

Washington Square

by Henry James

In Empowerment Script
A New Reading Pleasure

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It can increase brain hemisphere connection, help with PTSD, help with some dyslexia,

Lowen Clarke discovered and created empowerment script in 2003. After years of research, the first book in empowerment script was published in 2015, a children's picturebook 'Sam the Tram's Dance Club' (available at Apple iTunes) The work was found to be capable of amazing results with trauma, and PTSD.

Some people have found reading in this new format a pleasure, others have found that connection and creativity is sparked, others met with and dealt with emotions, some find it is more efficient reading, some find it helps dyslexia, and others have found it has helped with deep PTSD, trauma and dissociation, when working with a therapist.
What will you find ?

We invite feedback for the research project : suggestions in end pages.

If you are using this as a strengthening exercise for PTSD, let your therapist know, so they can use skilled observation over a few months.

> READ > THIS > WAY
WAY < THIS < NOW < AND <

>THE > FIRST > LINE > reads > from > left > to > right.
.left < to < right < from < reads < line < second < The <

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Feedback invited

Chapter 1

DURING a portion of the first half of the present century, and more practised and flourished there, it of part latter the during particularly in the city of New York a physician who enjoyed perhaps an exceptional been always has, States United the in, which consideration the of share bestowed upon distinguished members of the medical profession. This more and, honour in held been constantly has America in profession successfully than elsewhere has put forward a claim to the epithet of either must you, part social a play to, which in country a In ".liberal" earn your income or make believe that you earn it, the healing art has. credit of sources recognised two combine to degree high a in appeared It belongs to the realm of the practical, which in the United States is a merit a science of light the by touched is it and; recommendation great appreciated in a community in which the love of knowledge has not always. Dr in element an was It. opportunity and leisure by accompanied been Sloper's reputation that his learning and his skill were very evenly there yet and, doctor scholarly a call might you what was he; balanced was nothing abstract in his remedies - he always ordered you to take not was he, thorough extremely be to felt was he Though. something uncomfortably theoretic, and if he sometimes explained matters rather far so went never he, patient the to use of seem might than minutely more (like some practitioners one has heard of) as to trust to the explanation There. prescription inscrutable an him behind left always but, alone were some doctors that left the prescription without offering any which, either class that to belong not did he and; all at explanation was, after all, the most vulgar. It will be seen that I am describing a a become had Sloper. Dr why reason the really is this and; man clever local celebrity. At the time at which we are chiefly concerned with him, He. height its at was popularity his and, age of years fifty some was he was very witty, and he passed in the best society of New York for a man I. degree sufficient very a in, was he, indeed, which world the of hasten to add, to anticipate possible misconception, that he was not the degree a in honest man honest thoroughly a was He. charlatan a of least of which he had perhaps lacked the opportunity to give the complete which in circle the of -good great the aside putting, and; measure he practised, which was rather fond of boasting that it possessed the

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the to claim his justified daily he ,country the in doctor "brightest" talents attributed to him by the popular voice. He was an observer, even the as(and ,him to natural so was bright be to and ,philosopher a popular voice said) came so easily, that he never aimed at mere effect, -second of pretensions and tricks little the of none had and reputations. It must be confessed that fortune had favoured him, and had He .tread his to soft very prosperity to path the found had he that married at the age of twenty-seven, for love, a very charming girl, Miss had ,charms her to addition in ,who ,York New of ,Harrington Catherine brought him a solid dowry. Mrs. Sloper was amiable, graceful, girls pretty the of one been had she 1820 in and ,elegant ,accomplished of the small but promising capital which clustered about the Battery and by indicated was boundary uppermost the which of and ,Bay the overlooked the grassy waysides of Canal Street. Even at the age of twenty-seven of anomaly the mitigate to sufficiently mark his made had Sloper Austin his having been chosen among a dozen suitors by a young woman of high charming most the and income of dollars thousand ten had who ,fashion eyes in the island of Manhattan. These eyes, and some of their extreme of source a years five about for were ,accompaniments satisfaction to the young physician, who was both a devoted and a very no made woman rich a married having his of fact The .husband happy difference in the line he had traced for himself, and he cultivated his other no had still he if as purpose a definite as with profession resources than his fraction of the modest patrimony which on his father's not had purpose This .sisters and brothers his with shared had he death been preponderantly to make money - it had been rather to learn something something do to and ,interesting something learn To .something do to and useful - this was, roughly speaking, the programme he had sketched, and of no in him to appeared income an having wife his of accident the which degree to modify the validity. He was fond of his practice, and of so was it and ,conscious agreeably was he which of skill a exercising patent a truth that if he were not a doctor there was nothing else he possible best the in ,being in persisted he doctor a that ,be could conditions. Of course his easy domestic situation saved him a good deal him brought "people best" the to affiliation 'wife his and ,drudgery of a good many of those patients whose symptoms are, if not more interesting consistently more least at ,orders lower the of those than themselves in displayed. He desired experience, and in the course of twenty years he

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forms some in him to come it that added be must It .deal great a got which, whatever might have been their intrinsic value, made it the extraordinary of boy little a ,child first His .welcome of reverse promise, as the Doctor, who was not addicted to easy enthusiasms, firmly the that everything of spite in ,age of years three at died ,believed mother's tenderness and the father's science could invent to save him. a of infant an infant second a to birth gave Sloper .Mrs later years Two sex which rendered the poor child, to the Doctor's sense, an inadequate himself promised had he whom of -first lamented his for substitute to make an admirable man. The little girl was a disappointment; but this the as ,who ,mother young the birth her after week A .worst the not was phrase is, had been doing well, suddenly betrayed alarming symptoms, and .widower a was Sloper Austin elapsed had week another before

For a man whose trade was to keep people alive, he had certainly done years three within who doctor bright a and ;family own his in poorly loses his wife and his little boy should perhaps be prepared to see escaped ,however ,friend Our .impugned affection his or skill his either criticism: that is, he escaped all criticism but his own, which was much of weight the under walked He .formidable most and competent most the this very private censure for the rest of his days, and bore for ever the treated had knew he hand strongest the which to castigation a of scars him on the night that followed his wife's death. The world, which, as I his ;ironical be to much too him pitied ,him appreciated ,said have misfortune made him more interesting, and even helped him to be the the escape cannot families medical even that observed was It .fashion more insidious forms of disease, and that, after all, Dr. Sloper had lost an constituted which ;mentioned have I two the beside patients other honourable precedent. His little girl remained to him, and though she of best the make to himself to proposed he ,desired had he what not was her. He had on hand a stock of unexpended authority, by which the child, of matter a as ,named been had She .largely profited ,years early its in course, after her poor mother, and even in her most diminutive babyhood very a up grew She .Catherine but anything her called never Doctor the robust and healthy child, and her father, as he looked at her, often said losing of fear no have need least at he ,was she as such ,that himself to her. I say "such as she was," because, to tell the truth - But this is a .telling the defer will I which of truth

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Chapter II

WHEN the child was about ten years old, he invited his sister, Mrs. Penniman, to come to stay with him and his two sisters, Miss Theophrastus and Miss Theophrastus, who had both been married early in life. The younger, Mrs. Penniman, was a wife of a prosperous merchant, and she was a comely, intelligent, and comfortable woman, who, in the matter of women, even when they were nearly related to him, preferred a man of distinct preferences to a poor clergyman, of a sickly constitution and flowery style of eloquence. Mrs. Penniman, who had been left a widow, without children, without fortune, but with a certain vague aroma of which hovered about her own conversation, had accepted with the alacrity of a woman who had spent the ten years of her life in the Poughkeepsie asylum, to come and live with him indefinitely; he had suggested that she should make her house his asylum, and she had accepted of unfurnished lodgings. It is uncertain whether Mrs. Penniman ever instituted a search for unfurnished lodgings, but she never found them. She settled herself with her brother and Lavinia, and when her old years were twenty, she never went away, and she was still one of the most striking features of her immediate entourage. Mrs. Penniman, who had taken charge of her niece's education, had given this account, at least, of the Doctor, but never asked for explanations, or for any other account, which he could entertain any day with inventing. Mrs. Penniman, moreover, had a deal of good sense, and she had, for indefinable reasons, from presenting herself to her brother as a fountain of instruction, but she had enough to prevent her from making this mistake; and for her excuse, she had enough on her side, for she had laid him under contribution during a considerable part of a lifetime. Mrs. Penniman, therefore, tacitly assented to the proposition which he had tacitly laid down, that it was of importance that the poor motherless

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be only could assent His .her near woman brilliant a have should girl tacit, for he had never been dazzled by his sister's intellectual lustre. been never had he ,Harrington Catherine with love in fell he when Save dazzled, indeed, by any feminine characteristics whatever; and though he private his ,doctor 'ladies a called is what extent certain a to was opinion of the more complicated sex was not exalted. He regarded its the of idea an had he and ,edifying than curious more as complications beauty of _reason_, which was, on the whole, meagrely gratified by what reasonable a been had wife His .patients female his in observed he woman, but she was a bright exception; among several things that he was ,course of ,conviction a Such .principal the perhaps was this ,of sure did little either to mitigate or to abbreviate his widowhood; and it set and possibilities 'Catherine of ,best the at ,recognition his to limit a of Mrs. Penniman's ministrations. He, nevertheless, at the end of six ,fact accomplished an as presence permanent 'sister his accepted ,months and as Catherine grew older perceived that there were in effect good was He .sex imperfect own her of companion a have should she why reasons extremely polite to Lavinia, scrupulously, formally polite; and she had in temper his lost he when ,life her in once but anger in him seen never a theological discussion with her late husband. With her he never himself contented he ;anything discussed ,indeed ,nor ,theology discussed with making known, very distinctly, in the form of a lucid ultimatum, his .Catherine to regard with wishes

Once, when the girl was about twelve years old, he had said to her:

"Try and make a clever woman of her, Lavinia; I should like her to be a
".woman clever

Mrs. Penniman, at this, looked thoughtful a moment. "My dear Austin,"
be to than clever be to better is it think you do" ,inquired then she
good?"

"Good for what?" asked the Doctor. "You are good for nothing unless you
".clever are

From this assertion Mrs. Penniman saw no reason to dissent; she possibly
aptitude her to owing was world the in use great own her that reflected

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for many things.

