

fly. "Is that some one coming in? Don't let them. I don't want to see any one now."

The Colonel, after a listening moment, reassured her.

"That's only Rion," he said. "You needn't bother about him. He lives just across the hall."

She murmured an "Oh!" of relieved comprehension and fell back in the chair.

They were silent for a space, both looking into the heart of the fire, its red light playing on their faces, the woman leaning back languidly, sunk in an apathy of exhausted relief; the man possessed by a sense of contentment more rich and absolute than he had hoped ever again to feel.

THE END