THE MIDNIGHT MARRIAGE,

Dramatized by

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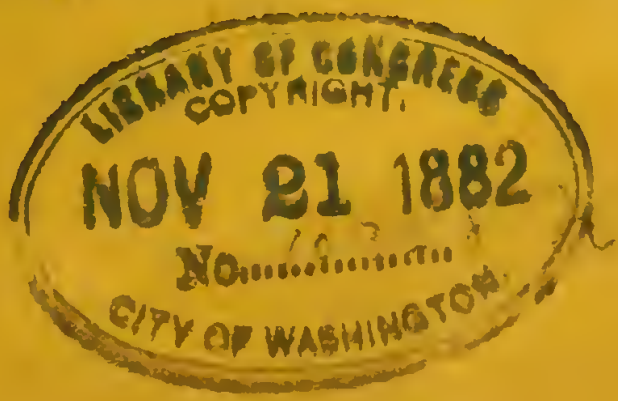

ACT FIRST.

SCENE FIRST.

Library in 1. Sir John and Madolin enter L.I. E.

Madolin.—Uncle, Elaine wants you, she knows the truth. Sir William Biron told her,she had not many hours to live, and she has taken a strange fancy into her head. one that must be humored, you will go to her at once, and remember above all things, that she must die happily and in peace. No matter what she desires, she must have it.

Sir John.—That she shall (going R. take care ofyourself Madolin, you look very ill. (Exit. R. I. E.)

Madolin.—I could fancy that I am dreaming, and yet she is but a child, a simple innocent dying child, was ever any woman asked to do so strange thing before. How can I ask him when I remember that but one short week ago, Ipromised to be his wife myself, yet how can I evade doing so? After all she is but a dying child and it cannot matter. How little I dreamed how dearly she loved him.

Aldewin.—(Enters R. I. E.) How is Elaine Madolin?

Madolin.—She is still living.

Aldewin.—How ill you look, my darling, you have worn yourself out; you are trembling and cold, you must take

more care of yourself for my sake Madolin, you belo, g to me now. (Puts his arm around her.)

Madolin.—Hush!

Aldewin.—Why, Madolin. you are ill, let me bring you a glass of wine.

Madolin.—No, listen Aldewin, I have something so strange to tell you, something which none of us suspected. Do yon know that Elaine loves you.

Aldewin,—I believe she loves every one, she has one of the sweetest and most sunshiny natures that I have ever met. It seems a thousand pities that she should die so young. Is there no hope, Madolin?

Mdaolin.—No. The doctors have all said the same thing. She cannot live more than 24 hours longer.

Aldewin.—Poor child.

Madolin.—She loves you Alderwin. It seems so strange she is such a child, that I did not think she knew what love meant. I did not know that she had a thought beyond her parents and friends.

Alderwin.—I am her friend Madolin,

Madolin.—No it is more than that, she loves you better than any one on earth, better than her own life (I am using her own words) all her girlish heart is given to you Aldewin, all her innocent love and standing as she does now, on the very threshold of another world, she cannot rest with out you.

Aldewin.—Poor Elaine.

Madolin.—Tell me Aldewin did you ever, when you first came here, tell her that you admired her, or speak to her in such a way that she could mistake your words for love.

Alderwin.—No never. I have laughed and chatted with her, she has always seemed to me a simple hearted girl, full of mirth and life. To speak candidly I have never looked up on her as a woman, I have sung, danced, walked, talked, laughed and jested with her. I may have called her by some pet name as every one else does, but I have never thought of her save as a child. I have never loved, and never shall love any woman but you.

Madolin.—I know it is not that, how strangely that she should love you so, that with death so near, she should cling to you she lies thinking of you, she speaks to me of you, she unquestionably loves you dearly.

Aldewin.—Madolin it is strange, that you should say so much to me, of the love of another.

Madolin.—I must, I have promised to tell you, that she loves you better than all the world beside.

Aldewin.—I understand. Poor child, it is a sick fancy, people think strange things when they are ill.

Madolin.—Yes it is a fancy—and Alderwin last night, as she lay listening (she tells me) to the roll of the wind

in the valley, a strange sweet idea came to her, a strange loving, tender wish, and she assures me, that she cannot die happy, unless this wish is granted. You know how happy her short life has been, all smiles and sunshine, love and tenderness. She has literally lived upon love. and now it is all over. She lies dyeing and she has but one wish, one great desire. She thinks of it, broods over it, it stands between her and the peace, that in death, should be hers—between her and the long sweet sleep that knows no waking. And the granting of this desire—this wish, this prayer, rests with you Alderwin, with you.

Aldewin.—With me? I will do anything, you know that Madolin. Poor Elaine, what can I do for her. tell me Madolin, what can I d › for her.

Madolin.—She loves you, can you not guess?

Aldewin.—No, do you mean that she would like to see me, that she would like me, to be with her at the end?

Madolin—No it is more than that, Oh Alderwin I cannot tell you, and yet she made me promise that I would.

Aldewin.—Madolin do you know that you are smiling, while you have tears in your eyes.

Madolin.—I know I cannot help it, It is all so sad, so childlike. Any one would both weep and smile. What do you think this fancy of hers is Aldewin.

Aldewin.—I cannot tell.

Madolin.—Remembering that she loves you better than all the world, can you not guess.

Aldewin.—I cannot even guess, you must tell me Madolin and I will do anything to please you and her.

Madolin—Remember another thing, she does not know that you care for me, or that I love you, or that I have promised to marry you. She loves you with all her heart, she knows that in a few hours she will have parted from you forever, and her last wish is, that she shall live in the memory of all who knew her as—your wife.

Aldewin.—My wife?

Madolin.—Yes Alderwin as your wife. She wants the name that shall live after her to be Elaine Carleton. She wants the notice of her death to run—Elaine, the wife of Sir Aldewin Carelton.

Aldewin.—But you are to be my wife Madolin, no one else.

Madolin.—So I could be afterwards, I would not give you up to any one else, but Elaines case is so different. It is like lending your name for a few hours to please and soothe a dying child, only for a few hours. Before sunset tomorrow, she will be at rest, and we should neither of us like to remember, that she had been unhappy at the last.

Aldewin.—It is so strange, I can hardly understand it. Surely you Madolin my promised wife do not ask me to do such a thing as that.

Madolin.—I do ask you, we have per-

haps a long life before us, years in which we can love each other, and be happy. I ask you to do it, but I tell you, that I do not like it. I am afraid I am jealous, lest even the semblance of your name, even the shadow of your love should go to another, yet on the other hand I cannot council you to refuse Elaine's prayer. That must not be, no matter what we suffer, she would be wretched and die unhappy.

Alderwin.—I cannot grant it, I should loathe myself for being untrue, it would be a false position, miserably false. I am very sorry for the poor child, but even to please her, I cannot lose my self-respect. Do not ask me Madolin, I cannot do it. (crosses.)

Madolin.—I do ask you, it will last only a few hours. Oh Alderwin if I can lend you, surely you may go. The pain will be mine not yours, if I can bear it, surely you may, she is only 18 and dying, who could refuse her last request.

Aldewin.—It seems to me that a dying child, ought to think of something else.

Madolin.—You do not understand her, if there were hopes of her recovery, she would never dream of it. Can you not understand the simple love that wants to live through eternity. The heaven she dreams of will hold all she loves.

Aldewin.—I belong to you Madolin not to her.

Madolin.—(Crying.) I hate you to do it, I feel the pain and bitterness of it. yet I urge it, I pray you to yield. Listen Alderwin—she wants to die holding your hand. she will feel no fear then, think of her' pity her, do not be hard upon her' so young, so lovely, so loving with that one wish in death, (not in life) to bear your name, you must consent Aldewin, I cannot take back the answer, No, (crossing.)

Sir John.—(Enters R. I. E. quietly and places his hand on Aldewin's shoulder.) Madolin has told you all. Poor child she has loved you all her short life, and wants to belong to you in death. My pretty Elaine, no man has ever had so sweet a child, you will do as she wishes Aldewin. (Aldewin looks down and does not reply.) You cannot refuse, you will not refuse. No man on the face of the wide earth could be cruel enough to refuse such a prayer. I can bear to lose her, but I cannot bear that she should end her bright young life in bitterness. Aldewin you have been with us now for the last year, and we have learned to love you dearly; your father and I were the dearest of friends from childhood up, I know he left you a large estate and his title, yet I will give you the bulk of my wealth if you will come and be kind to her until she dies (crossing to Madolin.) Madolin help me, he must not refuse, tell him Madolin how we love her, her mother and I, that she has been the very pride

of our lives. We have been kind to you Madolin, we have treated you, loved you, as our own, repay us now, plead that our child may be made happy in the shadow of his love.

