

"I accept the tip with thanks, but you must take back the other sixpence. I was yours already. Besides, you may find it a useful talisman. If I ever become too independent just show me this shilling. It will remind me that I was bought for sixpence."

"But I have always heard that American husbands are never too independent; that they are humble minded and obedient."

"Always. There are no exceptions."

"And obey their wives in all things?"

"In all things."

"Shall you do everything I tell you?"

"Yes, oh, Joy of the Present, Hope of the Future!"

"Always and forever?"

"So long as I live."

"Do all my errands?"

"Certainly."

"Never contradict?"

"Never."

Octavia drew back a little, and regarded him from the corners of her eyes. "Will you think as I do—in all matters?"

"That will be my duty."

"Change your religion?"

"At once."

"Be a gentleman of leisure? Give up your profession?"

"Yes."

"And your mother, too, if I am jealous?"

"Of course!"