SELF-RAISED

BY

EMMA D. M. SOUTHWORTH

"That I have not years enough left to live to see all the wonders of the world."

"None of us—not the youngest of us have, professor. But you will live to see a great many. And by the time that you have seen everything that is to be found in Washington, I shall be ready to go to Europe; for I expect to see Europe some time or other, professor, and you shall see it with me."

"Oh," ejaculated the odd job man who seemed to think that the millennium was not far off.

And at that moment the carriage drew up before Ishmael's lodgings. And the driver and the professor carried the luggage into the front hall. And when the carriage was paid and dismissed Ishmael conducted the professor to the inner office, where the two clerks who were in charge of it arose to welcome their principal.

When he had shaken hands with them he led his retainer into the bedroom, and showed him a small vacant chamber adjoining that, and told him that the latter should be his—the professor's own sanctuary. Then he showed the old man the pleasant garden, all blooming now with late roses, crysanthemums, dahlias, and other gorgeous autumn flowers, and told him that there he might walk or sit, and smoke his pipe in pleasant weather. And finally he brought the professor back to the front office, where he found his hostesses, Miss Jenny and Miss Nelly Downey, waiting to welcome him. Nice, delicate, refined looking old maiden ladies they were—tall, thin, and fair complexioned, with fine grey hair and cobweb lace caps and pale grey dresses, and having pleasant smiles and soft voices.

After they had shaken hands with their lodger they turned looks of enquiry upon the tall, grey haired old man that stood behind him.

"This is a very old friend of mine; I have engaged him to take care of my rooms; his name is Morris, but on account of his skill in many arts he has received from the public the title of professor," said Ishmael, turning with an affectionate look upon the old odd-job man.

"How do you do, Professor Morris? We are very glad to see you, I am sure; and we hope you will find yourself comfortable, and also that you will be a comfort to Mr. Worth, who is a very estimable young gentleman, indeed," said Miss Jenny, speaking for herself and her sister.

"I cannot fail to be both comfortable and happy under this honored roof, my ladies," said the professor in a most reverential tone, laying his hand upon his heart and making a profound bow that would have done credit to the most accomplished courtier of the grave and courtly old school.

"A nice, gentlemanly old person," said Miss Jenny, nodding her head to her sister. And Miss Nelly said "Yesm" and nodded her head also.

"If you can fit up the little chamber adjoining my bedroom for the professor, I will arrange with you for his board," said Ishmael aside to Miss Jenny.

"Oh, certainly, it shall be done immediately," replied the old lady. And she left the room, followed by her sister, to give orders to that effect.

And before night the professor was comfortably installed in his neatly furnished and well warmed room, and Ishmael's apartments were restored to order, and he himself in full career going over the office business of the last two weeks with his clerks.

He found plenty of work cut out for him to do, and he resolved to be very busy to make up for his idleness during his holiday.

Ishmael did not really wish to tax his old servant with any labor at all. He wished his office to be as much of a sinecure as possible. And he continually urged the professor to go abroad and see the city sights or to walk in the garden and enjoy his pipe, or rest himself in his own room, or visit his daughter, the hackman's wife.

The professor obediently did this for a time, but as the days passed Ishmael saw that the old man's greatest happiness consisted in staying with and serving his master, and so he at length permitted the professor to relieve the chambermaid of her duties in his rooms, and take quiet possession and complete charge of them.

And never were rooms kept in more perfect order. And, best of all, love taught the professor the mystic art of dusting without deranging papers papers and dementing their owner.

Ishmael's present position was certainly a very pleasant one. He not only found a real home in his boarding house, and a faithful friend in his servant, but a pair of aunties in his landladies. Every good heart brought in contact with Ishmael Worth was sure to love him. And these old ladies were no exception to the rule. They had no relatives to bestow their affections upon, and so, seeing every day more of their young lodger's worth, they grew to love him with maternal ardor. It is not too much to say that they doted on him. And in private they nodded their heads at each other and talked of its being time to make their wills and spoke of young Mr. Worth as their heir and executor.

Ishmael for his part treated the old ladies with all the reverential tenderness that their age and womanhood had a right to expect from his youth and manhood. He never dreamed that the "sweet, small courtesies" which it was his happiness to bestow alike on rich and poor, had won for him such signal favor in the eyes of the old ladies. He knew and was happy to know that they loved him. That was all. He never dreamed of being their heir; he never even imagined that they had any property to bequeath. He devoted himself with conscientious zeal to his profession, and went on, as he deserved to go on, from success to success.

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6	24	16	1200 pair
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2	110	16	760 each
5	103	16	1050 each
2	93	16	1050 each
4cor	96	16	1100 pair
2	112	16	600 each
4	100	16	600 each
2	103	16	950 each
2	102	16	1425 pair
3	113	16	1500 pair
1	6	16	375 one
4	11	15	1500 pair
2	103	15	1650 pair
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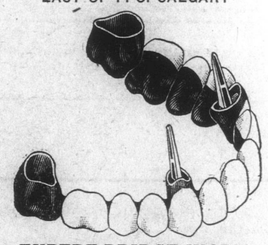

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