Madolin.—(crossing.) You will consent dear, I ask you for my sake, because I love my cousin so dearly, because the knowledge that her death was unhappy, would embitter all my life.

Aldewin.—Stop you need urge nothing further, your life shall not be embittered Madolin, I will do what you ask me.

Sir John.—(crosses and takes Aldewins hand.) I cannot thank you, but every day of my life I will bless you, and heaven will give you every good gift. She will be so happy, my poor Elaine, I have sent for the rector—the desire of her heart can be granted, you can be married when he comes and you will stay by her until she dies.

Aldewin.—(Looks earnestly at Madolin.) Do you wish this—earnestly and truly wish it?

Madolin,—I do.

Aldewin.—Then it shall be done. But always remember my true love, that it has been done at your suggestion, by your desire.

Sir John.—Going to R. I. E.) Come now ere it will be to late. (They all exit L. I. E. Enter Tom and Katy R. I. E.) (*Change of Scene.*)

Tom.—Sure Katy, did you ever hear of the like of a dying girl wanting to get married.

Katy.—Ain't it terrible Tom, to die so young. Do you know she wanted to be married in the parlor, and they've moved her bed in there.

Tom.—How did you know she wanted to marry Sir Aldewin.

Katy.—I overheard her ask Miss Madolin to tell Sir Aldewin.

Tom.-Katy if you was going to die, would you send for me to marry you?

Katy.-No, indeed.

Tom.-And why not.

Katy.-Because I don't love you.

Tom.-But I love you.

Katy.-Do you?

Tom.-Yes.

Katy.-Then may be I might love you.

Tom.-But can't you give me a more convincing proof?

Katy.-In what way.

Tom.-By giving me a kiss.

Katy.- You won't hurt me.

Tom.-No.

Katy.-Then here goes (she goes up as if to kiss him, and slaps his face, and runs off L. 1. E. laughing.)

Tom.-(feeling his face.)Sure that's all the proof I want (Exit. L. 1. E.)

(Change of scene C. D. Parlors, beautifuly furnished. Bed L. C, window R. of C. Doors with Moon-light shining through, 2 steps go up to C. Doors back and when the doors are open the bal-

cony can be seen running across the back, Elaine discovered in bed, Sir Aldewin in front of the bed holding Elaine's hand. The Rector back of the bed with book in his hand. Sir John, Lady Lynne, Barbara the nurse, Dr. Biron and Madolin around the bedside, as the scene opens.)

Rector.—I now pronounce you man and wife.

Elaine.—I am so happy (soft rustling of wind.) That is it Aldewin, the trees are whispering, and the angels calling, listen for my name, (Aldewin kneels by the bedside, Elaine puts her arms around his neck.) I love you so much. (Aldewin sighs, Elaine sinks away, clock strikes one.)

Barbara.—(Feeling Elaine's forehead.) It is the end sir, I expected it.

Sir Aldewin.—I will not disturb her.

Madolin.—Speak to her.

Aldewin.—Elaine—Elaine—Elaine.

Elaine.—(Opening her eyes.) You have called me back again; my spirit was about to take its flight. (Barbara gives her some medicine in a spoon.

Dr. Biron.—(Feeling of Elaine's forehead.) She had fainted Sir John; this is not death.

Sir John.—Not death, Heaven be thanked.

Dr. Biron.—Look, see there is a tinge of color in the face and on the lips. that terrible whiteness has gone.

Sir John.—(To Alderwin.) If she lives, after heaven we shall owe it to you.

(Madolin hides her face in her hands Sir John touches Aldewin,) she is praying for her, and heaven always hears such prayers.

Lady Lynne.—(To Aldewin) Heaven bless you, my dear, and give you, when you ask it, your hearts desire.

Aldewin.—(Aside, looking atMadolin.) My heart's desire.

Dr. Biron.—I am very pleaed to find I was mistaken, but for this marriage, she would have drifted slowly away, undoubtedly it has saved her life.

Lady Lynne.—And now you thlnk she will recover, you give us hope.

Dr. Biron.—Yes, I believe now that she will live(Aldewin and Madolin exchange one long lingering look) There must still be great care exercised for she is not yet out of danger, but there is reason to hope she will soon be well, as she is now sleeping soundly, I would advise you all to leave her alone with her husband. (Exit all.)

Lady Lynne.—Madolin perhaps you had better remain and keep Aldewin company. (Exit.)

Aldewin,—(Rising.) Heaven knows Madolin that I do not grudge the fair young child her life, but what am I to do, tell me Madolin what I am to do or I shall go mad, I must have some words of comfort, come and talk to me.

Madolin.—(going to him.) Talk is useless, there is nothing to be done, (crying)I—Oh Aldewin I did it, and yet I must not mind, it has saved her life.

Aldewin.—And ruined ours, I am not vexed about it, I am glad she should live—she is a loving child, but Madolin I would rather have given my life for her, than my freedom. What can be done, I am a strong man, you a weak girl, yet my strength seems to have failed me, my thoughts pain me.

Madolin.—(taking his arm.) You are tired; come and rest Aldewin, I will make you some tea, and we will not talk until you have rested.

Aldewin.—Madolin do you realize what happened; I do not myself; I can not. Twenty-four hours since I had not given one thought to any woman in the wide world, but yourself, and now I am married, there must be some way out of it, for I did not mean it, I can love no wife but you.

Madolin.—We will talk about it later on, not just now. We must have time to think, and one word may endanger Elaine's life, she loves you so dearly. We must be patient, we acted as we did for a good purpose, help will come to us sooner or later, but we must be careful for her sake. (Points to Elaine.)

Aldewin.—Madolin I am heart sick, I am wretched, I see no way out of my cruel position, It is a false position, no man could ever be in one more false, and I, oh Madolin, why did I yield to your wishes.

Madolin.—We did it for the best, you could not have refused, it would simply kill her. Try to forget, Aldewin, for a

time. (Aldewin tries to kiss her) Nay you forget dear that must not be.

Aldewin.—(Drawing back.) True it must not be. Oh, Madolin, if each tear was a tear of blood, it could not undo what you and I have done. My darling we did wrong, and good never comes of wrong doing. I can see it all now. I did not love her, I should not have married her, even to have saved her life, I loved you and I have acted falsely. It has all been a terrible mistake Madolin.

Madolin,—We did it for the best.

Aldewin.—If it had been the will of heaven, that she should die, she would have died. It is nonsense to say that I have helped to save her life. We have done a bitter wrong Madolin

Madolin.—It is all my fault, you would not have done it, but for me, you know she loves you poor child.

Aldewin,—I am sorry for her too, I am glad her life is spared. But Madolin you and I, you and I.

Elaine.—(waking, calls.) Aldewin.

Aldewin.—(Quickly goes to the bed.) Yes dear, what is it,

Elaine—Will you sit by my side, I want to talk to you (Aldewin sits by the bed side.) Have I deceived you Aldewin, given you life instead of death, I never dreamed of living, if I had, I never should have done as I did. (Enter Lady Lynne, goes to the bedside.) But you are not sorry are you.

Lady Lynne. Sorry my darling—why

sorry, what greater treasure could any one win than you.

Elaine.—You think so mamma, because I am all the world to you.

Lady Lynne.—You are all the world to Aldewin.

Elaine.—You have saved my life twice over, how good of you, Mamma I am sure that I was dying, I could feel it in some strange way,that my spirit was about to depart, when my husband called me, He called Elaine, and I came back at the sound of his voice, but for him, for that one cry, my spirit would have gone out into the great unknown world and I should not be here, so you must love him very much Mamma, next to me will you?

Lady Lynne.—I will indeed, he knows that.

Elaine.—I am so happy Mamma. Do you think I shall ever be sorry I did not die.

Lady Lynne.—You are so fanciful, my darling. This marriage of *yours*, was but a fancy, that you should ever be sorry for getting well is a fancy. I could not have lived without you.(Exit, after kissing Elaine.)

Elaine—How they love me, (putting her arms around his neck,)and how I love you my darling. It seems to me that all my life will be too short to love you in. (Madolin all this time has been standing by the window in the moon light and drops into a chair with a sigh Aldewin starts.) (*Curtain.*)

ACT SECOND.—Scene First.

Scene same as act 1st 2 years supposed to elapse, 3 or 4 trunks, and shawl straps, lying about the room Katy packing a valise, Tom strapping a trunk as the scene opens.