"Of course I wish Catherine to be good," the Doctor said next day; "but afraid not am I .fool a being not for virtuous less the any be 'won she of her being wicked; she will never have the salt of malice in her six but ;say French the as ,bread good as good as is She .character years hence I don't want to have to compare her to good bread and ".butter

"Are you afraid she will turn insipid? My dear brother, it is I who had who ,Penniman .Mrs said "!fear 'needn you so ;butter the supply taken in hand the child's accomplishments, overlooking her at the piano, the to her with going and ,talent certain a displayed Catherine where dancing-class, where it must be confessed that she made but a modest .figure

Mrs. Penniman was a tall, thin, fair, rather faded woman, with a for taste a ,gentility of standard high a ,disposition amiable perfectly light literature, and a certain foolish indirectness and obliquity of for passion a had she ,sentimental was she ,romantic was She .character little secrets and mysteries - a very innocent passion, for her secrets had not was She .eggs addled as unpractical as been always hitherto absolutely veracious; but this defect was of no great consequence, for a have to liked have would She .conceal to anything had never had she lover, and to correspond with him under an assumed name in letters left the carried never imagination her that say to bound am I ;shop a at intimacy farther than this. Mrs. Penniman had never had a lover, but her When" .mind of turn her understood ,shrewd very was who ,brother Catherine is about seventeen," he said to himself, "Lavinia will try and .her with love in is moustache a with man young some that her persuade It will be quite untrue; no young man, with a moustache or without, will to talk and ,up it take will Lavinia But .Catherine with love in be ever her about it; perhaps, even, if her taste for clandestine operations 'won Catherine .it about me to talk will she ,her with prevail 'doesn see it, and won't believe it, fortunately for her peace of mind; poor ".romantic 'isn Catherine

She was a healthy well-grown child, without a trace of her mother's

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gentle, dull, plain, and simply had she; ugly not was She. beauty countenance. The most that had ever been said for her was that she had a face "nice" regarding her as a belle. Her father's opinion of her moral purity was; good imperturbably, excellently was she; justified abundantly affectionate, docile, obedient, and much addicted to speaking the truth. an is it though, and, romp a of deal good a was she years younger her In awkward confession to make about one's heroine, I must add that she was of out raisins stole, of know I that, never She. glutton a of something the pantry; but she devoted her pocket-money to the purchase of be would attitude critical a, however, this regards As -cream inconsistent with a candid reference to the early annals of any with quick not was she; clever not decidedly was Catherine. biographer her book, nor, indeed, with anything else. She was not abnormally respectably herself acquit to enough learning mustered she and, deficient in conversation with her contemporaries, among whom it must be avowed, in that known well is It. place secondary a occupied she that, however New York it is possible for a young girl to occupy a primary one. most on and, shine to desire no had, modest extremely was who, Catherine social occasions, as they are called, you would have found her lurking in much very and, father her of fond extremely was She. background the afraid of him; she thought him the cleverest and handsomest and most the in completely so account her found girl poor The. men of celebrated exercise of her affections that the little tremor of fear that mixed than rather relish extra an thing the gave passion filial her with itself blunted its edge. Her deepest desire was to please him, and her pleasing in succeeded had she that know to was happiness of conception him. She had never succeeded beyond a certain point. Though, on the to and, this of aware perfectly was she, her to kind very was he, whole go beyond the point in question seemed to her really something to live, him disappointed she that was, course of, know not could she What. for though on three or four occasions the Doctor had been almost frank about eighteen of age the at but, prosperously and peacefully up grew She. it Mrs. Penniman had not made a clever woman of her. Dr. Sloper would have of proud be to nothing was there but; daughter his of proud be to liked in poor Catherine. There was nothing, of course, to be ashamed of; but have would and man proud a was who, Doctor the for enough not was this enjoyed being able to think of his daughter as an unusual girl. There

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intelligent, graceful and pretty being her in fitness a been have would and distinguished; for her mother had been the most charming woman of her value own his knew he course of, father her regards as and, day little He had moments of irritation at having produced a commonplace child, and the in satisfaction certain a take to as times at far so went even he thought that his wife had not lived to find her out. He was naturally had Catherine till not was it and, himself discovery this making in slow become a young lady grown that he regarded the matter as settled. He to haste no in was he; doubts many great a of benefit the her gave conclude. Mrs. Penniman frequently assured him that his daughter had a It assurance this interpret to how knew he but; nature delightful meant, to his sense, that Catherine was not wise enough to discover that be to fail not could that mind of limitation a goose a was aunt her agreeable to Mrs. Penniman. Both she and her brother, however, was she though, Catherine for; limitations 'girl young the exaggerated very fond of her aunt, and conscious of the gratitude she owed her, stamp its gave which dread gentle that of particle a without her regarded to her admiration of her father. To her mind there was nothing of the, were it as, once at all her saw Catherine; Penniman Mrs about infinite and was not dazzled by the apparition; whereas her father's great of sort a in themselves lose to, away stretched they as, seemed faculties luminous vagueness, which indicated, not that they stopped, but that them follow to ceased mind own 'Catherine

It must not be supposed that Dr. Sloper visited his disappointment upon trick a him played had she that suspect her let ever or, girl poor the On the contrary, for fear of being unjust to her, he did his duty with affectionate and faithful a was she that recognised and, zeal exemplary child. Besides, he was a philosopher; he smoked a good many cigars over He it to used got he time of fulness the in and, disappointment his satisfied himself that he had expected nothing, though, indeed, with a so" himself to said he "nothing expect I" reasoning of oddity certain that if she gives me a surprise, it will be all clear again. If she had Catherine time the about was This "loss no be will it 'doesn reached her eighteenth year, so that it will be seen her father had not giving of incapable only not seemed she time this At precipitate been surprises; it was almost a question whether she could have received themselves expressed who People irresponsible and quiet so was she one

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roughly called her stolid. But she was irresponsible because she was shy, she and ,understood always not was This .shy painfully ,uncomfortably sometimes produced an impression of insensibility. In reality she was .world the in creature softest the

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Chapter III

AS a child she had promised to be tall, but when she was sixteen she her in points other most like ,stature her and ,grow to ceased composition, was not unusual. She was strong, however, and properly that noted been has It .excellent was health her ,fortunately ,and ,made the Doctor was a philosopher, but I would not have answered for his .person suffering and sickly a proved had girl poor the if philosophy Her appearance of health constituted her principal claim to beauty, and equally very were red and white which in ,complexion fresh ,clear her distributed, was, indeed, an excellent thing to see. Her eye was small .smooth and brown tresses her ,thick rather were features her ,quiet and A dull, plain girl she was called by rigorous critics - a quiet, ladylike she was class neither by but ;sort imaginative more the of those by girl very elaborately discussed. When it had been duly impressed upon her believe could she before while good a was it lady young a was she that it - she suddenly developed a lively taste for dress: a lively taste is very it write to ought I if as feel I .use to expression the quite small, her judgement in this matter was by no means infallible; it was was it of indulgence great Her .embarrassments and confusions to liable really the desire of a rather inarticulate nature to manifest itself; she diffidence her for up make to and ,garments her in eloquent be to sought of speech by a fine frankness of costume. But if she expressed herself not for blame to not were people that certain is it clothes her in thinking her a witty person. It must be added that though she had the making been had time long a for Sloper .Dr fortune a of expectation twenty thousand dollars a year by his profession, and laying aside the the than greater not was disposal her at money of amount the it of half allowance made to many poorer girls. In those days in New York there Republican of temple the in flickering -altar few a still were simplicity, and Dr. Sloper would have been glad to see his daughter .faith mild this of priestess a as ,grace classic a with ,herself present It made him fairly grimace, in private, to think that a child of his the of fond was he ,himself For .overdressed and ugly both be should good things of life, and he made a considerable use of them; but he had a the in increasing was it that theory a even and ,vulgarity of dread society that surrounded him. Moreover, the standard of luxury in the

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at as high so means no by carried was ago years thirty States United present, and Catherine's clever father took the old-fashioned view of the ;subject the on theory particular no had He .persons young of education it had scarcely as yet become a necessity of self-defence to have a reasonable and proper him to appeared simply It .theories of collection that a well-bred young woman should not carry half her fortune on her good a carried have would and ,one broad a was back 'Catherine .back deal; but to the weight of the paternal displeasure she never ventured to treated she before old years twenty was heroine our and ,it expose herself, for evening wear, to a red satin gown trimmed with gold fringe; in coveted had she ,years many for ,which article an was this though secret. It made her look, when she sported it, like a woman of thirty; a not had she ,clothes fine for taste her of spite in ,enough oddly but grain of coquetry, and her anxiety when she put them on was as to whether has history which on point a is It .well look would ,she not and ,they not been explicit, but the assumption is warrantable; it was in the royal little a at herself presented she that mentioned just raiment entertainment given by her aunt, Mrs. Almond. The girl was at this time of beginning the was party 'Almond .Mrs and ,year -twenty her in something very important.

