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thought by this time Mr. Grant must

have finished any work he wished to

do alone in Mr. McGowan's office, she

opened the door to leave the neatly

directed envelopes on the desk there.

tion," where the first words she heard

as she entered, spoke in a voice she

knew. "Once engaged in the work

Silence instantly followed the open-

ing of the door and Elspeth saw Mr.

Trowbridge standing talking with

James Grant. The American-if Am-

erican he was-showed no confusion;

"There!" exclaimed Trowbridge.

"Speaking of angels! Now the cat's

out of the bag. Miss Dean will guess

that you have confided your troubles

trying to give you good advice how

"I have none," said the girl coldly.

"Well, Mr. Grant here has, and he's

rived in this hotel, and, by Jove, I'm

going to make his fiancee a hand-

some present, when he gets one. I've

more money than I know what to do

"Perhaps, when Mr. Grant has a

spend some of it on a present for

her," cut in Elspeth, "but her affairs

and mine have no connection with

She laid down the letters on the

out. But there was a deeper emotion

American millionaire's officiousness,

or with James Grant for taking her

ing about?" she asked herself. "It

must have been of me, or Mr. Grant

wouldn't have looked embarrassed;

but it wasn't what Mr. Trowbridge

wanted me to believe. 'Once engaged

in the work, she daren't'---were the

words he was saying, and his voice

sounded so eager and odd! What

work was I to be engaged in, which

would prevent me from daring-some-

thing? Oh, that 'scheme.' Mr. Grant

wanted me to go in with, if I were

bound to him, first, so that my in-

Can it be possible that it has any-

terests and his would be the same.

thing to do with Mr. Trowbridge?"

be solved easily, and Elspeth tho-

it over so hard that when she ret:

ed from her short walk she was

added to her burden.

fortably.

Dean.

She grew red and white, and the

tears rose to her eyes, stinging her

lids so sharply that she had to bite

the midst of her distress, she saw

James Grant's! This time, the girl's

heart went out in gratitude, though

the genuine concern of the man's

manner made her long to cry com-

"It's nothing," she faltered. "I'm

"You are anything but stupid. You

are very brave, and clever, too. I

have a great respect for you, Miss

Now the girl dared not look up at

him, the unshed tears hung so heavy

in her eyes, and her heart was beat-

ing fast. How good he was - how

kind, and how far, far away from her

in spite of his sympathy and consid-

thing worrying you? And if there is,

couldn't you let me help?"

only a little tired," she said.

"Not homesick?"

good than anything."

Elspeth laughed.

'Do you like motoring?"

"I have no home."

'Tell me," he went on, "is any-

"I-I am quite happy, thank you,

"Poor child. You are so young to

be fighting your own battles alone in

the world. You ought to have com-

panionship and amusement. I don't

believe you are out in the fresh air

"I'm not joking." Kenrith went on.

"I've never tried," said the girl.

"I am sure I should love it, but I'm

"Oh, thank you!" exclaimed Els-

"No, not all alone. I'm sure Lady

Hilary Vane will be delighted to go

not very likely ever to find out by

that Kenrith was looking at her.

This was too intricate a puzzle

"What could they have been talk-

with, unfortunately, so"-

each other."

but Grant started and frowned.

she daren't"-

"You must work upon her ambi-

Copyright, 1906, by Mrs. C. N. Williamson.

"Well, then, that is something. Lis- ters she had finished and as she ten to what I have to propose. Be engaged to me quite privately, if you like; no one need know till you wish it, and help me to carry out a scheme SHOW ROOMS-Next to Swallows which will make us both rich. Meanwhile I shall be doing all I can to make you care for me, and if I sucdoor South of W. J. Lawrence's ceed, so much the better for me; if not, no harm will have been done, only a great deal of good, for you

to make you independent. Now, isn't that a fair offer?" "It is fair, but I can't accept it,"

replied Elspeth. "Are you so well satisfied with your condition in life, that you are ready to refuse several hundreds of pounds, without even hearing how easily they can be earned?"

"Too well satisfied to be willing to better my condition by being engaged to me, my friend, and that I've been to a man I don't love."

Grant was silent, looking thought to win her. I do hope you don't fully at the girl, evidently undecided mind, Miss Dean. You've no idea what to do. Elspeth felt that he was what an interest I take in love afdebating within himself whether or fairs, and yours"not to tell her something that was in his mind. His lips went down at the corners and suddenly an angry an excellent chap. He has done me light sparkled in his eyes. "If there no end of little favors since I arwere no such conditions-if you hadn't to pledge yourself to me-you wouldn't be eager enough to make the money," he said. "That depends upon the 'scheme'

you spoke of," she retorted. Again he paused. "I could tell you fiancee she will be willing to let you nothing unless you were bound to me in such a way that my interests were yours," he answered at last.