Katy.—There, thank fortune, that is the last package.

Tom.—(strapping a trunk.) That's what it is to travel with a wife, Katy, I believe Lady Lynne, after thinking of her daughter, in every imaginable predicament, has packed up the means of rescue from one and all. (Enter 2 men and carry off the trunks C.)

Katy.—And my opinion is they havn't found the right remedy yet. There is only one medicine that will do her any good.

Tom.—And what is that.

Katy.—The love of her husband.

Tom.—Does she suspect, he don't love her?

Katy.—I think she does, she is jealous of Sir Aldewin and the pain of it is killing her, she don't smile as she used too, and seemingly, cares for nothing but her child, Ah Tom, (picks up valise) I'm afraid there will be hot water in this family.

Tom.—I expect so Katy, but there is one way to stop it.

Katy.—How so,

Tom.—Keep the water cold. (Both Exit C. with parcels.)

Dr. Biron.—(Enters with Lady Lynne.) If Lady Careltou were not your daughter, if she were a stranger, I should most certainly say, that she was ill, rather from something preying on her mind, than from any bodily ailment. No doctors can reach the mind, there are only three medicines that will do it good, kindness, fresh air, and change of scene. If Lady Carelton has anything preying on her mind. one of these things will reach it.

Lady Lynne.—It is impossible she could have anything on her mind, she is happy, and beloved, and blest with a kind husband, and a dear child, she has not one wish unfulfilled.

Dr. Biron.—People grow ill sometimes for the want of something to stir them into more active life.

Lady Lynne.—And you really think, this voyage will do her good.

Dr. Biron.—One thing is very certain, if she remains here, and as she is, she will inevitably fade away. If she travels, it is possible, that in a few weeks, she may become stronger and healthier than ever. Did you notice her strange languor, Lady Lynne? She never raised her eyes to mine, she took far less interest in her own case, than she would have taken in that of a stranger. When a sweet sensitive girl like your daughter is languid after that fashion, there is something vitally wrong.

Lady M.—You certainly know best

Doctor, but why could she not delay her journey a little longer.

Dr. Biron.—Because delay in this case, is very dangerous and the next steamer does not sail for three weeks. Take the advice of an experienced physician Lady Lynne, and let your daughter depart to-day. I must go now as I have important business elsewhere, (goes to C. door.) I hope Lady Lynne, upon your daughters return to find her much improved. Good morning.

Lady Lynne.—Good morning doctor. (Comes down stage.)

Elaine.—(Enters R.) I am sorry to see the doctor, Mamma, there was no need for his visit, I am well enough, as well as I ever shall be. (aside,) who shall minister to a mind diseased.

Lady Lynne—But my dear, I am sure you will enjoy the change, and besides Aldewin, Madolin will be a constant, and cheerful companion.

Elaine.—I suppose so.

Lady Lynne.—Now my darling cheer up, It will only be a short time until you return to us restored in health. (Kisses Elaine.) I'll go now and see that everything is prepared for your departure. (Exit. R,)

Elaine.—After all what does it matter, (goes to table R. sits down and picks up a book, turning the leaves over very carelessly.)

Madolin.—(Enters L.) Elaine you look ill, (crossing to her,) are you griev-

ing about leaving home!

Elaine.—(Throws the book on the table.) No Madolin, I was just thinking.

Madolin.—(Standing beside Elaine with one hand on the back of the chair.) Thinking? Of what?

Elaine.—If I should die what would become of little Pearl.

Madolin.—But you are not going to die, Elaine.

Elaine.—If anything should happen to me Madolin, would you adopt my little one, would you love her, and treat her, as your own child?

Madolin.—Most [illegible]ainly I should.

Elaine.—You tol' me once that you would never marry, Madolin, do you remember. If I died do you think you would change your mind.

Madolin.—My dear Elaine, how can I tell what will happen to me. I do not think I shall marry, because there is no one, whom I care to marry.

Elaine.—I am sorry I did not die, when I was ill, it would have been much better.

Madolin.—My darling you must not talk in that fashion. Why do you wish that you had died. How cruel of you to say that, you who are the light of Southwold, when we were all ready to give our lives for yours.

Elaine.—One may give up that which is dearer than life.

Madolin.—What has shadowed your face, Elaine, tell me.

Elaine.—(Passionately clutches Madolin looking up into her face.) Keep my faith in you alive, Madolin, even if I mistrust any one else, never let me mistrust you.

Madolin.—You never shall.

Elaine.—Madolin do you think Sir Aldewin loves me?

Madolin.—Yes I am sure he does, surely you have not made yourself unhappy, by doubting a husband, so good and true as yours, have you Elaine?

Elaine.—(Timidly.) Just a little.

Madolin.—Then you have done wrong, steel your heart against all doubts of him. No wife can do a more foolish thing than open her heart, to doubts of her husband. It is the first step towards misery, that ends in ruin. There Elaine don't make yourself unhappy, any longer, will you?

Elaine.—I'll try not too.

Madolin.—(Starts to go.) By the way, i'd almost forgotten what I came for, there's a poor old man at the back door who is very much in need of assistance in the way of clothing, and I came to ask you if Aldewin had anything in his wardrobe, that he didn't care for,

Elaine.—(Rising.) I don't know Madolin, but I'll look and see.

Madolin.—And I'll go and ask him to wait (exit L. Elaine goes to wardrobe opens it and selects an old pair of pants, and a coat; folding the pants.)

Elaine.—I don't think Aldewin, will care for these(folding the coat,) what's that, money, perhaps. (Feels in the pocket.) An old letter addressed to Sir Aldewin Carlton, throws the coat over a chair, looking at the letter.) I wonder what's in it. (opens the letter, music.) *Dear Sir Aldewin, I have done my very best, I have taken the ablest counsels opinion in London, I have looked up authortties, read, and thought. I have consulted some of the most eniment members of the legal profession, all agree that there is no possible way, of which you can free yourself from the marriage you have contracted. If,as an old friend, and a man of the world, I might presume to advise, I should say that the wisest plan now, will be to make the best of your lot, as what cannot be cured, must be endured. I am sorry not to be able, to send you news more acceptable.*

Elaine.—(Crushing the letter in her hand. Dated two months after our marriage. Why has no mercy been shown me, why did I not die. (Sits at table R. short pause, looks at the letter and puts it in her bosom.

Aldewin.—(Enters C. Elaine I've brought you a bunch of roses, which I know you will admire as they are very choice. (Hands them to her standing back of the chair, Elaine takes them and carelessly throws them on the table.) My gift does not seem to find favor in your sight.

Elaine.— (curtly,) It does not, (aside,) why need he pretend.

Aldewin.—Elaine you have changed very much to me of late, you look very ill, and very unhappy, will you tell me what makes you so.

Elaine.—(Rises Aldewin goes down L. C.) Aldewin I must say to you now, what I have never said before, My face burns with shame when I think of it. I wish to tell you, that I am very sorry about our marriage.

Aldewin.—Our marriage? what of that.

Elaine.—I did wrong, and my only excuse is, I loved you very much, and I quite believed that I was going to die.

Aldewin.—My dear Elaine, why refer to this, it is all past and gone.

Elaine.—Not quite, I have discovered since then, that you do not love me. You married me in simple compliance with my wish, in the full belief that I should die. I cannot forgive myself that I lived. I have been aware for some time that you do not love me, but now I have the pain of knowing, that you have tried to set aside your marriage with me.

Aldewin.—How do you know that.

Elaine.—By this (handing him the letter.) Did you go to London purposely, to see if you could be freed from me?

Aldewin.—Yes I did, I do not attempt to deny it Elaine.

Elaine.—Will you tell me frankly, why

you wished to set the marriage aside, Sir Aldewin.

Aldewin.—Yes, it was because I loved some one else very much, and I wanted to be free.

Elaine.—Thank you, you are candid, you found that on no legitimate plea, could this marriage be rendered null and void?

Aldewin.—Yes.

Elaine.—If you still wish it, I will do all I can to help you in the matter. The marriage cannot be annulled, but if you would like a seperation, I am willing to agree to it.

Aldewin.—My dear Elaine, will you believe me, if I say, I would have a seperation if I could.

Elaine.—Because it would not leave you free to marry the woman you love. I understand- I did not mean to tell you anything about this letter, but the words of it, seem to burn my heart away. I now want to say this to you, I have caused you suffering enough, and am willing to meet your wishes in regard to a separation.

Aldewin.—My dear Elaine. I do not see what would be gained by that. Think how distressed your parents would be, think of the sorrow to all our friends, think of little Pearl.