Some three or four years before this Dr. Sloper had moved his household his since ever living been had He .York New in say they as ,town up gods marriage in an edifice of red brick, with granite copings and an enormous of walk 'minutes five within street a in standing ,door the over fanlight the City Hall, which saw its best days (from the social point of view) steadily set to began fashion of tide the ,this After .1820 about northward, as, indeed, in New York, thanks to the narrow channel in which rolled traffic of hum great the and ,do to obliged is it ,flows it farther to the right and left of Broadway. By the time the Doctor ,uproar mighty a become had trade of murmur the residence his changed which was music in the ears of all good citizens interested in the fortunate their of ,it call to delighted they as ,development commercial isle. Dr. Sloper's interest in this phenomenon was only indirect - though, be to came patients his half ,on went years the as ,that seeing overworked men of business, it might have been more immediate - and when copings granite with ornamented also(dwellings 'neighbours his of most and large fanlights) had been converted into offices, warehouses, and

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he ,commerce of uses base the to applied otherwise and ,agencies shipping determined to look out for a quieter home. The ideal of quiet and of the where ,Square Washington in found was ,1835 in ,retirement genteel Doctor built himself a handsome, modern, wide-fronted house, with a big steps marble of flight a and ,windows -drawing the before balcony ascending to a portal which was also faced with white marble. This were ,resembled exactly it which ,neighbours its of many and ,structure supposed, forty years ago, to embody the last results of architectural .dwellings honourable and solid very day this to remain they and ,science In front of them was the Square, containing a considerable quantity of its increased which ,paling wooden a by enclosed ,vegetation inexpensive rural and accessible appearance; and round the corner was the more august a with point this at origin its taking ,Avenue Fifth the of precinct spacious and confident air which already marked it for high destinies. I but ,associations early of tenderness the to owing is it whether not know this portion of New York appears to many persons the most delectable. It in occurrence frequent of not is which repose established of kind a has other quarters of the long, shrill city; it has a riper, richer, more great the of ramifications upper the of any than look honourable longitudinal thoroughfare - the look of having had something of a social ,authority good on informed been have might you as ,here was It .history that you had come into a world which appeared to offer a variety of in ,lived grandmother your that here was it ;interest of sources venerable solitude, and dispensed a hospitality which commended itself that here was it ;palate infant the and imagination infant the to alike you took your first walks abroad, following the nursery-maid with unequal at which -ailantus the of odour strange the up sniffing and step that time formed the principal umbrage of the Square, and diffused an it ;deserved it as dislike to enough critical yet not were you that aroma was here, finally, that your first school, kept by a broad-bosomed, blue a in tea having always was who ,ferule a with lady old -broad cup, with a saucer that didn't match, enlarged the circle both of your my that ,rate any at ,here was It .sensations your and observations heroine spent many years of her life; which is my excuse for this .parenthesis topographical

Mrs. Almond lived much farther up town, in an embryonic street with a a assume to began city the of extension the where region a number high

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theoretic air, where poplars grew beside the pavement (when there was Dutch desultory of roofs steep the with shade their mingled and ,)one houses, and where pigs and chickens disported themselves in the gutter. New from departed wholly now have picturesqueness rural of elements These York street scenery; but they were to be found within the memory of of reminded be to blush would now which quarters in ,persons -middle them. Catherine had a great many cousins, and with her Aunt Almond's of terms on lived she ,number in nine being by ended who ,children considerable intimacy. When she was younger they had been rather afraid a and ,educated highly be to ,is phrase the as ,believed was she ;her of person who lived in the intimacy of their Aunt Penniman had something of an was ,Almonds little the among ,Penniman .Mrs .grandeur reflected object of more admiration than sympathy. Her manners were strange and years twenty for black in dressed she robes mourning her and ,formidable after her husband's death, and then suddenly appeared one morning with with places unexpected ,odd in complicated were cap her in roses pink buckles, bugles, and pins, which discouraged familiarity. She took air oppressive an had and ,evil for and good for both ,hard too children of expecting subtle things of them, so that going to see her was a good was It .pew front a in sit to made and church to taken being like deal discovered after a while, however, that Aunt Penniman was but an accident when that and ,essence its of part a not and ,existence 'Catherine in the girl came to spend a Saturday with her cousins, she was available for an basis this On .leapfrog for even and -follow" understanding was easily arrived at, and for several years Catherine seven because ,kinsmen young say I .kinsmen young her with fraternised of the little Almonds were boys, and Catherine had a preference for those ,degrees By .trousers in played conveniently most are which games however, the little Almonds' trousers began to lengthen, and the wearers older were children elder The .life in themselves settle and disperse to than Catherine, and the boys were sent to college or placed in other the and ,punctually very married one ,girls the Of -counting as punctually became engaged. It was to celebrate this latter event that to was daughter Her .mentioned have I party little the gave Almond .Mrs marry a stout young stockbroker, a boy of twenty; it was thought a very .thing good

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Chapter IV

MRS. PENNIMAN, with more buckles and bangles than ever, came, of course, had, too, Doctor the niece her by accompanied, entertainment the to promised to look in later in the evening. There was to be a good deal of to up came Almond Marian, far very gone had it before and, dancing Catherine, in company with a tall young man. She introduced the young 'heroine our make to desire great a had who person a as man acquaintance, and as a cousin of Arthur Townsend, her own intended.

Marian Almond was a pretty little person of seventeen, with a very small matrimony manners whose of elegance the to, sash big very a and figure had nothing to add. She already had all the airs of a hostess, receiving attend to people many so with that saying, fan her shaking, company the to she should have no time to dance. She made a long speech about Mr. before fan her with tap a administered she whom to, cousin 'Townsend turning away to other cares. Catherine had not understood all that she and manner of ease 'Marian enjoying to given was attention her; said flow of ideas, and to looking at the young man, who was remarkably when do to failed often she as, however, succeeded had She. handsome people were presented to her, in catching his name, which appeared to be always was Catherine. stockbroker little 'Marian of that as same the agitated by an introduction; it seemed a difficult moment, and she for, moment this at acquaintance new her people some that wondered instance - should mind it so little. She wondered what she ought to say, The. nothing saying her of consequences the be would what and consequences at present were very agreeable. Mr. Townsend, leaving her had he if as, smile easy an with talk to began, embarrassment for time no known her for a year.

"What a delightful party! What a charming house! What an interesting
"!is cousin your girl pretty a What !family

These observations, in themselves of no great profundity, Mr. Townsend an to contribution a as and, worth were they what for offer to seemed acquaintance. He looked straight into Catherine's eyes. She answered expected he if as, he and; him at looked and, listened only she; nothing

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no particular reply, went on to say many other things in the same -tongue felt she though ,Catherine .manner natural and comfortable was conscious of no embarrassment; it seemed proper that he should talk, he that was natural it made What .him at look simply should she that and was so handsome, or rather, as she phrased it to herself, so beautiful. and ;again began suddenly it but ,while a for silent been had music The then he asked her, with a deeper, intenser smile, if she would do him the audible no gave she inquiry this to Even .him with dancing of honour assent; she simply let him put his arm round her waist - as she did so it was this that ,before done ever had it than vividly more her to occurred a singular place for a gentleman's arm to be - and in a moment he was When .polka the of rotation harmonious the in room the round her guiding they paused she felt that she was red; and then, for some moments, she flowers the at looked and ,herself fanned She .him at looking stopped that were painted on her fan. He asked her if she would begin again, and .flowers the at looking still ,answer to hesitated she

"Does it make you dizzy?" he asked, in a tone of great kindness.

Then Catherine looked up at him; he was certainly beautiful, and not at never had dancing for ,why knew hardly she ;said she ",Yes" .red all made her dizzy.

"Ah, well, in that case," said Mr. Townsend, "we will sit still and talk. ".sit to place good a find will I

He found a good place - a charming place; a little sofa that seemed meant dancers the ;full very were time this by rooms The .persons two for only increased in number, and people stood close in front of them, turning and secluded seemed companion her and Catherine that so ,backs their unobserved. "_We_ will talk," the young man had said; but he still did fixed eyes her with ,place her in back leaned Catherine .talking the all upon him, smiling and thinking him very clever. He had features like so features such seen never had Catherine ;pictures in men young delicate, so chiselled and finished - among the young New Yorkers whom she he but ,slim and tall was He .parties at met and streets the in passed looked extremely strong. Catherine thought he looked like a statue. But of eyes have not would ,all above ,and ,that like talk not would statue a

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so rare a colour. He had never been at Mrs. Almond's before; he felt pity take to Catherine of kind very was it and ;stranger a like much very on him. He was Arthur Townsend's cousin - not very near; several times In .family the to him present to him brought had Arthur and removed fact, he was a great stranger in New York. It was his native place; but the about knocking been had He .years many for there been not had he world, and living in far-away lands; he had only come back a month or two .lonely felt he only ,pleasant very was York New .before

"You see, people forget you," he said, smiling at Catherine with his ,her towards turning ,obliquely forward leaned he while ,gaze delightful with his elbows on his knees.

It seemed to Catherine that no one who had once seen him would ever ,herself to it kept she reflexion this made she though but ;him forget almost as you would keep something precious.

They sat there for some time. He was very amusing. He asked her about ,were them of some who guess to tried he ;them near were that people the and he made the most laughable mistakes. He criticised them very freely, any heard never had Catherine .way -off ,positive a in one - especially any young man - talk just like that. It was the way a young ,stage the on ,play a in ,still better or ;novel a in talk might man close before the footlights, looking at the audience, and with every one yet And .mind of presence his at wondered you that so ,him at looking Mr. Townsend was not like an actor; he seemed so sincere, so natural. came Almond Marian it of midst the in but ;interesting very was This pushing through the crowd, with a little ironical cry, when she found and ,round turn one every made which ,together still people young these cost Catherine a conscious blush. Marian broke up their talk, and told had he and ,married already were she if as treated she whom Townsend .Mr become her cousin - to run away to her mother, who had been wishing for the .Almond .Mr to him introduce to -half last

"We shall meet again!" he said to Catherine as he left her, and Catherine .speech original very a it thought

Her cousin took her by the arm, and made her walk about. "I needn't ask

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.exclaimed girl young the "!"Morris of think you what you

"Is that his name?"

"I don't ask you what you think of his name, but what you think of
.Marian said ",himself

"Oh, nothing particular!" Catherine answered, dissembling for the first
.life her in time

"I have half a mind to tell him that!" cried Marian. "It will do him
".conceited terribly so 'He .good

"Conceited?" said Catherine, staring.

"So Arthur says, and Arthur knows about him."

"Oh, don't tell him!" Catherine murmured imploringly.

"Don't tell him he's conceited? I have told him so a dozen times."

At this profession of audacity Catherine looked down at her little
to going was Marian because was it supposed She .amazement in companion
be married that she took so much on herself; but she wondered too,
be would exploits such ,engaged become should herself she when ,whether
expected of her.

