

PROLOGUE

IN THREE SCENES

I

Place : A Garden of Eden.

Persons : Adam, aged eleven : Eve, aged seven.

Serpent : deeming his office a sinecure in the councils of these children, absent.

The Tree of Knowledge : a small Bartlett pear tree bearing its first fruits, three perfect pears, caressed by the gardener with tender thumb and finger light as air and destined for my lady's breakfast on the morrow.

Time : Twilight, and a Sunday.

ADAM and Eve, having seen for weeks that the little tree was good for food, and pleasant to the eyes and a tree to be desired to make one wise, approached and hung about it tentatively.

"I'll just see if they are ripe," quoth Adam.

"So will I," said Eve, his devotee and echo.

Adam pinched a pear.

Eve did likewise.

Adam squeezed a second pear.

Eve followed her leader.

one
office