Elaine.—But you would be happy away from me.

Aldewin.—I do not want to be away from you, and if you are willing, it will

be better for everything to proceed as we did before. Are you willing Elaine?

Elaine.—(Wearily.) Yes I am willing.

Aldewin.—Then my dear you had better go to your room, and get ready for our departure, as the time is drawing near. (He puts his arm around her and leads her to door R.L.E. she turns at the door looks into his face and he kisses her. she exits.)

Lady Lynne.- (Enters L I. E. soon as Aldewin is about centre.) Aldewin the doctor says Elaine must spend the winter in a warm dry climate, what do you say.

Aldewin.- -Whatever you propose for Elaine's good, I will most cheerfully carry out.

Lady Lynne.- -I know you will, our darling is fortunate to find one so good, so generous, and kind. (giving him her hand.) You have taken a great weight from my mind. yet I cannot tell what weight lay there. You are happy then Aldewin? (He kisses her hard.) Elaine will never be selfish nor inconsiderate, but if ever- -if ever Aldewin she does seem to be a little tiresome, you will be patient, and gentle will you not?

Aldewin.—I will.

Lady Lynne.—She loves you so much she would feel one hasty word, one impatient look, from you more than I can tell you,

Aldewin.- She shall never have either one, or the other. You seem half afraid to trust her with me, but indeed you need have no fear, she shall come back to you so strong so well, so happy, that you will hardly know her.

Lady Lynne.—Listen to my prayers for you, may heaven deal with you, as you deal with her, may every kind word of yours, bring a bleasing on you.

Aldewin.- If it be possible for kindness and care to make her happy, she shall be happy Lady Lynne you may rely upon that.

Lady Lynne. You have made me very happy Aldewin for I see that you love Elaine. (Enter Sir John and Madolin L. I. E. Elaine and Madolin [illegible] for traveling. Katy has small shawl [illegible] one up in strap

Elaine.--Now Sir Aldewin I am ready.

Sir John.—And here's the carriage, (the carriage drives up to C. doors back so as to be seen from the front, driver in livery on the box jumps down and opens the door.)

Madolin.—It seems so sudden Auntie, but I suppose it is all for the best.

Sir John. Elaine my dear, here is a heavy shawl which you will find very useful to you on the voyage (gives it to her.) Must be some conspicuous patterns.

Elaine.—Thank you papa. (Puts her arms around his neck kisses him Good bye.)

ACT III—Scene First.

The Steamer Celeste,

(The steamer Celeste. Full stage: horizon in the back ground. Deck of the steamer is built up from L. I. E. and runs diagnolly up stage to Horizon on Flat in which the balance of the deck is painted in porspective. Sea cloth covers the rest of the stage from the side of the steamer. The Horizon Flat is partly painted on Gauze so that during the fire scene it will be transparent. Sir Aldewin, Madolin, Elaine, Captain, Sailors and others discovered on deck lounging about. Elaine seated looking over the side of the Steamer. Slight storm at rise of curtain.

Madolin.—(Going to Elaine.) Elaine, do look a little happier, there is something in your face that frightens me. I promised Lady Lynne to look well after you, and I have been watching you for the last half hour. There is misery if not despair, in your face. What brings it there.?

Elaine.—I cannot tell.

Madolin.—Elaine, try to be happier, do try. We all love you so, you must know that your smile is the very sunshine of home. Let me have the happiness of taking you back to England strong and well.

Elaine.—(aside) She cannot mean it, my life stands between her and her love. She cannot mean it.

Madolin.—Do not sit here alone, Elaine. Let me stay with you and tell you what places we pass. Let me do something, anything for you, no matter what, that will bring a smile to your face, and make you happier.

Elaine.—You are very kind to me. I have a presentment that I shall be happier soon.

Madolin.—Thats right. There is not one amongst us, who would not under go a great deal for you, Elaine. I always tell you so. Now let me stay here by you, then you can not not think all kinds of gloomy things.

Elaine.—I shall be happier soon, Madolin, please go and talk to Aldewin. I want to think, and I prefer to be alone.

Madolin.—Very well, Elaine; but I shall return soon, and I hope I shall find you in better spirits. (going) (aside.) After all, it seems kinder to watch over her from a distance, than to set there trying to make her talk, when she evidently does not care too.

Elaine.—(Looking into the water.) Death is better than life, suppose I should fall into the sea and sink down, down, through those clear depths, deeper, and deeper, until the waters——no, no, I am going mad. I ask for death, madness comes in its place. No not that, (looking up to the sky) I remember that during my long illness I often pictured the golden gates ajar. A little hope, a little patience, and I shall be in-

side then.

Madolin.—Aldewin, I want you to look at Elaine. Her face pains me. I have never seen such an expression of tired sorrow.

Aldewin.—Madolin, Elaine has no real trouble. One may do battle with realities, not with shadows. I honestly think she will be better, when she has been more amongst strangers. Sometimes a cold atmosphere is more bracing than a warm one. She has been so much indulged.

Madolin.—You think she has been spoiled, and makes her own troubles.

Aldewin.—I do not. She has a nature so sweet and gentle, that nothing could spoil it, it might be warped for a time, but never spoiled. I think some serious trouble that none of us understands, is preying on her mind. People seldom die of fancies. (Thunder and lightening increases.)

Captain.—Look alive, Mates. Stand, clear everybody.

Madolin.—Oh! Aldewin, what is it?

Aldewin.—I'm afraid we are going to have a storm. (Goes to Elaine.) Elaine you had better go into the cabin. (Goes to back of the vessel.)

Madolin.—Yes, come dear, let us go. (Storm increases.)

Elaine.—You and Aldewin go in, I prefer to sit here in the cool air.

Madolin.—Come, Elaine, you're in danger.

Elaine.—What does it matter. (Thunderbolt strikes the ship, Madolin screams.)

Captain.—Every body look out for themselves, the ship is loaded with oil. (Fire breaks out in different parts of the steamer, Sailors and others excited.)

Madolin.—(Excited.) You must be saved, Elaine, if every one else perishes, what will Auntie say. (Fire raging more and more.)

Captain.—No one need fear, there are three boats so every one can be saved. This part of the sea, is never without traffic, and we are sure to be picked up.

Aldewin.—(Going up to a sailor.) I must attend to my wife but if you will save that lady, (points to Madolin) help her into the boat, and attend to her, I will reward you handsomely. (Elaine hears this.)

Madolin.—I'll be back in one moment Elaine,(goes into cabin quickly, Sailors busy lowering boats back,)

Aldewin.—Elaine I have made provision for Madolin safety, you will be my care, I shall not be gone two minutes, stand here and do not move, the smoke is so dense, that we can hardly see. stand just where you are, I shall know you, by your white vail, and keep your shawl over your arm so, (fixes

shawl.) In this din no voice can be heard.

Elaine.—Kiss me Aldewin. (He does so.

Aldewin.—There is no immediate danger, and we shall all be saved. Courage my dear, courage, (goes to the boat back.)

Elaine.—(goes to the sailor Aldewin has spoken to.) You must not take charge of that lady, here is some English gold, (gives purse.) My husband will see to her. (Sailor takes money and goes back. Madolin comes out of cabin to Elaine.) Are you frightened Madolin.

Madolin.—No my darling, only for you. Thank heaven my aunt knows nothing of this, and will not until all danger is past.

(Fire shows through gauze back.

Elaine.—I am forgetting my instructions, I am to follow Aldewins directions, (takes off the vail.)

Madolin.--I will not lose sight of you whither you go I shall follow.

Elaine.--(Excitedly.) You will put us both in danger then, (quickly.) Aldewin gave me every direction, he told me what to do with this,and this, (takes vail and shawl and places them on Madolin as she had them.) When Aldewin comes you are to put your arms around his neck,so, (puts arms around Madolin) and he will carry you safely·

Madolin.—But you, you, Elaine. (Elaine kisses her quickly.)

Elaine.—I told you I was going to be happier soon, now the time has come. Good bye. Exits back of cabin. Fire bursts form the cabin's roof.)

Madolin,—(Shouts.) Elaine, Elaine, (Aldewin rushes forward lifts madolin, and runs to back. General confusion and quick curtain.)

Curtain.

ACT IV—Scene First.

(Four years supposed to elapse)

(Elaine enters disguised, with Mrs. Bird.)

rs. Bird.—You had better arrange so as to stay here, the walk to Brookton, is too much for you every day.

Elaine.—I shall be pleased to do anything you may like.