Half an hour later she saw her Aunt Penniman sitting in the embrasure of
-eye gold her and ,side one on little a head her with ,window a
raised to her eyes, which were wandering about the room. In front of her
to turned back his with ,little a forward bending ,gentleman a was
Catherine. She knew his back immediately, though she had never seen it;
in retreated had he ,instigation 'Marian at ,her left had he when for
the best order, without turning round. Morris Townsend - the name had
it repeating been had one some if as ,her to familiar very become already
in her ear for the last half-hour - Morris Townsend was giving his
was he ;herself to done had he as ,aunt her to company the of impressions
saying clever things, and Mrs. Penniman was smiling, as if she approved

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she ;away moved she this perceived had Catherine as soon As .them of would not have liked him to turn round and see her. But it gave her with ,Penniman .Mrs with talk should he That .thing whole the pleasure whom she lived and whom she saw and talked with every day - that seemed to she if than contemplate to easier even him make to and ,her near him keep herself had been the object of his civilities; and that Aunt Lavinia this ,said he what by startled or shocked be not should ,him like should also appeared to the girl a personal gain; for Aunt Lavinia's standard ,husband late her of grave the over was it as planted ,high extremely was in which, as she had convinced every one, the very genius of conversation our invited ,him called Catherine as ,boys Almond the of One .buried was heroine to dance a quadrille, and for a quarter of an hour her feet at very was head her ;dizzy not was she time This .occupied were least clear. Just when the dance was over, she found herself in the crowd face a never ,smile little a usually had Sloper .Dr .father her with face to very big one, and with his little smile playing in his clear eyes and on .gown crimson 'daughter his at looked he ,lips -neatly his

"Is it possible that this magnificent person is my child?" he said.

You would have surprised him if you had told him so; but it is a literal ironical the in save daughter his addressed never almost he that fact form. Whenever he addressed her he gave her pleasure; but she had to cut left portions were There .were it as ,piece the of out pleasure her over, light remnants and snippets of irony, which she never knew what to ,Catherine yet and ;use own her for delicate too seemed which ,with do lamenting the limitations of her understanding, felt that they were too they head her over passed they if that belief a had and waste to valuable yet contributed to the general sum of human wisdom.

"I am not magnificent," she said mildly, wishing that she had put on .dress another

"You are sumptuous, opulent, expensive," her father rejoined. "You look ".year a thousand eighty had you if as

"Well, so long as I haven't - " said Catherine illogically. Her conception .indefinite very yet as was wealth prospective her of

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"So long as you haven't you shouldn't look as if you had. Have you
"party your enjoyed

Catherine hesitated a moment; and then, looking away, "I am rather
the was entertainment this that said have I .murmured she ",tired
beginning of something important for Catherine. For the second time in
of period a of beginning the and ;answer indirect an made she life her
dissimulation is certainly a significant date. Catherine was not so
.that as tired easily

Nevertheless, in the carriage, as they drove home, she was as quiet as if
his addressing of manner 'Sloper .Dr .portion her been had fatigue
sister Lavinia had a good deal of resemblance to the tone he had adopted
.Catherine towards

"Who was the young man that was making love to you?" he presently asked.

"Oh, my good brother!" murmured Mrs. Penniman, in deprecation.

"He seemed uncommonly tender. Whenever I looked at you, for half an
".air devoted most the had he ,hour

"The devotion was not to me," said Mrs. Penniman. "It was to Catherine;
".her of me to talked he

Catherine had been listening with all her ears. "Oh, Aunt Penniman!" she
.faintly exclaimed

"He is very handsome; he is very clever; he expressed himself with a
.on went aunt her ",felicity of deal great a deal great

"He is in love with this regal creature, then?" the Doctor inquired
.humorously

"Oh, father," cried the girl, still more faintly, devoutly thankful the
.dark was carriage

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"I don't know that; but he admired her dress."

Catherine did not say to herself in the dark, "My dress only?" Mrs. Almond's by no means rich dress struck Penniman as a meanness.

"You see," said her father, "he thinks you have eighty thousand a year."

"I don't believe he thinks of that," said Mrs. Penniman; "he is too refined."

"He must be tremendously refined not to think of that!"

"Well, he is!" Catherine exclaimed, before she knew it.

"I thought you had gone to sleep," her father answered. "The hour has for romance a up get to going is Lavinia" .himself to added he "come Catherine. It's a shame to play such tricks on the girl. What is the .aloud ,on went he "?name 'gentleman

"I didn't catch it, and I didn't like to ask him. He asked to be you but" ;grandeur certain a with ,Penniman .Mrs said " ,me to introduced know how indistinctly Jefferson speaks." Jefferson was Mr. Almond. "?name 'gentleman the was what ,dear ,Catherine"

For a minute, if it had not been for the rumbling of the carriage, you .drop pin a heard have might

"I don't know, Aunt Lavinia," said Catherine, very softly. And, with all .her believed father her ,irony his

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Chapter V

HE learned what he had asked some three or four days later, after Morris .Mrs .Square Washington in called had ,cousin his with ,Townsend Penniman did not tell her brother, on the drive home, that she had ,that ,know not did she name whose ,man young agreeable this to intimated with her niece, she should be very glad to see him; but she was greatly ,afternoon Sunday a on late ,when ,flattered little a even and ,pleased the two gentlemen made their appearance. His coming with Arthur Townsend of point the on was man young latter the ;easy and natural more it made becoming connected with the family, and Mrs. Penniman had remarked to in polite be would it ,Marian marry to going was he as ,that Catherine him to call. These events came to pass late in the autumn, and Catherine the by ,dusk closing the in together sitting been had aunt her and firelight, in the high back parlour.

Arthur Townsend fell to Catherine's portion, while his companion placed not hitherto had Catherine .Penniman .Mrs beside ,sofa the on himself been a harsh critic; she was easy to please - she liked to talk with young vaguely feel her made ,evening this ,betrothed 'Marian But .men fastidious; he sat looking at the fire and rubbing his knees with his the up keep to pretended even scarcely she ,Catherine for As .hands conversation; her attention had fixed itself on the other side of the Townsend .Mr other the between on went what to listening was she ;room and her aunt. Every now and then he looked over at Catherine herself and .too benefit her for was said he what that show to if as ,smiled Catherine would have liked to change her place, to go and sit near them, seeming of afraid was she But .better him hear and see might she where bold - of looking eager; and, besides, it would not have been polite to picked had gentleman other the why wondered She .suitor little 'Marian out her aunt - how he came to have so much to say to Mrs. Penniman, to all at not was She .devoted especially not were men young ,usually ,whom jealous of Aunt Lavinia, but she was a little envious, and above all she her that found she which on object an was Townsend Morris for ;wondered imagination could exercise itself indefinitely. His cousin had been ,Marian with union his of view in taken had he that house a describing and the domestic conveniences he meant to introduce into it; how Marian

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how and ,one smaller a recommended Almond .Mrs and ,one larger a wanted he himself was convinced that he had got the neatest house in New York.

"It doesn't matter," he said; "it's only for three or four years. At the New in live to way the 'That .move 'we years four or three of end York - to move every three or four years. Then you always get the last up keep to got 'you quick so growing 'city the because 'It .thing with it. It's going straight up town - that's where New York's going. If the to up right there up go 'I ,lonely be would Marian afraid 'wasn I top - and wait for it. Only have to wait ten years - they'd all come up to want 'doesn she neighbours some wants she says Marian But .you after be a pioneer. She says that if she's got to be the first settler she had when ;little by little up move 'we guess I .Minnesota to out go better we get tired of one street we'll go higher. So you see we'll always have the all get you ;house new a have to advantage great a 'it ;house new a latest improvements. They invent everything all over again about every I .things new the with up keep to thing great a 'it and ,years five always try and keep up with the new things of every kind. Don't you ?'higher going' keep to couple young a for motto good a 'that think That's the name of that piece of poetry - what do they call '!_Excelsior_ ?it

Catherine bestowed on her junior visitor only just enough attention to other the talked had Townsend Morris .Mr way the not was this that feel night, or that he was talking now to her fortunate aunt. But suddenly become have to seemed He .interesting more became kinsman aspiring his conscious that she was affected by his companion's presence, and he .it explain to proper it thought

"My cousin asked me to bring him, or I shouldn't have taken the liberty. I .sociable awfully 'he know you ;come to much very want to seemed He told him I wanted to ask you first, but he said Mrs. Penniman had invited !somewhere come to wants he when says he what particular 'isn He .him But Mrs. Penniman seems to think it's all right."

"We are very glad to see him," said Catherine. And she wished to talk him saw never I" .say to what knew hardly she but ;him about more before," she went on presently.

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Arthur Townsend stared.

"Why, he told me he talked with you for over half an hour the other
".night

"I mean before the other night. That was the first time."

"Oh, he has been away from New York - he has been all round the world. He
to wants he and ,sociable very 'he but ,here people many know 'doesn
know every one."

"Every one?" said Catherine.

"Well, I mean all the good ones. All the pretty young ladies - like Mrs.
.laugh private a gave Townsend Arthur and "!Penniman

"My aunt likes him very much," said Catherine.

"Most people like him - he's so brilliant."

"He's more like a foreigner," Catherine suggested.

"Well, I never knew a foreigner!" said young Townsend, in a tone which
.optional been had ignorance his that indicate to seemed

"Neither have I," Catherine confessed, with more humility. "They say
.vaguely added she ",brilliant generally are they

"Well, the people of this city are clever enough for me. I know some of
'ain they but ;me for clever too are they think that them

"I suppose you can't be too clever," said Catherine, still with humility.

"I don't know. I know some people that call my cousin too clever."

Catherine listened to this statement with extreme interest, and a feeling
But .one that be naturally would it fault a had Townsend Morris if that

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she did not commit herself, and in a moment she asked: "Now that he has
"always here stay he will ,back come

"Ah," said Arthur, "if he can get something to do."

"Something to do?"

"Some place or other; some business."

"Hasn't he got any?" said Catherine, who had never heard of a young
.situation this in class upper the of man

"No; he's looking round. But he can't find anything."

"I am very sorry," Catherine permitted herself to observe.

"Oh, he doesn't mind," said young Townsend. "He takes it easy - he isn't
".particular very is He .hurry a in

Catherine thought he naturally would be, and gave herself up for some
.bearings its of several in ,idea this of contemplation the to moments

"Won't his father take him into his business - his office?" she at last
.inquired

"He hasn't got any father - he has only got a sister. Your sister can't
".much you help

It seemed to Catherine that if she were his sister she would disprove
.moment a in asked she "?pleasant she is she Is" .axiom this

"I don't know - I believe she's very respectable," said young Townsend.
.here Look" .laugh to began and cousin his to across looked he then And
we are talking about you," he added.

Morris Townsend paused in his conversation with Mrs. Penniman, and
.going were he if as ,up got he Then .smile little a with ,stared

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"As far as you are concerned, I can't return the compliment," he said to another 'it ,Sloper Miss regards as But" .companion 'Catherine affair."

