

"You mean walk with you?"  
 "I do."  
 He slipped his hand inside her arm, sustaining her slight, active body against the wind which blew strongly through the station and scattered over them snow-flakes blown from the roofs of the cars, as they walked forward along the train. Her manner had told him that she meant to ignore her resentment of the morning; but as, turning, they commenced to walk briskly up and down the platform, he found he was not wholly right in this.  
 "You must admit, Mr. Eaton, that I am treating you very well."  
 "In pardoning an offence where no offence was meant?"  
 "It is partly that—that I realized no offence was meant. Partly it is because I do not pass judgment on things I do not understand. I could imagine no possible reason for your very peculiar refusal."  
 "Not even that I might be perhaps the sort of person who ought not to be introduced into your party in quite that way?"  
 "That least of all. Persons of that sort do not admit themselves to be such; and if I have lived for twenty—I shall not tell you just how many years—the sort of life I have been obliged to live almost since I was born, without learning to judge men in that respect, I must have failed to use my opportunities."  
 "Thank you," he returned quietly; then, as he recollected his instinctive prejudice against Avery: "However, I am not so sure."  
 SHE plainly waited for him to go on, but he pretended to be concerned wholly with guiding her along the platform.  
 "Mr. Eaton!"  
 "Yes."  
 "Do you know that you are a most peculiar man?"  
 "Exactly in what way, Miss Dorne?"  
 "In this: The ordinary man, when a woman shows any curiosity about himself, answers with a fullness and particularity and eagerness which seems to say, 'At last you have found a subject which interests me!'"  
 "Does he?"  
 "Is that the only reply you care to make?"  
 "I can think of none more adequate."  
 "Meaning that after my altogether too open display of curiosity regarding you, I can still do nothing better than guess, without any expectation that you, on your part, will deign to tell me whether I am right or wrong. Very well; my first guess is that you have not done much walking with young women on station platforms—certainly not much of late."  
 "I'll try to do better, if you'll tell me how you know that?"  
 "You do very well. I was not criticizing you, and I don't have to tell why. Ask no questions; it is a clairvoyant diviner who is speaking."  
 "Divinity?"  
 "Diviner only. My second guess is that you have been abroad in far lands."  
 "My railroad ticket showed as much as that."  
 "Pardon me, if it seriously injures your self-esteem; but I was not sufficiently interested in you when you came aboard the train, to observe your ticket. What I know is divined from the exceedingly odd and reminiscent way in which you look at all things about you—at this train, this station, the people who pass."  
 "You find nothing reminiscent, I suppose, in the way I look at you?"  
 "You do yourself injustice. You do not look at me at all, so I cannot tell; but there could hardly be any reminiscence extending beyond this morning, since you never saw me before then."  
 "No; this is all fresh experience."  
 "I hope it is not displeasing. My doubt concerning your evidently rather long absence abroad is as to whether you went away to get or to forget."  
 "I'm afraid I don't quite understand."  
 "Those are the two reasons for which young men go to Asia, are they not?—to get something or to forget something. At least, so I have been given to understand. Shall I go on?"  
 "Go on guessing, you mean? I don't seem able to prevent it."  
 (To be continued.)

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