stepping to her side as she came up and saying in a voice that conveyed the impression that she was continuing a conversation: "Do you think I will 'give Bertie up to you? Do you think 'all their plausible words mean anything to me? Do you think the mocking word Divorce can mean anything against the law that said 'Henceforth ye shall be as *one*.' 'Have a care how you tempt me to a 'revenge that shall satisfy every 'desire of a heart that was broken 'only to be trodden on. Has time and 'misery been as nothing to me! Do 'you heed me I say?" she continued as Gracie tried to hurry away from her unwelcome companion who, however, kept up a pace to suit Gracie's steps, keeping up one hand raised threateningly, while hissing out such words of revengeful hatred that so terrified her listener that the latter at last broke into a run which did not diminish in speed until the welcome sight of the Towers met her view. Thoroughly unnerved she could not bring herself to look behind for fear she might again meet the glare of steel in those cruel blue eyes.

An intense desire for the security and safety of Mrs. Beverley's kind presence, she bent her steps at once towards the drawing room instead of choosing a few moments in her own room to regain calmness. Bertie and his mother were together and agitated as she was she could not fail to notice that her exclamation "That 'awful woman at the miserable house 'has frightened me dreadfully!" was the cause of a rapid glance of mutual understanding passing between them, and Bertie's presence entirely put to

flight her original intention of telling his mother everything. It seemed to her almost ludicrous that she would have to plead guilty to an agitation that would appear to be caused by the expression of the determination of some woman to have and to keep that which she Gracie had absolutely refused to have. So it came about that she did not repeat what the woman had said and in consequence Bertie went down in her opinion and his evident wish to aid his mother in soothing her evident distress added to what Gracie could only term wilful deception. In the quiet of her own room and viewing calmly the events of the day it was evident that unwittingly she had turned to a chapter in the past history of life at the Towers that had disturbed the inmates considerably. After all, she knew nothing of what had happened while she was at school at Park House, and it was not to be expected that a loving mother would choose any shortcomings of her only child to discuss with a person who at that time had never known him nor was it rational to blame Bertie for leaving her in the dark on matters that certainly did not then concern her. Altogether she felt very miserable and it seemed to her inevitable that the restraint that had fallen on them after the first excitement was over, would only become more pronounced as days went on. Then again she could not quite banish from her mind the conviction that she had now become the disturbing element where she had so ardently longed to make herself a human blessing, and the idea gained ground in her mind that she ought not to stay at the Towers. Yet she knew that Mrs. B. would not consent to her leaving, and her consistent kindness made it far from easy to venture to say such a thing without appearing ungrateful, and it was with a mind divided between conflicting feelings that she dropped asleep that night.

The next day matters seemed to have settled to their normal state and