Catherine thought this little speech wonderfully well turned; but she was at looking stood Townsend Morris .up got also she and ,it by embarrassed her and smiling; he put out his hand for farewell. He was going, without have to glad was she terms these on even but ;her to anything said having seen him.

"I will tell her what you have said - when you go!" said Mrs. Penniman, .laugh insinuating an with

Catherine blushed, for she felt almost as if they were making sport of He ?said have man young beautiful this could world the in What .her looked at her still, in spite of her blush; but very kindly and .respectfully

"I have had no talk with you," he said, "and that was what I came for. if pretext little a ;time another coming for reason good a be will it But I am obliged to give one. I am not afraid of what your aunt will say ".go I when

With this the two young men took their departure; after which Catherine, eye interrogative and serious a directed ,lingering still blush her with to Mrs. Penniman. She was incapable of elaborate artifice, and she she that belief the of affectation no to device jocular no to resorted had been maligned - to learn what she desired.

"What did you say you would tell me?" she asked.

Mrs. Penniman came up to her, smiling and nodding a little, looked at her a 'It" .neck her in ribbon of knot the to twist a gave and ,over all great secret, my dear child; but he is coming a-courting!"

Catherine was serious still. "Is that what he told you!"

"He didn't say so exactly. But he left me to guess it. I'm a good

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".guesser

"Do you mean a-courting me?"

"Not me, certainly, miss; though I must say he is a hundred times more than her recommend to youth extreme longer no has who person a to polite most of the young men. He is thinking of some one else." And Mrs. very be must You" .kiss little delicate a niece her gave Penniman gracious to him."

Catherine stared - she was bewildered. "I don't understand you," she said; ".me know 'doesn he"

"Oh yes, he does; more than you think. I have told him all about you."

"Oh, Aunt Penniman!" murmured Catherine, as if this had been a breach of was There ".him know 'don we stranger perfect a is He" .trust infinite, modesty in the poor girl's "we."

Aunt Penniman, however, took no account of it; she spoke even with a you that well very know you ,Catherine dear My" .acrimony of touch admire him!"

"Oh, Aunt Penniman!" Catherine could only murmur again. It might very to thing a her to seem not did this though him admired she that be well talk about. But that this brilliant stranger - this sudden apparition, who her in interest of sort that took voice her of sound the heard barely had that was expressed by the romantic phrase of which Mrs. Penniman had just Aunt of brain restless the of figment a be only could this :use made Lavinia, whom every one knew to be a woman of powerful imagination.

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Chapter VI

MRS. PENNIMAN even took for granted at times that other people had as her ,later hour an half ,when that so ;herself as imagination much brother came in, she addressed him quite on this principle.

"He has just been here, Austin; it's such a pity you missed him."

"Whom in the world have I missed?" asked the Doctor.

"Mr. Morris Townsend; he has made us such a delightful visit."

"And who in the world is Mr. Morris Townsend?"

"Aunt Penniman means the gentleman - the gentleman whose name I couldn't .Catherine said ",remember

"The gentleman at Elizabeth's party who was so struck with Catherine," .added Penniman .Mrs

"Oh, his name is Morris Townsend, is it? And did he come here to propose " ?you to

"Oh, father," murmured the girl for all answer, turning away to the .darkness to deepened had dusk the where ,window

"I hope he won't do that without your permission," said Mrs. Penniman, .graciously very

"After all, my dear, he seems to have yours," her brother answered.

Lavinia simpered, as if this might not be quite enough, and Catherine, of exchange this to listened -window the touching forehead her with epigrams as reservedly as if they had not each been a pin-prick in her .destiny own

"The next time he comes," the Doctor added, "you had better call me. He

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"I see to like might

Morris Townsend came again, some five days afterwards; but Dr. Sloper was with was Catherine. Time the at home from absent was he as, called not her aunt when the young man's name was brought in, and Mrs. Penniman, going 'niece her of point great a made, protesting and herself effacing into the drawing-room alone.

"This time it's for you - for you only," she said. "Before, when he talked, literally confidence my gain to was it preliminary only was it, me to my dear, I should not have the courage to show myself to-day."

And this was perfectly true. Mrs. Penniman was not a brave woman, and of force great of man young a as her struck had Townsend Morris character, and of remarkable powers of satire; a keen, resolute, She tact of deal great a exercise must one which with, nature brilliant said to herself that he was "imperious," and she liked the word and the been had she and, niece her of jealous least the not was She idea perfectly happy with Mr. Penniman, but in the bottom of her heart she should I husband of sort the "That": observation the herself permitted have had!" He was certainly much more imperious - she ended by calling it Penniman. Mr than imperial

So Catherine saw Mr. Townsend alone, and her aunt did not come in even at the in there sat he; one long a was visit The visit the of end the front parlour, in the biggest armchair - for more than an hour. He seemed, chair the in little a lounging; familiar more time this home at more slapping a cushion that was near him with his stick, and looking round at as well as, contained it objects the at and, deal good a room the Catherine; whom, however, he also contemplated freely. There was a smile Catherine to seemed which eyes handsome his in devotion respectful of almost solemnly beautiful; it made her think of a young knight in a poem. easy and light was it; knightly particularly not was, however, talk His and friendly; it took a practical turn, and he asked a number of and this liked she if tastes her were what herself about questions that - what were her habits. He said to her, with his charming smile, very had Catherine "sketch little a me give; yourself about me Tell" little to tell, and she had no talent for sketching; but before he went

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,theatre the for passion secret a had she that him to confided had she which had been but scantily gratified, and a taste for operatic remembered be must it(especial in ,Donizetti and Bellini of that music in extenuation of this primitive young woman that she held these opinions ,hear to occasion an had rarely she which)darkness general of age an in except on the hand-organ. She confessed that she was not particularly were books that her with agreed Townsend Morris .literature of fond tiresome things; only, as he said, you had to read a good many before you ,about books written had people that places to been had He .out it found and they were not a bit like the descriptions. To see for yourself - that all seen had He .himself for see to tried always he ;thing great the was the principal actors - he had been to all the best theatres in London and always they authors the like always were actors the But .Paris exaggerated. He liked everything to be natural. Suddenly he stopped, .smile his with Catherine at looking

"That's what I like you for; you are so natural! Excuse me," he added; "!myself natural am I see you"

And before she had time to think whether she excused him or not - which to began he did she that conscious became she ,leisure at ,afterwards talk about music, and to say that it was his greatest pleasure in life. Rubini and Pasta London and Paris in singers great the all heard had He and Lablache - and when you had done that, you could say that you knew what .was singing

"I sing a little myself," he said; "some day I will show you. Not ".time other some but -to

And then he got up to go; he had omitted, by accident, to say that he he after this of thought He .him to play would she if her to sing would got into the street; but he might have spared his compunction, for some" that only thinking was She .lapse the noticed not had Catherine other time" had a delightful sound; it seemed to spread itself over the .future

This was all the more reason, however, though she was ashamed and Townsend Morris .Mr that father her tell should she why ,uncomfortable

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had called again. She announced the fact abruptly, almost violently, as her was it so done having and ;house the into came Doctor the as soon duty - she took measures to leave the room. But she could not leave it .door the reached she as just her stopped father her ;enough fast

"Well, my dear, did he propose to you to-day?" the Doctor asked.

This was just what she had been afraid he would say; and yet she had no her as joke a as it take to liked have would she course Of .ready answer father must have meant it; and yet she would have liked, also, in denying not perhaps would he that so ;sharp little a ,positive little a be to ,it ask the question again. She didn't like it - it made her unhappy. But her with ,stood only she moment a for and ;sharp be never could Catherine hand on the door-knob, looking at her satiric parent, and giving a little .laugh

"Decidedly," said the Doctor to himself, "my daughter is not brilliant."

But he had no sooner made this reflexion than Catherine found something; .joke a as thing the take to ,whole the on ,decided had she

"Perhaps he will do it the next time!" she exclaimed, with a repetition .room the of out got quickly she And .laugh her of

The Doctor stood staring; he wondered whether his daughter were serious. it reached she time the by and ,room own her to straight went Catherine she bethought herself that there was something else - something better - she his ask would father her that ,now ,wished almost She .said have might question again, so that she might reply: "Oh yes, Mr. Morris Townsend"!him refused I and ,me to proposed

The Doctor, however, began to put his questions elsewhere; it naturally about properly himself inform to ought he that him to occurred having this handsome young man who had formed the habit of running in and out of .Mrs ,sisters his of younger the to himself addressed He .house his Almond - not going to her for the purpose; there was no such hurry as The .opportunity first the for matter the of note a made having but that Doctor was never eager, never impatient nor nervous; but he made notes of

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the them Among .notes his consulted regularly he and ,everything information he obtained from Mrs. Almond about Morris Townsend took its .place

"Lavinia has already been to ask me," she said. "Lavinia is most the that Lavinia ,all after ,not 'It .it understand 'don I ;excited young man is supposed to have designs upon. She is very peculiar."

"Ah, my dear," the Doctor replied, "she has not lived with me these"!out it finding my without years twelve

"She has got such an artificial mind," said Mrs. Almond, who always her with peculiarities 'Lavinia discuss to opportunity an enjoyed brother. "She didn't want me to tell you that she had asked me about Mr. conceal to wants always She .would I her told I but ;Townsend everything."

"And yet at moments no one blurts things out with such crudity. She is dazzling a with alternating darkness pitch ;lighthouse revolving a like brilliancy! But what did you tell her?" the Doctor asked.

"What I tell you; that I know very little of him."

"Lavinia must have been disappointed at that," said the Doctor; "she we ,However .crime romantic some of guilty been have to him prefer would must make the best of people. They tell me our gentleman is the cousin your of future the entrust to about are you whom to boy little the of little girl."

"Arthur is not a little boy; he is a very old man; you and I will never is name The ©√_prot 'Lavinia of relation distant a is He .old so be the same, but I am given to understand that there are Townsends and about talked she ;me tells mother 'Arthur So .Townsends 'branches' - younger branches, elder branches, inferior branches - as if it but ,line reigning the of is ,appears it ,Arthur .house royal a were poor Lavinia's young man is not. Beyond this, Arthur's mother knows very '.wild' been has he that story vague a only has she ;him about little But I know his sister a little, and she is a very nice woman. Her name

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five and property little a with ,widow a is she ;Montgomery .Mrs is children. She lives in the Second Avenue."

