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do you know her writing so well? She may have been foolish, she may not have acted always as Lady Martin's wife should have done; but do you imagine for a moment that she would be writing compromise herself with you? Keep your letters; but let them reach the lady who writes them. Even a lawyer may be deceived!"

"I saw him start, and felt his eyes flash on me. It was well that he could not see how my trembling betrayed the cool tones whose boldness I inwardly marvelled at."

"Do you dare?" he said. "To tell me that Lady Martin did not write them?"

"Dare" is a strong word to use, Mr. Carden."

"All kinds of Cookies,  
 Soda Crackers,  
 Oyster ...  
 Graham ...  
 Marshmallow Creams,  
 Vanilla Wafers,  
 Ginger Wafers,  
 Pfeiffermüsse.

"You mean that hers was not?"

"I mean what you like to make of my words, Mr. Carden. I offer no explanation. I have discovered—she who had learned to know you has taught me—that you were writing to her, pretending to be in love with her, while to me—"

He took the bait I set for him. It was a last, bitter, and desperate attempt to save Gwendoline. I did not think he could hurt me, but indeed I hardly considered it then. Anything to save her from that unhappy Gwendoline, at least as she had truly said, of one other's hand."

"I look at matters, but not at you more; and with a shuddering heart I stood looking down on the ground, shivering with fear from head to foot."

He paused to think over his next move. I hoped that he would think the owner of the Grange would pay him a more remunerative price than he could win from Lady Martin Pomeroy. I thought if he did not believe me, it would be more profitable thus to terrify over me than over her, for he must see that there was no chance of winning Gwendoline. He answered in the negating tone I had expected; but I was fool enough to think they proved me the victor, puzzled though I was.

"It shall be," he said, "exactly as you wish. I will give the letters to you, but to you only. For your sake and Lady Martin's, I can trust to no other hands. Meet me to-morrow evening at nine o'clock; you shall have them."

"I shall be here."

"This is too near the high-road. I will meet you by the shrubbery gate. Give my compliments to Lady Martin Pomeroy, and tell her that when she is frank she need not fear me. I retaliate only on those who deceive me. Don't stay out longer, Viola; it is late and cold."

I hurried away, and ran across the close-cut turf to the Grange. I opened the door, and passed from the dimly rustling trees and the light-air into the dark corridor, and then into the warm lighted hall, and, as I came there, I was brought suddenly face to face with Hilda.

Her cold blue eyes met me with a haughty stare.

"I thought you were up-stairs with Gwendoline," she said.

"I was," I answered.

"You have been out," she said, looking up and down my dress, at my carelessly-fastened shawl, my rough hair, and perhaps heeding too my white face and panting breath. I had taken off my veil when I met Mr. Carden.

"Yes, in the garden." And then I went up-stairs and to Gwendoline's room.

She was sitting just where I had left her, and looked up with great wistful eyes and quivering mouth. She did not speak.

"I have seen him. You need fear nothing," I said.

"Have you them—the letters? You cannot have done it, Viola! I have been thinking while you were away that I ought not to have involved you in my wretchedness. You cannot have conquered him! It would be easier to tame a tiger."

"You shall have the letters to-morrow," I answered. "He has promised to give them to me."

"Child, is it true? Has he made you promise nothing?" She rose, still holding by her chair. There was a world of wild anxiety, struggling fright, and yearning distrustful hope in her eyes. "I offered him a thousand pounds, and he would not relent."

"There is no bribe and no promise; but he knows his game is useless."

And, when she would let herself be convinced, she began to cry; and I had to sit beside and comfort her for an hour.

(To be continued.)

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