Mrs. Bird.—That's right, if you continue to please me in the future, as you have for the past three weeks we shall get along all right. We have some ladies visiting, and I have been very much hurried lately. (Sinks into a chair.) I am so tired, since 10 this morning, I have been running afterLady Forbes. I wish the visits were over.

Elaine.—Will your visitors stay long.

Mrs. Bird.—They will stay as long as they can, if Lady Forbes had her way. She and her daughter would stop all together, just to curry favor with Sir Aldewin and for no other purpose in the world, she has been trying to make out, Missie's nursery faces the east, and catches the wind. I do not believe myself, that she knows east,from west. (Elaine looks alarmed)As though we would not do,all we could forMissie,why we are far more anxious about her, than Lady Forbes ever could be,

Elaine.—Is the little one delicate.

Mrs. Bird.—No she is strong enough. I should have been the first to have taken alarm, if there had been any cause,

There is none. Sir Aldewin is very fond of the child, and Lady Forbes knows it and so the alarm is raised to make him think well of her.

Elaine.—I should like to see the little lady.

Mrs. Bird.—She is a lovely little creature. (rising.) If you will come with me I will show you, your room, and as we pass the nursery you can see the child. (Both Exit.) (Enter Lady Forbes and her daughter Monica.

Lady Forbes.—I have never seen a place I like so much as Ash brooke, Monica, what a rent-roll Sir Aldewin must have to keep it up. He must be very wealthy.

Monica.—He is wealthy, but his wealth by no means the chief thing. I like himself, I think he is one of the nicest men I ever met,

Lady F.—That he is, do you see any chance Monica. You have done what I told you, in always seeming to be devoted to the child.

Monica.—I like the child mamma, there is no need for seeming.

Lady F.—So much the better my dear. I should say nothing could please Sir Aldewin more than great love for the little one, and she is not really a tiresome child.

Monica.—She is not tiresome at all, she is lovely and good.

Lady F.—(Smiling.) Of course a real affection for the child is better than a

pretended one. We have been here some time now,do you think there is any chance. Does Sir Aldewin seem to care for you.

Monica.—Mamma such questions are very tiresome to answer, I really do not know, Sir Aldewin is very kind to me, he talks to me, and to a certain extent confides in me. But I cannot be ignorant of one thing that he is doubly kind when the child is with me.

Lady F.—Evidently the child, is the great card you must play. (Slghs.) If I were but young and had your opportunities Monica, a widower, young and handsome—such a house—such an income, and a child to work on his feelings with, my dear were I in your place, I should be Lady Carelton in less than six weeks.

Monica.—I wish you would not speak in that way mamma, I do not like it. You make such a business of marriage, that it would not be wonderful if I disliked it all together and gave it up in despair. I have some heart, although you never seem to think so.

Lady F.—(Smiling.)My dear Monica to do any real good in this world, to attain any real postition, you should do away with all heart, I must say that looking back on the experience of a life time, I have never known a woman with a heart succeed. Sir Aldewin has not actually made love to you then.

Monica.—No, he has been very kind,

but we always talk about little Pearl. He is vi ally interested when I talk about her, but not so much in other matters.

Lady F.—Do you ever mention yourself to him in any way? Do you think there is any one else for whom he cares?

Monica.—I am afraid so mamma, there is a cousin of his late wife. He speaks of her very often. Little Pearl calls her Aunt Lina, and I have fancied at times that he likes her very much indeed. He has another tone in his voice when he speaks of her.

Lady F.—You mean Madolin Loraine There is nothing in that, you need fear no rival there, I'm sure.

Monica.—Why mamma, what makes you think so?

Lady F.—I know that Lord Braden is in love with her.

Monica.—She may not be in love with him, the one fact need not obviate the other. Two men may easily be in love with one girl, especially if she be an attractive one. Rely upon it, that if I have a rival to fear, it is this Miss Loraine and not the young wife that is dead, yet at times I am bewildered, for I think that he loved her too.

Lady F.—He thinks a great deal of his last wife I am sure, and is not to be wondered at (enter Aldewin C.)

Aldewin.—I come to see if you would like to take a drive ladies, it is such a beautifnl day.

Lady F.—Monica can do as she will, youth is courageous we know, for myself, I shrink from the warm sun. She may enjoy it.

Aldewin.—Will you go, Miss Monica?

Monica.—(Smiling.) I will go with the utmost pleasure, on two conditions. The first is that you allow me to take little Pearl in the pony-chaise, the second that you drive us yourself, I would not risk your little heiress with any one else.

Lady F.—(aside.) What a clever girl, he really ought to appreciate her.

Aldewin.—I will show you with pleasure, and Pearl will be delighted. But would it not be better to take the open carriage? Then Lady Forbes could go with us.

Lady F.—(smiling.) You are very kind, and I am much flattered Sir Aldewin, but so warm a sun might lay me up. I think Monica rash, but she always liked sunshine.

Monica.—So does little Pearl. I will go and get my gloves and hat and be with you in ten minutes. (Exit C.)

Lady F.—And you can remain here until she returns.

Aldewin.—With pleasure. (Sits down.)

Lady F.—By the way Sir Aldewin what has become of that beautiful Miss Loraine, whom Lord Braden loved so well.

Aldewin.—Who told you Lady Forbes, that Lord Braden was Miss Loraines lover.

Lady F.—Every one who knows Lord Braden, knows that, I heard him speak once of Miss Loraine. He said little, but I saw from the expression of his face, that he loved her.

Aldewin.—It is all nonsense, and a mistake. Miss Loraine has no lover. Lord Braden has no hope in that quarter I should say, they were old friends that was all.

Lady F.—I never met her but once, but I thought she was a beautiful girl, your wife must have been very much attached to her.

Aldewin—Yes they loved each other very much, they were more like sisters than cousins, Miss Loraine was devoted to Lady Carleton.

Lady F.—And now that Lady Carelton is dead I suppose Miss Loraine takes a great interest in little Pearl.

Aldewin.—Little Pearl is a great consolation to us all.

Lady F.—I shall feel quite anxious about the little darling when we go away Sir Aldewin, you must be quite sure that she does not go amongst the servants. It is so difficult to manage unless there is a lady at the head of the house.

Aldewin.—Mrs. Bird is very careful, she does not allow any undue familiarity. But they are all so fond of the

child that it is difficult to keep her away from them.

Lady F.—Difficult yes, but it must be done. Mrs. Bird is most praise worthy I know, but really no one can manage, or understand these things, but a lady.

Aldewin.—Perhaps you are right.

Lady F.—(Aside.) Which is it Monica or Miss Loraine (aloud,) I wish Miss Loraine would make us a call before we leave.

Aldewin.—I expect Miss Loraine today, to see Pearl.

Lady F.—I'm so glad. I shall be delighted to see her. (Enters Monica with hat and gloves.)

Monica.—Now Sir Aldewin I'm ready.

Aldewin.—(Rising.) Then let us start at once, won't you go with us Lady Forbes?

Lady F.—Only as far as the door to see you off. (Exit all C. Enter Mrs. Bird and Elaine.)

Mrs. Bird.—(To Elaine.) One of the servants has made a large rent in these beautiful curtains, which Sir Aldewin is so proud of. If Lady Forbes finds it out I shall never hear the last of it. Do you think you could mend it, Mrs. Moore?

Elaine.—I will with pleasure if I can, what can I do.

Mrs. Bird —Take some of this colored silk, (gives it to Elaine,) and try to repair it. I think with great care you might manage to do it, so that it would never be noticed.

Elaine.—I will do my best. (Goes to the curtains.)

Mrs. Bird.—Very well, I will leave you alone then. (Exit.)

Elaine.—What would I not give to see my dear mother and father. I can realize now what they have suffered in losing me, since I now know what it is to lose my child. (Pearl laughs outside and runs.)

Pearl.—(on C.) I'm ready, Papa, (stops and looks at Elaine half frightened.)

Elaine.—(Great emotion, holding out her hands.) My darling, come to me.

Pearl.—(Advances timidly. Elaine hugs her and kisses her passionately.) Papa's going to take me riding, did you see him.

Elaine.—No darling, put your arms around my neck, (she does so.) my baby, (short pause). Say Mamma darling.

Pearl.—(Wonderingly.) Mamma.

Elaine.—My God! (kisses Pearl passionately, then recollecting herself.) My dear, will you tell me your name.

Pearl.—I have three names.

Elaine.—What are they.

Pearl.—I am Victoria--Papa says it is my right name. But most every body calls me Pearl and the servants call me

Mi sie, that is three names.