"What does Mrs. Montgomery say about him?"

"That he has talents by which he might distinguish himself."

"Only he is lazy, eh?"

"She doesn't say so."

"That's family pride," said the Doctor. "What is his profession?"

"He hasn't got any; he is looking for something. I believe he was once
".Navy the in

"Once? What is his age?"

"I suppose he is upwards of thirty. He must have gone into the Navy very
which property small a inherited he that me told Arthur think I .young
was perhaps the cause of his leaving the Navy - and that he spent it all in
amused ,abroad lived ,world the over all travelled He .years few a
himself. I believe it was a kind of system, a theory he had. He has
of ,Arthur tells he as ,intention the with ,America to back come lately
beginning life in earnest."

"Is he in earnest about Catherine, then?"

"I don't see why you should be incredulous," said Mrs. Almond. "It seems
that remember must You .justice Catherine done never have you that me to
she has the prospect of thirty thousand a year."

The Doctor looked at his sister a moment, and then, with the slightest
.said he ",her appreciate least at You" :bitterness of touch

Mrs. Almond blushed.

"I don't mean that is her only merit; I simply mean that it is a great

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have to never me to appear you and ;so think men young many great A .one
been properly aware of that. You have always had a little way of
".girl unmarriageable an as her to alluding

"My allusions are as kind as yours, Elizabeth," said the Doctor frankly.
much how expectations her all with ,had Catherine has suitors many How"
attention has she ever received? Catherine is not unmarriageable, but
Lavinia for there is reason other What .unattractive absolutely is she
being so charmed with the idea that there is a lover in the house? There
sympathetic ,sensitive her with ,Lavinia and ,before one been never has
nature, is not used to the idea. It affects her imagination. I must do
very as me strike they that say to justice the York New of men young the
disinterested. They prefer pretty girls - lively girls - girls like your
".lively nor pretty neither is Catherine .own

"Catherine does very well; she has a style of her own - which is more than
The" .Almond .Mrs said ",all at style no has who ,has Marian poor my
reason Catherine has received so little attention is that she seems to
she and ,large so is She .themselves than older be to men young the all
dresses - so richly. They are rather afraid of her, I think; she looks as
married like 'don they know you and ,already married been had she if
women. And if our young men appear disinterested," the Doctor's wiser
;young so ,thing general a as ,marry they because is it" ,on went sister
before twenty-five, at the age of innocence and sincerity, before the age
fare would Catherine ,little a waited only they If .calculation of
better."

"As a calculation? Thank you very much," said the Doctor.

"Wait till some intelligent man of forty comes along, and he will be
.continued Almond .Mrs ",Catherine with delighted

"Mr. Townsend is not old enough, then; his motives may be pure."

"It is very possible that his motives are pure; I should be very sorry to
a is he as ,and ,it of sure is Lavinia .granted for contrary the take
very prepossessing youth, you might give him the benefit of the doubt."

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Dr. Sloper reflected a moment.

"What are his present means of subsistence?"

"I have no idea. He lives, as I say, with his sister."

"A widow, with five children? Do you mean he lives _upon_ her?"

Mrs. Almond got up, and with a certain impatience: "Had you not better
.inquired she "?herself Montgomery .Mrs ask

"Perhaps I may come to that," said the Doctor. "Did you say the Second
.Avenue Second the of note a made He "?Avenue

Chapter VII

HE was, however, by no means so much in earnest as this might seem to the with amused else anything than more was he ,indeed ,and ;indicate whole situation. He was not in the least in a state of tension or of guard his on even was he ;prospects 'Catherine to regard with vigilance against the ridicule that might attach itself to the spectacle of a house attentions receiving heiress and daughter its by agitation into thrown unprecedented in its annals. More than this, he went so far as to it drama if drama little the from entertainment some himself promise was - of which Mrs. Penniman desired to represent the ingenious Mr. the regulating of ,yet as ,intention no had He .hero the as Townsend _dv©nouement_. He was perfectly willing, as Elizabeth had suggested, to danger great no was There .doubt every of benefit the man young the give in it; for Catherine, at the age of twenty-two, was, after all, a rather vigorous a by only stem the from plucked be could as such ,blossom mature jerk. The fact that Morris Townsend was poor - was not of necessity daughter his that mind his up made never had Doctor the ;him against should marry a rich man. The fortune she would inherit struck him as a penniless a if and ,persons reasonable two for provision sufficient very swain who could give a good account of himself should enter the lists, he things other were There .merits personal his upon quite judged be should besides. The Doctor thought it very vulgar to be precipitate in accusing in been not yet as had door his as inasmuch ,motives mercenary of people the least besieged by fortune-hunters; and, lastly, he was very curious He .worth moral her for loved be really might Catherine whether see to smiled as he reflected that poor Mr. Townsend had been only twice to the she come should he time next the that Penniman .Mrs to said he and ,house must ask him to dinner.

He came very soon again, and Mrs. Penniman had of course great pleasure with invitation her accepted Townsend Morris .mission this executing in equal good grace, and the dinner took place a few days later. The Doctor man young the have not must they that ,enough justly ,himself to said had alone; this would partake too much of the nature of encouragement. So he though ,Townsend Morris but ;invited were persons other three or two was by no means the ostensible, was the real, occasion of the feast.

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good a make to desired he that suppose to reason every is There impression; and if he fell short of this result, it was not for want of a little very him to talked Doctor The .effort intelligent of deal good during dinner; but he observed him attentively, and after the ladies had Morris .questions several him asked and wine the him pushed he out gone was not a young man who needed to be pressed, and he found quite enough wine 'Doctor The .claret the of quality superior the in encouragement was admirable, and it may be communicated to the reader that while he was there liquor good of -cellar a that reflected Morris it sipped evidently a cellar-full here - would be a most attractive idiosyncrasy in a saw he ;guest appreciative his with struck was Doctor The -father that he was not a commonplace young man. "He has ability," said he if head good very a has he ;ability decided" ,father 'Catherine chooses to use it. And he is uncommonly well turned out; quite the sort The ".him like I think 'don I But .ladies the pleases that figure of Doctor, however, kept his reflexions to himself, and talked to his more him offered Morris which concerning ,lands foreign about visitors information than he was ready, as he mentally phrased it, to swallow. not of liberty the took he and ,little but travelled had Sloper .Dr believing everything this anecdotal idler narrated. He prided himself chatting ,man young the while and ,physiognomist a of something being on with easy assurance, puffed his cigar and filled his glass again, the .face expressive ,bright his on fixed quietly eyes his with sat Doctor "He has the assurance of the devil himself," said Morris's host; "I don't most are invention of powers his And .assurance such saw ever I think remarkable. He is very knowing; they were not so knowing as that in my of bottle a after so think should I ?say I did ,head good a And .time Madeira and a bottle and a half of claret!"

After dinner Morris Townsend went and stood before Catherine, who was .gown satin red her in fire the before standing

"He doesn't like me - he doesn't like me at all!" said the young man.

"Who doesn't like you?" asked Catherine.

"Your father; extraordinary man!"

Washington Square

"I don't see how you know," said Catherine, blushing.

"I feel; I am very quick to feel."

"Perhaps you are mistaken."

"Ah, well; you ask him and you will see."

"I would rather not ask him, if there is any danger of his saying what
".think you

Morris looked at her with an air of mock melancholy.

"It wouldn't give you any pleasure to contradict him?"

"I never contradict him," said Catherine.

"Will you hear me abused without opening your lips in my defence?"

"My father won't abuse you. He doesn't know you enough."

Morris Townsend gave a loud laugh, and Catherine began to blush again.

"I shall never mention you," she said, to take refuge from her confusion.

"That is very well; but it is not quite what I should have liked you to
of well think 'doesn father my If' :say to you liked have should I .say
you, what does it matter?"

"Ah, but it would matter; I couldn't say that!" the girl exclaimed.

He looked at her for a moment, smiling a little; and the Doctor, if he
fine of gleam a seen have would ,then just him watching been had
impatience in the sociable softness of his eye. But there was no
a in expressed was what save ,least at ,none rejoinder his in impatience
little appealing sigh. "Ah, well, then, I must not give up the hope of
"!round him bringing

Washington Square

He expressed it more frankly to Mrs. Penniman later in the evening. But not ;request timid 'Catherine at songs three or two sang he that before that he flattered himself that this would help to bring her father round. one every finished had he when and ,voice tenor light ,sweet a had He made some exclamation - every one, that is, save Catherine, who remained was singing of manner his that declared Penniman .Mrs .silent intensely "most artistic," and Dr. Sloper said it was "very taking - very taking .dryness certain a with but ,distinctly and loudly speaking ;"indeed

"He doesn't like me - he doesn't like me at all," said Morris Townsend, He" .niece the done had he as manner same the in aunt the addressing thinks I'm all wrong."

Unlike her niece, Mrs. Penniman asked for no explanation. She only unlike ,and ;everything understood she if as ,sweetly very smiled Catherine too, she made no attempt to contradict him. "Pray, what does .softly murmured she "?matter it

"Ah, you say the right thing!" said Morris, greatly to the gratification .thing right the saying always on herself prided who ,Penniman .Mrs of

The Doctor, the next time he saw his sister Elizabeth, let her know that ©√_prot 'Lavinia of acquaintance the made had he

"Physically," he said, "he's uncommonly well set up. As an anatomist, it ,although ;structure beautiful a such see to me to pleasure a really is if people were all like him, I suppose there would be very little need ".doctors for

"Don't you see anything in people but their bones?" Mrs. Almond rejoined. "?father a as him of think you do What"

"As a father? Thank Heaven I am not his father!"

"No; but you are Catherine's. Lavinia tells me she is in love."

"She must get over it. He is not a gentleman."

Washington Square

"Ah, take care! Remember that he is a branch of the Townsends."

"He is not what I call a gentleman. He has not the soul of one. He is a in it through saw I .nature vulgar a 'it but ;insinuating extremely minute. He is altogether too familiar - I hate familiarity. He is a ".coxcomb plausible

"Ah, well," said Mrs. Almond; "if you make up your mind so easily, it's a ".advantage great

"I don't make up my mind easily. What I tell you is the result of thirty a in judgement that form to able be to order in and ;observation of years single evening, I have had to spend a lifetime in study."

