

BY PAULINE BEVERLY.

"Pooh!" Well"—impatiently—"what did you say?"

"Read *It*," I returned, deliberately and sententiously. And really it seemed to me a sensible reply. What is mostly done with letters? But Yorke did not think so. I suppose, for he gave me my arm and jerked.

"If you don't drop that precious rubbish, Ned Chavasse, I'll shove you into the gutter as sure as I'm a living thing!"

"Come—answer me, there's a good fellow—do you mean to let me hang on to cut away and leave her like that, I can tell you. I suppose she thought it uncommonly odd?"

"I suppose so."

"And even so," he said. But I explained how it was in my letter, and that I really couldn't help it. She understood that.

"Well, I should think she ought. She must know it by her heart by this time. I won't swear that she doesn't sleep with it under her pillow. It's well you're back—it would have been worn out by another week. But why didn't you write that?"

"I thought it best not as things were," he returned, reddening. "You see, he went on, 'I've no right to interrupt you in the slightest degree, and had to be careful that I did not. Now that I am back it is different. I shall speak to Madame Chavasse tomorrow.'"

"What?"

"What?"

"I returned decisively—"that is you won't if you're wise. We're all topsy-turvy at Chavasse just now. Take my advice, old man—wait until this blessed rumpus is over and take me to bed."

"What rumpus?" he asked, looking at me and plainly forgetting everything but Nat.

"The great rumpus," I said, "the great rumpus," I said. "Well, it's tomorrow, you know, and I say wait until it is over."

A black and white fashion illustration of a woman wearing a plaid dress with a high collar and a large, ornate hat. The number '8584' is written in the upper left corner. In the background, a mannequin is shown wearing a similar plaid dress.

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