

"Not very often, I think. At least talking must be wrong for it. No do not say any more, but let me read to you. And, Kenneth—laying a soft kind little hand on his—" you must not think it is pity brings me to see you; it is—that I like to come.

"You are fond of Harriek," says Gretchen, after one swift comprehensive glance at his averted face, and opening a volume, she begins to read in her tender musical voice.

"You are miserably, by all means go," says Gretchen, bitterly. "It is a cold word, that would come in well there."

"Let us end all this," she says, quietly. "You have not been more wretched than I have been during all these horrible days. I spoke natively when I said I should not be here now but for your message. I should. I was coming when Flo brought it. Nothing would have kept me from you another hour. How cold, how heartless you must think me for having said away so long! But you will forgive me now?"

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CHAPTER XLII. Two or three days later Kenneth says to her again. "It is no use, Gretchen; I must go. You have broken down a barrier between us I am powerless to raise again. When I see you the desire to let you know you are to me overcomes me."