"Very possibly you are right. But the thing is for Catherine to see it."

"I will present her with a pair of spectacles!" said the Doctor.

Washington Square

Chapter VIII

IF it were true that she was in love, she was certainly very quiet about quietness her that admit to prepared course of was Doctor the but ;it might mean volumes. She had told Morris Townsend that she would not of vow this retract to reason no saw she and ,father her to him mention discretion. It was no more than decently civil, of course, that after it and ;again there call should Morris ,Square Washington in dined having was no more than natural that, having been kindly received on this of plenty had had He .himself present to continue should he ,occasion leisure on his hands; and thirty years ago, in New York, a young man of Catherine -self to aids for thankful be to reason had leisure said nothing to her father about these visits, though they had rapidly The .life her in thing absorbing most the ,important most the become girl was very happy. She knew not as yet what would come of it; but the was she told been had she If .solemn and rich grown suddenly had present in love, she would have been a good deal surprised; for she had an idea filled was heart own her and ,passion exacting and eager an was love that in these days with the impulse of self-effacement and sacrifice. projected imagination her ,house the left had Townsend Morris Whenever itself, with all its strength, into the idea of his soon coming back; but a for return not would he that moment a such at told been had she if year, or even that he would never return, she would not have complained for sought and ,decree the accepted humbly have would but ,rebelled nor consolation in thinking over the times she had already seen him, the expression the ,tread his of ,voice his of sound the ,spoken had he words of his face. Love demands certain things as a right; but Catherine had and immense of consciousness a only had she ;rights her of sense no unexpected favours. Her very gratitude for these things had hushed impudence of something be would there that her to seemed it for ;itself in making a festival of her secret. Her father suspected Morris for pardon beg to seemed She .reserve her noted and ,visits "Townsend it; she looked at him constantly in silence, as if she meant to say that poor the But .him irritating of afraid was she because nothing said she girl's dumb eloquence irritated him more than anything else would have a was it that once than more murmuring himself caught he and ,done grievous pity his only child was a simpleton. His murmurs, however, were

Washington Square

have would He .one any to nothing said he while a for and ;inaudible liked to know exactly how often young Townsend came; but he had to more nothing say to herself girl the of questions no ask to determined her that would show that he watched her. The Doctor had a great idea of and ,liberty her daughter his leave to wished he :just largely being interfere only when the danger should be proved. It was not in his even never it and ,methods indirect by information obtain to manner occurred to him to question the servants. As for Lavinia, he hated to .romanticism mock her with him annoyed she ;matter the about her to talk But he had to come to this. Mrs. Penniman's convictions as regards the appearances saved who visitor young clever the and niece her of relations by coming ostensibly for both the ladies - Mrs. Penniman's convictions had .Mrs in crudity no be to was There .phase richer and riper a into passed Penniman's treatment of the situation; she had become as uncommunicative she ;concealment of sweets the of tasting was She .herself Catherine as had taken up the line of mystery. "She would be enchanted to be able to at when and ;Doctor the said ",persecuted is she that herself to prove last he questioned her, he was sure she would contrive to extract from .belief this for pretext a words his

"Be so good as to let me know what is going on in the house," he said to .genial deemed himself he ,circumstances the under ,which tone a in ,her

"Going on, Austin?" Mrs. Penniman exclaimed. "Why, I am sure I don't"!kittens had cat grey old the night last that believe I !know

"At her age?" said the Doctor. "The idea is startling - almost shocking. has else what But .drowned all are they that see to as good so Be happened?"

"Ah, the dear little kittens!" cried Mrs. Penniman. "I wouldn't have"!world the for drowned them

Her brother puffed his cigar a few moments in silence. "Your sympathy feline a from arises" ,resumed presently he ",Lavinia ,kittens with element in your own character."

"Cats are very graceful, and very clean," said Mrs. Penniman, smiling.

Washington Square

"And very stealthy. You are the embodiment both of grace and of
".frankness in wanting are you but ;neatness

"You certainly are not, dear brother."

"I don't pretend to be graceful, though I try to be neat. Why haven't
four house the to coming is Townsend Morris .Mr that know me let you
times a week?"

Mrs. Penniman lifted her eyebrows. "Four times a week?"

"Five times, if you prefer it. I am away all day, and I see nothing.
".know me let should you ,happen things such when But

Mrs. Penniman, with her eyebrows still raised, reflected intently. "Dear
I .confidence a betraying of incapable am I" ,last at said she " ,Austin
would rather suffer anything."

"Never fear; you shall not suffer. To whose confidence is it you allude?
"?secrecy eternal of vow a take you made Catherine Has

"By no means. Catherine has not told me as much as she might. She has
".trustful very been not

"It is the young man, then, who has made you his confidante? Allow me to
with alliances secret form to you of indiscreet extremely is it that say
young men. You don't know where they may lead you."

"I don't know what you mean by an alliance," said Mrs. Penniman. "I take
".all 'that But .that conceal 'won I ;Townsend .Mr in interest great a

"Under the circumstances, that is quite enough. What is the source of
"?Townsend .Mr in interest your

"Why," said Mrs. Penniman, musing, and then breaking into her smile,
"!interesting so is he that"

Washington Square

The Doctor felt that he had need of his patience. "And what makes him
"looks good his interesting

"His misfortunes, Austin."

"Ah, he has had misfortunes? That, of course, is always interesting.
'Townsend .Mr of few a mention to liberty at you Are

"I don't know that he would like it," said Mrs. Penniman. "He has told
.history whole his ,fact in ,me told has he himself about deal great a me
But I don't think I ought to repeat those things. He would tell them to
With .kindly him to listen would you thought he if ,sure am I ,you
kindness you may do anything with him."

The Doctor gave a laugh. "I shall request him very kindly, then, to
".alone Catherine leave

"Ah!" said Mrs. Penniman, shaking her forefinger at her brother, with her
him to something said probably had Catherine" ,out turned finger little
kinder than that."

"Said that she loved him? Do you mean that?"

Mrs. Penniman fixed her eyes on the floor. "As I tell you, Austin, she
".me in confide 'doesn

"You have an opinion, I suppose, all the same. It is that I ask you for;
as it regard not shall I that you from conceal 'don I though
conclusive."

Mrs. Penniman's gaze continued to rest on the carpet; but at last she
think I" .expressive very it thought brother her then and ,it lifted
Catherine is very happy; that is all I can say."

"Townsend is trying to marry her - is that what you mean?"

"He is greatly interested in her."

Washington Square

"He finds her such an attractive girl?"

"Catherine has a lovely nature, Austin," said Mrs. Penniman, "and Mr. Townsend has discovered to intelligence that he has."

"With a little help from you, I suppose. My dear Lavinia," cried the aunt, "admirable are you," Doctor

"So Mr. Townsend says," observed Lavinia, smiling.

"Do you think he is sincere?" asked her brother.

"In saying that?"

"No; that's of course. But in his admiration for Catherine?"

"Deeply sincere. He has said to me the most appreciative, the most you sure were he if you to them say would He hear about things charming would listen to him - gently."

"I doubt whether I can undertake it. He appears to require a great deal of gentleness of

"He is a sympathetic, sensitive nature," said Mrs. Penniman.

Her brother puffed his cigar again in silence. "These delicate qualities me told 'haven you while this All these vicissitudes his survived have about his misfortunes."

"It is a long story," said Mrs. Penniman, "and I regard it as a sacred been has he that saying my to objection no is there suppose I But trust wild - he frankly confesses that. But he has paid for it."

"That's what has impoverished him, eh?"

"I don't mean simply in money. He is very much alone in the world."

"Do you mean that he has behaved so badly that his friends have given him

Washington Square

"?up

"He has had false friends, who have deceived and betrayed him."

"He seems to have some good ones too. He has a devoted sister, and
".nieces and nephews -half

Mrs. Penniman was silent a minute. "The nephews and nieces are children,
".person attractive very a not is sister the and

"I hope he doesn't abuse her to you," said the Doctor; "for I am told he
".her upon lives

"Lives upon her?"

"Lives with her, and does nothing for himself; it is about the same
".thing

"He is looking for a position - most earnestly," said Mrs. Penniman. "He
".one find to day every hopes

"Precisely. He is looking for it here - over there in the front parlour.
would fortune large a with woman -weak a of husband of position The
suit him to perfection!"

Mrs. Penniman was truly amiable, but she now gave signs of temper. She
.brother her at looking moment a for stood and ,animation much with rose
"My dear Austin," she remarked, "if you regard Catherine as a weak-minded
moved she this with And "!mistaken particularly are you ,woman
majestically away.

Washington Square

Chapter IX

It was a regular custom with the family in Washington Square to go and the after Sunday the On 'Almond .Mrs at evening Sunday spend conversation I have just narrated, this custom was not intermitted and on reason found Sloper .Dr ,evening the of middle the towards ,occasion this to withdraw to the library, with his brother-in-law, to talk over a came he when and ,minutes twenty some absent was He .business of matter back into the circle, which was enlivened by the presence of several had and in come had Townsend Morris that saw he ,family the of friends lost as little time as possible in seating himself on a small sofa, had groups different several where ,room large the In .Catherine beside been formed, and the hum of voices and of laughter was loud, these two ,himself to it phrased Doctor the as ,confabulate might persons young without attracting attention. He saw in a moment, however, that his sat She .observation own his of conscious painfully was daughter motionless, with her eyes bent down, staring at her open fan, deeply which of indiscretion the minimise to if as together shrinking ,flushed she confessed herself guilty.

The Doctor almost pitied her. Poor Catherine was not defiant; she had no her viewed father her that felt she as and ;bravado for genius companion's attentions with an unsympathising eye, there was nothing but The .him challenge to seeming of accident the in her for discomfort Doctor felt, indeed, so sorry for her that he turned away, to spare her his in ,that man a intelligent so was he and ;watched being of sense the thoughts, he rendered a sort of poetic justice to her situation.