"Then I am afraid you will have to work alone, or at least without me," said Elspeth, "for I can only desk and without another word went be bound to you as a friend." She spoke decidedly, and a dark in her mind than vexation with the

flush mounted to the roots of the young man's hair. He was not only deeply disappointed but embittered by his disappointment, and Elspeth was half alarmed by the angry, thwarted look in his eyes. She could not doubt that he had really been attracted by her, that he fancied himself in love with her, if nothing more; yet she felt dimly that love denied would not be enough to bring that look to his face. Evidently he considered her help very necessary some undertaking important to his interests, and was almost inclined to ask for it, though she had just refused to be engaged to him.

"I believe you will change your mind yet!" he exclaimed. "I must

"You know, if you are going to persist in talking to me like this," said Elspeth. "I shall be driven away from Lochrain, though I very much wish to stay here. Do be kind and leave me to myself now. You have excited me a good deal and made my headache worse. I must get at my

Grant, almost fiercely. "Go to your her dress. Altogether, it did seem and if I didn't go, Lady Hilary would room—or take a walk—do anything as if everything was bent upon going have to stop behind. you choose except work. I will do everything myself."

Constantly on hand the best brands of Rolled Oats. Also our make of said Elspeth, "less than ever after Rolled Cereal, the best on the market. what you've said." She would have sat down at the desk, but Grant came Also Chopped Oats, Mixed Chop, Pea Chop, Bean Shorts and Feed Flour. between her and the chair, moving it Special Reduction on Flour in 5 and

"You want to hurt my feelings, see," he said. "If you didn't, you'd be willing to accept a small fovor like

that from me. It was now Elspeth's turn to hesitate, for, odd as his manner seemed to her, she did not wish to be ungenerous. "Oh, very well," she an swered. "I will leave most of it to you, since you are so kind, if you will promise after this to act as it nothing had happened between us. "I'll do my best," replied Grant.

"Thank you. Then I'll just get things in shape here." She drew toward the desk again, but still the young man kept her back.

"If you must interest yourself in these things, take a few letters up to your room," said he. "I can work faster if I'm alone.

Elspeth made no objection to this proposal, which indeed was a relief to her, for she was far from anxious to remain in Mr. Grant's society, especially after what had passed. But she was somewhat surprised at the evident satisfaction he felt at being taken at his word. He did not express this, except by his face, yet it set Elspeth wondering. Had offer to help her, and let her rest, not been made entirely for disinterested reasons then? Did he wish to get her out of the way, and have the room

In any case, the girl thought, it was not her affair, and she was glad enough. Motoring would do you more to go, without further argument. She gathered up a few letters, took her own typewriter, which she had brought

down as usual, and went away. It was true, she had been very tired and slack, but the excitement of the little scene she had just now passed through, had stimulated her, and for the moment she felt as fresh as if she had slept well, with never a dream, this very day, if you will, in my ing, she made up her mind to take a | I have been lending it to Captain Oxgin work for Mr. Kenrith. Somehow, out, but he has a friend coming to she wished to be feeling and looking see him this afternoon, it seems, and her best when she went to him, has just sent word to me that he though, of course, as she scornfully won't be able to use the car. You reminded herself, her appearance was shall go instead." less than nothing to him, and the best thought she could hope for from him peth. "But-all alone. I"was that she served his purpose as The girl brought downstairs the let- with you," said Kenrith, "and in that a secretary well enough.

her sake he could not have gone with her alone, but with the two girls, his presence in his own car as host, could not arouse gossip in the most censorious clique. "It would be too glorious," said she. "But-but I don't think Lady Lambart would allow Lady

Hilary to go." "We shall see," replied Kenrith, with a determined look in his eyes,

Elspeth realized quickly that for

which told Elspeth that the chances were in favor of the expedition. She finished her work with no further mistakes and left Kenrith's sitting room, feeling singularly, unex-

plainably happy. After lunch a note came up to Elspeth's room from Lady Hilary, with a heavy coat and a thick motor veil. 'How nice!" said the letter.

"I am going out with you. Mr. Kenrith suggested that I should look up something warm and comfortable for you, in case you might not have come prepared for motoring and shilly emergencies of that sort. I hope the things I send may do. What a talk we shall have!"

Elspeth's heart was very warm towards Lady Hilary as she read the friendly note and put on the pretty coat, so much handsomer than any she had ever worn. She tied the long chiffon veil over her hat and found the big, fluffy bow under the chin very becoming. "I wonder if he will see me?" she was asking herself as she went downstairs; and was so absorbed in her own thoughts that she had almost collided with the Countess Radepolskoi before she saw her coming up.