Elaine.—You are very rich to have three names, my beautiful darling.

Pearl.—I have three names, but I have no mamma.

Elaine.—(Very sadly.) No Mamma?

Pearl.—My mamma has gone to heaven.

Elaine.—To heaven, my darling?

Pearl.—Yes heaven is there, a long, long way off.

Elaine.—Will you come and speak to me sometimes? I have lost a little girl, just like you, my sweet.

Pearl.—Did she go to heaven?

Elaine.—She is away from me, my darling, a fair little child just like you. She will go to heaven sometime.

Barbara.—(Outside calls.) Pearl.

Elaine.—(Very passionately.) My darling will you with your own lips, kiss me here, dear, on my face, this poor dark face that has no beauty left. Oh my little love, kiss me here. (Pearl puts her arms around Elaine's neck and kisses her.) Go, my darling, your nurse is calling you. (Pearl runs off C.) Thank heaven, thank heaven, that I have once more spoken to my little child. (wiping away her tears.) But I must not let the servants see any traces of tears. (Goes to her work, Mrs. Bird enters smiling.)

Mrs. Bird.—I have made Mi[illegible] smile a little less brightly [illegible] morning. I dislike her as much as I do her mo[illegible]. She came into the nursery, all sm[illegible]g

and grand, to ask that Missie might be dressed, because she was going to take her out, and Papa would drive them and I said to myself, no, papa shall not drive you, so I did a mean thing. I went to Sir Aldewin and told him that I thought a long drive to-day would not be good for little Pearl. Lady Forbes lost three of her children Sir Aldewin, mine have all grown up well and strong I answered. You can't imagine how frightened he looked. He sent word to the nursery that Missie might play on the lawn, but was not to go out for a drive. I am sure she won't enjoy the ride, as it will teach her that Sir Aldewin cares for his little daughter and not for her.

Elaine.—Then the child is not going out.

Mrs. Bird.—No indeed, and I am very glad, as Miss Madolin has come and she is so fond of little Missie.

Elaine.—(aside.) Madolin here?

Mrs. Bird.—I just came for my glasses, have you seen them. Ah here they are (Picks them up from table.) If you need anything, Mrs. Moore, ring the bell. (Exits C.)

Elaine.—Madolin here, if she should recognize me. The scene when we parted is all before me, I can see the red flames, the darkening sky and the starlight waters. Madolin's beautiful face gazing mistfully at me, the shawl of the crimson and gold, and the white vail shining in the light of the conflagration.

If I could but forget it all. If heaven would only be merciful, and let me forget everything, but the love of my child. (Madolin enters C. Elaine picks up her work.)

Madolin.—Mrs. Moore the house keeper tells me tha you sew very neatly, is it true?

Elaine.—I endeavor to do so.

Madolin.—I have brought some muslin and laces, that my friend Lady Lynne values very highly. She wished me to see that some pretty dresses were made for li le Mi s Pea l could you manage t n do you think?

Elaine.—(Brightening up.) I will try my best.

Madolin.—I think the child will look so pretty in light muslin and lace dr s-es. She has always worn black until now. It was a terribly sad thing for the poor child to lose her mother at so early an age. (Opens laces and C, sighing.) Poor Lady Lynne she preserved all these beautiful laces for years, intending to give them to her daughter. little Pearl's mother, who was lost at sea some four years ago.

Elaine.—(Agitated.) Did Lady Lynne grieve very much over her daughter?

Madolin.—More than I could describe. I do not think she has laughed once since her loss. They sit all day, she and Sir John, t lking about their child, relating anecdo s to each other of her

goodness and her beauty. Little Pearl will be very like her.

Elaine.--And Sir John, has he troubled about her ?

Madolin.--Trouble is a mild word, she was the very care of his heart, an only child and such a beautiful one, how could they do otherwise than bewail their terrible bereavement. I was with her when she was lost, and I would have given twenty lives, if I had had them to save hers.

Elaine.—(aside.) If she knew all.

Pearl.--(Runs on C.) Oh auntie, Papa would take me riding.

Madolin—Wouldn't he, darling? Well, never mind; you and I will go out some day.

Pearl—(Looking at laces) What are these for, Auntie?

Madolin—To make you some dresses.

Pearl—Won't I look nice?

Madolin—You shall have some nice dresses if you will give me three kisses. (Pearl puts her arms around her and kisses her. Elaine very much moved.)

Pearl—(Holds out her arms to Elaine, after a short pause) I remember you; you kissed me and cried over me. (Madolin looks astonished).

Elaine--Yes, I did cry over her; I could not help it.

Madolin—You are a widow?

Elaine—(Almost sobbing) I have lost my husband; and I loved him very much.

Madolin—(Kindly) And your little child? Is she dead?

Elaine—I have lost her.

Madolin—You have suffered a great deal for one so young. How sorry I am. And that is why you love this little one so much? I understand. I have great sympathy for those who have lost their dear friends by death. I suffered so much when my cousin, this dear child's mother, died.

Pearl—My mother is in heaven.

Madolin—You must come and see little Miss Pearl sometimes. They say that mothers, who have lost children, love all other children for the lost one's sake. Is it so?

Elaine—I believe it. The happiest moment that has come to me since I lost my little girl, was when I saw Miss Pearl.

Pearl—I like you, too, Elaine.

Maaolin—(Looking steadily at Elaine) You remind me so much of some one, and I cannot think who it is.

Elaine—(sadly) I hope there are not many people like me.

Madolin—Your voice and your gestures are familiar to me. I cannot, however, tell who it is that you resemble.

Barbara—(enters) Sir Aldewin has returned, and wants little Missie.

Pearl—Oh, Papa. (Runs off with Barbara.)

Madolin—You see how dearly she loves her Papa? I'll go now, Mrs. Moore, and to-morrow we will commence on the dresses for Pearl. (Exit.)

Elaine—If it was possible for her to recognize me, she would have done so before now. But I shall keep away from her as much as possible. I must get this curtain done before Mrs. Bird returns. (Goes to her work. Aldewin comes out of the house and crosses the lawn to rustic seat beneath the tree R. Elaine looks out of the window.) My husband, and I love him so well. It is so hard. This beautiful home which might have been mine, which is mine by rights, will never know me as its mistress. If Madolin only knew all.

Madolin—(Comes out of the house and speaks to Aldewin) Where is Lady Forbes, Aldewin?

Aldewin—(Rising) Gone with the fair Monica to make some call, in which she declared I ought to join them; but I knew better. I said to myself that I would choose the opportunity for half an hour's quiet rest with you.

Madolin—(gently) Aldewin, I am not unreasonable, but I have told you before that you must not make love to me in your own house, while I am a guest under your roof.

Aldewin--Then, my dearest Madolin, the sooner you leave my roof, as you call it, the better; so that I may follow you. For make love to you, I must. It is not new love making, you know.

Madolin—That it most certainly is not.

Aldewin—Madolin, what a love story ours has been. I should think that no two lovers ever split upon such a rock.

Madolin—Do not talk about it, Aldewin; I wish we could forget it. i(Aldewin kisses her hand passionately. Elaine drops her work.)

Elaine—If Icould only leave this place. The green leaves and fragrant flowers are more to them than I am.

Madolin—Aldewin, if you do that again I shall go home. You forget that I am your guest.

Aldewin—I remember that you are my first, last, and only love.

Madolin—Oh, Aldewin, does not the sunshine take you back to those days in Italy? I wonder if ever, for one-half hour, I shall forget Elaine.

Aldewin—Poor, beautiful Elaine. No, Madolin. you may be quite sure that we shall never forget her. I think of her every day, and every hour. Think of her with a passion of sorrow and despair and love. Poor Elaine.

Elaine—(agitated.)Dear heaven; if they only knew all. If they could only guess it.

Madolin—In my thoughts I go over the scene fifty times each day. I wake in the night, it is always present to me; her beautiful, sad, loving face, as she kissed me and said, I am going to be happier than I have ever been. She must have suffered much to make her long for death.

Aldewin—Do not talk about it, Madolin; I have never wished the poor child any harm; yet her innocent love has been the bane of my life.

Elaine—I did not thnk I could suffer

more. I was mad to come here. I knew he did not love me. Why should Ihave tortured myself. I knew he cared for Madolin. I have been the bane of his life, and all because I loved him too well.

Aldewin—I do not remember, Madolin, ever to have heard a story like ours, either in history, fiction, or every-day life. It is all over now. We both did our duty nobly to Elaine while she lived. Now we must forget her—that is, forget all the pain and sorrow, and only remember that we tried to make her happy.

