

green mossy bank of that silver stream, sat in one another's embrace.

Both of the same age, they had grown up together—Bob and Geraldine—inseparable companions; and for the last twenty years I had watched them, had hovered near them, just as I was doing now. From the time of their births they had interested me, not as other people interest me, but in a strange, vaguely comprehensible manner. I saw them in their childhood, during the period when they began to learn some of the peculiar ways of the world, and I was touched by their friendly companionship. As they grew, so my strange interest in them grew, and I became none the less observant when they passed the adolescent period—Bob changing into a healthy youth of noble bearing, and the girl into a woman of superb, matchless beauty. Even before they themselves realized it, I detected signs of love in the hearts of each, signs which became more evident with the passing years. Little did they suspect the course of their destinies.

At length, on that memorable day which I have before described, they came to a full understanding of the dictates of their souls. The result was a betrothal. All that afternoon they planned for the future, and all that afternoon my emotions were peacefully blissful. Merely to watch the expressions on their youthful countenances was enough to arouse in anyone a state of happiness. Then, with the settling of night came the kiss that kindled the fires of jealousy within me. For the first time I realized my intense desire to possess the soul of that unsurpassably supreme maiden. To gaze upon her filled me with the most extreme ecstasy. Inwardly I cursed myself, who, at all times so ready to observe the love of others, had been so backward in interpreting the meaning of my own passions. The more I thought of it, the greater became my desire. The fires of jealousy threatened to consume me.

For three long weary months, months filled with indescribable pain, I struggled between altruism and jealousy. These forces waged a war in my soul, the like of which has never been seen by mortal man. Back and forth swung the tide, with devastating results, and ever the question remained undecided. Then came the eve of their wedding day!