"Ah, how pretty you look, my dear!" exclaimed the handsome woman. "You have the air of one who is to go motoring. "I am going," Elspeth answered.

"I can guess," said the Countess. "You are driving down to the station in one of the hotel motors." "No," answered the girl, smiling. "I have had a much pleasanter invitation than that and have accepted

Suddenly the woman's dark face changed, and her eyes dilated with a look of horror. "It is not-you are not going with Captain Oxford in Mr. Kenrith's car?" she asked, in an odd, low voice.

"Mr. Kenrith has invited me," Elspeth replied; then, remembering the conventionalities she added, "Lady Hilary Vane is going, too. The Countess Radepolskoi's clear

features seemed to freeze, and a curjous glitter, like steel, lighted her eyes, bleakly. "Has-Mr. Trowbridge heard that-she is to be one of the "I don't know, I'm sure," said Els-

peth, surprised. "I don't suppose he has. Why should he have been told?" "Why, indeed?" echoed the Coun-"It-is a matter of no importance. It was only a foolish little joke of mine, as he seemed to be-rather interested in Lady Hilary Vane's movements of late. Let her go. I hope-she will have a pleasant drive. But you-I wish you would give it up, and spend an hour with me instead. I am in one of my bad moods. I am lonely. I should like your society. Make some excuse. Stop with me and I will see if I can't find some-

"You are too kind, Countess," said refreshed and more nervous than when she had started. She had gone a lit- Elspeth, really grateful, though she tle farther than she had intended, would not have given up Kenrith's and consequently was rather late for invitation for anything which could Mr. Kenrith. To reach the hotel in have been offered. "I'm so sorry you you work this morning," returned time, she walked very fast and tore and lonely; but you see I've promised,

thing pratty for you-some little trin-

wrong this morning, and when she "Oh!" almost whispered the Counmade several mistakes in taking down tess, "Oh-if you didn't go, Lady Hil-"I can't have you doing my work," from Kenrith's dictation, for the first ary would have to stop behind. Of time since she had begun working for course, in that case-I say no more. him, the last feather appeared to be Good-bye, child. I wish you luck. It will be a pleasant party; you, and Lady Hilary and Captain Oxford." "Oh, Captain Oxford isn't going today," the girl explained hastily, for

Hilary's sake, lest some trouble should her lip to keep them back. Then, in be made with Lady Lambart. "Not going!" the Countess cried sharply. Then she burst out laughing. "My child," he said, "you are over-It was strange laughter, and Elspeth worked, I have seen it for several wondered at it, just as she had wondered at the expression of the wo-How different was his tone from

CHAPTER VIII.

man's face.

"My chauffeur has had a slight accident, it seems," said Kenrith, as the two girls in motor veils and coats appeared at the door. "He has hurt his hand and can't drive, so I am going to take you myself. You needn't be frightened. On the whole I think I may say, without conceit, I'm the better driver of the two." He put the two girls together in

the tonneau of the car, which was fine one of the latest type, 60-horsepower. Having started the motor he took his place in the chauffeur's seat, and in another instant they were spinning away down the long winding avenue which led away from the castle and through the park. They had not gone far when they came in sight of Mr. Trowbridge walking leisurely toward the hotel. He looked up, saw the car, with Kenrith driving, and quickly his eyes flashed over the other occupants. Neither of the girls wore veils heavy enough to disguise their features; they both bowed, Lady Hilary rather coldly and mechanically. Trowbridge snatched off his Panama. But seeing Lady Hilary in the car, instead of smiling in greeting, he grew ghastly pale, and, turning, shouted after the motor as it flew by him.

Elspeth caught the look of horror on his face, which reminded her of the expression she had seen Countess Radepolskoi wear when told that she, "You shall find out by experience Elspeth, was going motoring in Mr. throughout the night. She typed the motor. Instead of taking your usual Kenrith's car. A chill crept through hats, in brown, black and dove. letters which she was able to an- letters which she was able to answer herself, through the knowledge lar hour, for I've often seen you go- but neither she nor her two comof Mr. McGowan's wishes, and then, ing out as I sat near my window— panions heard Trowbridge shouting, as she was not in the mood for read- you shall have a run in my motor. "Stop-stop!" In the distance, a dogwalk before it should be time to be- ford since he has been able to get Kenrith was loudly sounding a warnwho turned to run after them was lost

in the shrill noise of the horn. sped on, passing through the park burg, please send their address to gates, and out into the public road.

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