Madolin—(sobbing) If I could do that.

Aldewin—Try, Madolin, will you?

Madolin—Yes, Aldewin.

Aldewin—Promise me now that you will be my wife.

Madolin—Oh, Aldewin, I---

Aldewin—Think, darling, how long we have waited; how patient I have been. Now make me happy, will you, Madolin?

Madolin (giving him her hand) Yes, Aldewin. (He kisses her.)

Elaine Oh, heaven! why did you spare my life, when I would rather have lost it?

Pearl (running down) Oh, papa!

Aldewin My darling, come here. (She does so) Pearl, I have something to give you to-day.

Pearl You dear, good papa.

Aldewin Somethtng that you will love very much, Pearl; a great, wonderful treasure.

Pearl What is it, papa? A rocky-horse?

Aldewin (laughing) I am going to

give you a new mamma: a kind and ceautiful mamma, who will love you very much.

Pearl (wonderingly.) A new mamma? (Looks up to the sky.)

Madolin (taking Pearl in her arms.) I understand her, Aldewin; she is wondering about her own mamma. Your own mamma is in heaven, Pearl, far away in the blue sky. Your mamma lives there, my darling, and you must always love her the best, always the best.

Pearl I will.

Aldewin See, Pearl, this is your new mamma. Kiss her, and tell her you will always be a good child.

Pearl I will be good.

Aldewin Now, my darling, I will not have one more tear. From this time on we will have all smiles. Come, let us go in. (Takes Pearl in his arms and they exit into the house.)

Elaine—Little Pearl's new mamma. Oh, human love; so soon grown cold; so soon to change; so quick to die. (Enter Lady Forbes and Monica.)

Lady Forbes—Have you seen Miss Brierton?

Elaine—I saw her in the garden.

Lady F—Was she alone? (sharply) was she alone? I ask you because it seems so strange that Miss Loraine was invited here to meet us, and we never spend ten minutes of the day with her.

Monica—Mrs. Moore, why do you not answer Lady Forbes, you hear her question?

Elaine—(quietly) Iam quite willing to answer. When I saw Miss Loraine, Sir Aldewin was talking to her.

Lady F—(spitefully) I thought as much; indeed, I felt quite sure of it. Poor little Pearl; she will soon be as much forgotten as her mother is.

Elaine -I am sure you are mistaken. Miss Lorain loves Missie.

Lady F—(laughing) I am glad you think so. (Elaine turns to her work.)

Elaine.—Madolin.

Madolin.—Mrs. Moore, what is the matter?

Elaine.—(crying passionately) Madolin!

Madolin.—Who are you? You who come to me with Elaine's voice and a stranger's face? In the name of heaven, who are you? (Elaine crying, does not answer.) Who are you? (Takes Elaine by the hands and looks into her face steadily.) I am alarmed. In the name of heaven who are you? There is something familiar, yet strange, in your face. You speak to me with Elaine's voice. For mercy's sake, answer me, who are you?

Elaine.—Madolin, do you not know me?

Madolin.—If it were not that I knew her to be dead, I would say that you were Lady Carleton.

Elaine.—(humbly.) I am Lady Carleton, wretched, most miserable, most unhappy Elaine.

Madolin, (throws her off.—You are not Elaine; you are an impostor. You have assumed the expression of her face, the tone of her voice. But Lady Carleton lies dead under the sea.

Elaine. Fervently.—Would to heaven she did?

Madolin, (goes up and looks into her face.)—If you are Elaine, Elaine come back from the dead, what am I?

minutes I will tell you all. (They both sit down.)

Elaine.—I know, Madolin, that Aldewin loved you, and my only wish was to die, so that you might be free to marry him. Oh, Lina, why did you bring him to me on that fatal night six years ago? Why did you not say, "he loves me, and we are to be married!" I should have been pleased that you were to be happy. Why did you not do it, Madolin?

Madolin.—It seemed to me that complying with your wish would save your life.

Elaine.—My life? my life has been nothing but a torment and a torture to me. Why did you care to save that?

Madolin.—You were all the world to us. Let me understand; you gave up your chance of life for me, hoping that if you died Sir Aldewin would marry me?

Elaine.—That is what I hoped and believed.

Madolin.—Then, when you found your life was saved against your will, you resolved to remain dead to the world, and never let us know you lived? But tell me, how did you escape?

Elaine.—Shortly after I left you on the burning steamer, I was struck on the head by a falling spar, and the next thing I remember I was on board of a French vessel bound for Toulon.

Madolin.—But how did you get there?

Elaine.—They said they found me lashed to a plank in charge of a sailor,

and the moment they picked us up. the sailor died from heart disease, brought on, no doubt, by the excitement he had gone through. I was put under the care of an old French woman, who, when we reached Toulon, took me to her own house, and cared for me through a long fever, and when I recovered I found she had cut all my hair off.

Madolin.—What a pity!

Elaine.—It had to be done, she said, to save my life. It was not long before I was sufficiently recovered to move from my little room, and then I looked into the state of my finances. I found I had over 50 pounds in English money. My watch and chain, ear-rings, and a valuable brooch were all preserved. I could not remain in Toulon, so I went to Paris, and there I disposed of all my jewelry, which brought me quite a sum. I found by living economically that I would have enough to support me for three or four years. I spent most of my time in Paris, thinking of my child, until at last I could stand it no longer. I thoroughly disguised myself, came here and applied for some plain sewing, with what result you already know.

Madolin.—But, Elaine, having done all this, why go to your husband's house, of all places in the world?

Elaine.—Can you not fancy, do you not know, that there is one love, above all other loves, the love that lives? I was possessed by it. My heart was hun-

gry, thirsty, longing to see little Pearl to hear her speak. It was a passionat, nonging that consumed me by night ane ly day. It dragged me here, eved gainst my will. I went because I coulb not help it. I thought the longing would cease, if I looked only once on her. I thought my mind would grow calm, but it didnot. When I had kissed her little face I could not leave her. This dear love of one's child is the love that lives, the only true love.

Madolin.—To think that I have been with you, spoken to you, and never recognized you; and, Oh, Elaine, I gave you money, you allowed me to do that!

Elaine.—I would not part with that bank note for anything. How I kissed it and cried over it!

Madolin.—Still I cannot see why, having made this resolve to be dead to us all, you should break it.

Elaine.—Madolin, I have never shown so much love for you as in this moment, when I give up my cherished secret to you, to save you from a marriage which yet would be no marriage.

Madolin.—I thank you.

Elaine.—I trust you with my secret, but it must never pass your lips. You must keep it for me as you would guard the honor of your own soul. This marriage can never be now, and you must break it off, without letting any one know why. It will be hard, I know, but you will not suffer as I do standing between you.

Elaine.—(dictating) Dear Sir Aldewin,

Madolin.—I believe it. Oh, Elaine, from all the world, why have we both chosen one love? You can not spend your life in this disguise; there must come an end to it at last. Let me persuade you to end this secrecy, and resume your name and place in the world. I will help you so that it can be done without any scandal or sensation. I will go abroad with you and send for Sir Aldewin. We will give the world a story which shall satisfy it. Will you consent, Elaine?

Elaine.—I cannot. I could never endure it, to live with my husband again, knowing that I am a burden and a misery to him.

Madolin.—But if he loved you?

Elaine.—(Face brightening.) If he loved me, and wished me back, yes. But that time will never come.

Madolin.—Time alone will tell; you have acted wisely in speaking to me now, but I do not approve of your keeping such a secret. But oh Elaine, how shall I break it to Aldewin?

Elaine.—Go to him boldly and tell him this marriage must not take place.

Madolin.—But he will demand an explanation.

Elaine.—Tell him you can give him none.

Madolin.—I cannot, I have not the courage.

Elaine.—Then write and tell him.

Madolin.—(Pauses a moment.) I will and at once. (Goes to table on which are pens, ink and paper.) What shall I say to him (sits at table.)

Elaine.—(dictating) Dear Sir Aldewin,

our marriage cannot take place. You must accept my decision, nothing in the world can induce me to change it. (Madolin writes and puts letter in envelope and seals it. Elaine rings the bell, servant appears C.)

Elaine.—(handing letter.) Deliver this to Sir Aldewin. (Servant takes letter and exits C. Madolin leans on the table and buries her face in both hands. Elaine looks at her for a moment and throws her arms around Madolin and kisses her, then exits C. very slowly, looking steadily at Madolin who does not move.)

Madolin.—(Alone) I could not have done it myself. I should neither have had the courage, the originality, nor the force of will to carry me through such an ordeal. Truly it was the love that lived—the love that could not die, that existed when all other was dead.

