

given me, and we're never going to be even great friends."

Her eyes looked into his for a moment; then swiftly fell.

"Please tell me, Kitten," she coaxed.

"I'll tell you if you care enough for me to come to Victoria to see me off. Now do tell the Prince, or he'll be simply furious."

She walked across to the fireplace and declared her choice. While she was speaking, the door opened and Lord Eynsham was ushered in to complete the party. The Prince bowed to him and looked at his watch.

"The Carlton let it be, then," he said. "I have an appointment with the Foreign Secretary later on, so perhaps you will excuse an early dinner. By the way, will it be all right if we go in these clothes?"

Nap Fenwick stepped forward and threw open the door.

"Perfectly, sir," he replied. "If there's any trouble, I can always tell the head waiter that you didn't have time to dress."

"You always *do*," commented the Prince. "Still, it doesn't lie in my mouth to complain."

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