Aldewin.—(enters C. hurriedly)Madolin, I will not ask you what this letter means, (holds letter in his hand;) it can mean nothing; there is no power on earth that can take you from me.

Madolin.—Hush, you must not say, that.

Aldewin.—You have given me your promise and not for anything will I consent to release you, say what you will.

Madolin.—(Sadly.) It can never be Aldewin.

Aldewin.—Will you tell me why?

Madolin.—No, I cannot. I can only tell you this that there is an insurmountable barrier, what it is I am pledged by my oath never to reveal

Aldewin.—All you say seems weak and foolish to a man with a desperate love, and a desperate purpose. I am speaking

harshly to you, Madolin. I cannot help it. I love you too well to think of losing you with calmness. I have hardly patience to ask if it be any absured idea about my—about Elaine. You have never disapproved of second marriages, have you?

Madolin.—No, never.

Aldewin.—Have you heard anything about me, any slander which I could set straight, any lie, any fabrication that I can contradict?

Madolin.—I have never heard one word against you in all my life. I would not listen to one.

Aldewin—Then what is it? Clear up the mystery; trust me, it shall not be in vain.

Madolin.—(Looking earnestly at him,) Aldewin, I have always loved you. I love you now as well as ever, but I tell you, dear, that if a grave were there, and I lay in it, silent, motionless, dead, I could not be parted from you more completely than I am now, and the great Power who hears me speak, knows that I am telling the truth. We must part and I can never tell you the reason why.

Aldewin.—You are cruel to me Madolin.

Madolin.-I am more cruel to myself—a thousand times more. It is harder for me to say go than for you to hear it. I may say this to you. Aldewin, that perhaps in the years to come, you may know why I have done this, then you will have nothing but blessings for me.

Aldewin.—(Impatiently) I will not hear you, you are to be my wife and I will claim you.

Madolin.—Listen to me one moment. The reason that seperates us is so grave that, if I thought you would not take my word, if I thought that after all I have said to you, you would still claim the fulfillment of my promise, I should leave England, and go where you could never find me.

Aldewin.—(Gently) Madolin, I have faith in you. Heaven knows, yet strange thoughts come to me. Have you ever loved any one but me?

Madolin.—I can give you no answer, neither is there any need to reply to such a question.

Aldewin.—Were our acquaintance a short one I should certainly say that you had been married before and that your husband had come to light again.

Madolin.—You must think what you will. I have told you what my conscience, my honor and yours, compel me to say; I can do no more.

Aldewin.—(Crossing angrily.) You have never loved me; I cannot tell why you should have deceived me. I begin to wonder that I have been such a dupe. When first of all you were to marry me, you forced me to marry some one else, you placed the matter before me in such a light that I could not refuse, and now you do the same thing in another fashion. You refuse to marry on some pretext or other that you cannot even name, (crossing.)

Madolin.—You will be sorry in the time to come that you have spoken so angrily to me.

Aldewin.—I am sorry now. Can you not see that I am half mad with wonder and dismay? Must it be so, Madolin? can neither tears, prayers, or anything else move you?

Madolin—No we must say good-bye, Aldew

Aldewin—(takes her hand) You can look at me nd mean it?

Madolin—I do mean it. (Looks steadily in his face,)

Aldewin—(throws off her hand) Then I will never look at the face of a woman again! [Exit R C, quickly.]

Madolin—It was better so, my love. We have parted in anger, we could not have parted in tears. Good bye, my love, good bye! (Looks off C. after Aldewin. Exits in opposite direction.)

Mrs. Bird—(Enters D. L. with Elaine and rings bell.) I am very glad you will take little Missie out, Mrs. Moore, as she needs exercise, and the walk will do her good. (Barbara enters C.)

Barbara—Did you ring, Mrs. Bird?

Mrs. Bird—Yes; Mrs. Moore is going to take Missie for a walk. Bring her here! [Barbara exits C.] I've heard yen say you were fond of flowers, Mrs. Moore; you may gather some as you pass through the garden, if you like.

Elaine—Thank you; you are very kind.

(Barbara enters C. with Pearl, who runs to Elaine. Elaine kneels by her and kisses her as she is fixing her bonnet.) Do you want to go walking with me?

Aldewin—(Enters C. quickly, sees the child and goes to her. Elaine shrinks back.) Come, my dear, I am going for a ride. (Takes the child in his arms.)

Elaine—Are you going to drive the new pair, Sir Aldewin?

Aldewin—Yes.

Elaine—Then I beg of you not to take the child. Oh, do believe me, it will not be safe

he is so young, so timid; do not take her; pray leave her here!

Aldewin--If I thought there was any danger, I should not take her. I require no one, Mrs. Moore, to teach me my duty as regards my child.

Elaine--You do not understand, you do not see the danger, and I do. Sir Aldewin, she must not go.

Aldewin--You are very good to be so anxious about her, although it is no compliment to me. But you must understand that I brook no interference.

Elaine--Pray remember that if you were to lose command of the horses for one moment——

Aldewin--I am obliged to you, but I permit no interference. (Half turns to go.)

Elaine--(Passionately snatches the child from him.) The child has no mother here to act in her behalf, Sir Aldewin, and I say she must not go!

Aldewin--(Takes the child; she does not resist.) I am going to teach her how to drive. Mrs, Moore, you have exceeded your duty. I will consider whether I can overlook your conduct. I am inclined to think not. It is an insult to me to suppose that I would endanger my child. (Exits C. with the child and nurse.)

Mrs. Bird--(touches Elaine on the shoulder.) You have a kind, tender heart. Cheer up; the child is the apple of his eye, and he will see that no harm comes to her.

Elaine--(stretching her arms towards C. D.) Oh, the loving little child. (Crying.)

Mrs. Bird--If she were your own child you could not take on more.

Elaine--My own child? (wildly) My God! (Exits C.)

Mrs. Bird--(Goes up C., looks after Elaine and then comes down L. C,) Poor lady, how strangely she acts!

Servant--- (Enters C.) Lord Braden.

Braden---(Enters C.) Ah, Mrs. Bird, delighted to see you! (shakes hands.)

Mrs. Bird---This is an unexpected visit, my lord.

Braden---True, but as I leave England next week, I thought I would run down and say good-bye. Is Sir Aldewin not at home?

Mrs. Bird---He has just gone out for a drive.

Braden—And Madolin, has she gone with him?

Mrs. Bird---He took no one but his child.

Braden---I stopped on my way here to see the Lynnes. Poor old couple, they are not reconciled yet to the loss of their child. They told me that Madolin was here, and would soon be married to Sir Aldewin.

Mrs. Bird---We all thought so, but not an hour ago Sir Aldewin gave orders that the house decorations should go no further.

Braden---(surprised) Why, Mrs. Bird, what do you mean? Surely he intends to marry.

Mrs. Bird---This morning when I asked him a question, he seemed all upset, and said "I do not understand; ask me when I return." I was afraid that he had had news that distressed him. The servant told me that he received a letter and that when he opened it he was for some time like one stupefied. I am sorry, for there is no better master living than Sir Aldewin. (Madolin screams outside. Aldewin enters C., frightened. Madolin and others follow. Elaine enters C. after others are on.)

Elaine---(scared) What is it---what is it?

Aldewin---The child is hurt, the horses ran away. [servant enters with child.)

Elaine---(takes the child quickly in her arms.) Go, all of you; leave me alone with her; she is

my own child.

Aldewin--The woman is mad.

Elaine--I call heaven to witness that I am the mother of this child, and no other hand shal touch her. Look at your work! (lays child on sofa R) You who should have protected her; you, who should have kept her safe from all danger; you have killed her. (nurse looking at the child.)

Aldewin--Heaven knows I am sorry. I would rather have died than have hurt one hair of her little head.

Nurse--The child is only stunned, and will soon be all right.

Elaine--My darling, my baby!

Aldewin--Who are you, that you call my child yours?

Elaine--It matters little who I am.

Aldewin--(looks sharply in her face.) Great heavens, who are you? Answer me lest I go mad!

Elaine--I am Elaine, your wife, whom you loved so little, that death in life seemed to her better than life with you. (Aldewin weeps.) am sorry you know it, I meant to keep my secret until I died, and I hoped to die soon. I am sorry you have found it out. I will go awav and no one need know.

Aldewin--You will never leave me again, never!--Elaine, my wife. (holding out his arms.)

(Elaine goos to him and they embrace. The other characters iook on in surbrise)

CURTAIN--THE END.