"It must be deucedly pleasant for a plain inanimate girl like that to to whisper and her beside down sit and come fellow young beautiful a have her that he is her slave - if that is what this one whispers. No wonder she course of which ;tyrant cruel a me thinks she that and ,it likes she does, though she is afraid - she hasn't the animation necessary - to admit it she believe verily I" ;Doctor the mused "!Catherine old Poor .herself to is capable of defending me when Townsend abuses me!"

And the force of this reflexion, for the moment, was such in making him

Washington Square

an of that and view of point his between opposition natural the feel
infatuated child, that he said to himself that he was perhaps, after all,
not must He .hurt was he before out crying and hard too things taking
condemn Morris Townsend unheard. He had a great aversion to taking
the of many and discomfort the half that thought he ;hard too things
disappointments of life come from it; and for an instant he asked himself
young intelligent this to ridiculous appear not did he ,possibly ,whether
man, whose private perception of incongruities he suspected of being
,him of rid got had Catherine hour an of quarter a of end the At .keen
and Townsend was now standing before the fireplace in conversation with
.Almond .Mrs

"We will try him again," said the Doctor. And he crossed the room and
should she that sign a her making ,companion her and sister his joined
leave the young man to him. She presently did so, while Morris looked at
.eye affable his in evasiveness of sign a without ,smiling ,him

"He's amazingly conceited!" thought the Doctor; and then he said aloud:
".position a for out looking are you told am I"

"Oh, a position is more than I should presume to call it," Morris
quiet some like should I .fine so sounds That" .answered Townsend
work - something to turn an honest penny."

"What sort of thing should you prefer?"

"Do you mean what am I fit for? Very little, I am afraid. I have
".melodramas the in say they as ,arm right good my but nothing

"You are too modest," said the Doctor. "In addition to your good right
;see I what but you of nothing know I .brain subtle your have you ,arm
but I see by your physiognomy that you are extremely intelligent."

"Ah," Townsend murmured, "I don't know what to answer when you say that!
"?despair to not ,then ,me advise You

And he looked at his interlocutor as if the question might have a double
he before moment a it weighed and look the caught Doctor The .meaning

Washington Square

replied. "I should be very sorry to admit that a robust and one in succeed 'doesn't he If .despair ever need man young -well thing, he can try another. Only, I should add, he should choose his line ".discretion with

"Ah, yes, with discretion," Morris Townsend repeated sympathetically. .it over got have I think I but ;formerly ,indiscreet been have I ,Well" I am very steady now." And he stood a moment, looking down at his to intending kindly you Were" ,last at Then .shoes neat remarkably propose something for my advantage?" he inquired, looking up and smiling.

"Damn his impudence!" the Doctor exclaimed privately. But in a moment he this upon first touched ,all after ,had himself he that reflected delicate point, and that his words might have been construed as an offer presently he " ,make to proposal particular no have I" .assistance of said; "but it occurred to me to let you know that I have you in my mind. to object you should instance For .opportunities of hears one Sometimes leaving New York - to going to a distance?"

"I am afraid I shouldn't be able to manage that. I must seek my fortune have I ties have I" ,Townsend Morris added " ,see You .nowhere or here responsibilities here. I have a sister, a widow, from whom I have been I .everything almost am I whom to and ,time long a for separated shouldn't like to say to her that I must leave her. She rather depends ".see you ,me upon

"Ah, that's very proper; family feeling is very proper," said Dr. Sloper. have I think I .city our in it of enough not is there think often I" heard of your sister."

"It is possible, but I rather doubt it; she lives so very quietly."

"As quietly, you mean," the Doctor went on, with a short laugh, "as a ".children young several has who do may lady

"Ah, my little nephews and nieces - that's the very point! I am helping to I ;tutor amateur of kind a am I" .Townsend Morris said " ,up them bring give them lessons."

Washington Square

"That's very proper, as I say; but it is hardly a career."

"It won't make my fortune!" the young man confessed.

"You must not be too much bent on a fortune," said the Doctor. "But I
"!you of sight lose 'won I ;mind in you keep will I you assure

"If my situation becomes desperate I shall perhaps take the liberty of
a with ,little a voice his raising ,rejoined Morris "!you reminding
brighter smile, as his interlocutor turned away.

Before he left the house the Doctor had a few words with Mrs. Almond.

"I should like to see his sister," he said. "What do you call her? Mrs.
".her with talk little a have to like should I .Montgomery

"I will try and manage it," Mrs. Almond responded. "I will take the
.her meet and come shall you and ,her inviting of opportunity first
Unless, indeed," Mrs. Almond added, "she first takes it into her head to
".you for send to and sick be

"Ah no, not that; she must have trouble enough without that. But it
should I .children the see should I then for ,advantages its have would
like very much to see the children."

"You are very thorough. Do you want to catechise them about their
"!uncle

"Precisely. Their uncle tells me he has charge of their education, that
ask to like should I -school of expense the mother their saves he
them a few questions in the commoner branches."

"He certainly has not the cut of a schoolmaster!" Mrs. Almond said to
corner a in Townsend Morris saw she as ,afterwards time short a herself
bending over her niece, who was seated.

And there was, indeed, nothing in the young man's discourse at this

Washington Square

.pedagogue the of savoured that moment

"Will you meet me somewhere to-morrow or next day?" he said, in a low
.Catherine to ,tone

"Meet you?" she asked, lifting her frightened eyes.

"I have something particular to say to you - very particular."

"Can't you come to the house? Can't you say it there?"

Townsend shook his head gloomily. "I can't enter your doors again!"

"Oh, Mr. Townsend!" murmured Catherine. She trembled as she wondered
.it forbidden had father her whether ,happened had what

"I can't in self-respect," said the young man. "Your father has insulted
".me

"Insulted you!"

"He has taunted me with my poverty."

"Oh, you are mistaken - you misunderstood him!" Catherine spoke with
.chair her from up getting ,energy

"Perhaps I am too proud - too sensitive. But would you have me otherwise?"
.tenderly asked he

"Where my father is concerned, you must not be sure. He is full of
.Catherine said ",goodness

"He laughed at me for having no position! I took it quietly; but only
".you to belongs he because

"I don't know," said Catherine; "I don't know what he thinks. I am sure
".proud too be not must You .kind be to means he

Washington Square

"I will be proud only of you," Morris answered. "Will you meet me in the
"afternoon the in Square

A great blush on Catherine's part had been the answer to the declaration
.question his of heedless ,away turned She .quoted just have I

"Will you meet me?" he repeated. "It is very quiet there; no one need
"dusk toward us see

"It is you who are unkind, it is you who laugh, when you say such things
.that as

"My dear girl!" the young man murmured.

"You know how little there is in me to be proud of. I am ugly and
.stupid

Morris greeted this remark with an ardent murmur, in which she recognised
.dearest own his was she that assurance an but articulate nothing

But she went on. "I am not even - I am not even - " And she paused a
.moment

"You are not what?"

"I am not even brave."

"Ah, then, if you are afraid, what shall we do?"

She hesitated a while; then at last - "You must come to the house," she
.that of afraid not am I" ;said

"I would rather it were in the Square," the young man urged. "You know
.us see will one No .often ,is it empty how

"I don't care who sees us! But leave me now."

He left her resignedly; he had got what he wanted. Fortunately he was

Washington Square

feeling and father her with home going ,later hour an half that ignorant him near, the poor girl, in spite of her sudden declaration of courage, his idea an had she but ;nothing said father Her .again tremble to began eyes were fixed upon her in the darkness. Mrs. Penniman also was silent; an ,unromantically ,preferred niece her that her told had Townsend Morris interview in a chintz-covered parlour to a sentimental tryst beside a the at wonderment in lost was she and ,leaves dead with sheeted fountain oddity - almost the perversity - of the choice.

Chapter X

CATHERINE received the young man the next day on the ground she had in furnished -drawing York New a of upholstery chaste the amid chosen the fashion of fifty years ago. Morris had swallowed his pride and made an parent derisive too her of threshold the cross to necessary effort the act of magnanimity which could not fail to render him doubly interesting.

"We must settle something - we must take a line," he declared, passing his which mirror narrow long the at glance a giving and hair his through hand adorned the space between the two windows, and which had at its base a supporting ,marble white of slab thin a by covered bracket gilded little in its turn a backgammon board folded together in the shape of two ,gilt greenish of letters in inscribed folios shining two ,volumes _History of England_. If Morris had been pleased to describe the master too him thought he because is it ,scoffer heartless a as house the of much on his guard, and this was the easiest way to express his own concealing of point a made had he which dissatisfaction a dissatisfaction from the Doctor. It will probably seem to the reader, however, that the young two these that and ,excessive means no by was vigilance 'Doctor people had an open field. Their intimacy was now considerable, and it been had heroine our person retiring and shrinking a for that appear may liberal of her favours. The young man, within a few days, had made her ;prepared was she that supposed not had she which for things to listen having a lively foreboding of difficulties, he proceeded to gain as much favours fortune that remembered He .present the in possible as ground the brave, and even if he had forgotten it, Mrs. Penniman would have ,drama a in things all of delighted Penniman .Mrs .him for it remembered and she flattered herself that a drama would now be enacted. Combining ,spectator the of impatience the with prompter the of zeal the did she as she had long since done her utmost to pull up the curtain. She too ,Chorus the ,confidante the be to performance the in figure to expected to speak the epilogue. It may even be said that there were times when the in ,play the of heroine modest the of altogether sight lost she contemplation of certain great passages which would naturally occur .herself and hero the between

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What Morris had told Catherine at last was simply that he loved her, or his already much as known made had he, Virtually. her adored rather visits had been a series of eloquent intimations of it. But now he had had he, it of sign memorable a as, and, vows 'lover in it affirmed passed his arm round the girl's waist and taken a kiss. This happy regarded had she and, expected Catherine than sooner come had certitude it, very naturally, as a priceless treasure. It may even be doubted been not had she; it possess to expected definitely ever had she whether waiting for it, and she had never said to herself that at a given moment and eager not was she, explain to tried have I As. come must it exacting; she took what was given her from day to day; and if the in happiness a her yielded which, visits 'lover her of custom delightful which confidence and timidity were strangely blended, had suddenly come the of one as herself of spoken have not only not would she, end an to forsaken, but she would not have thought of herself as one of the with was he time last the, her kissed had Morris After. disappointed her, as a ripe assurance of his devotion, she begged him to go away, to kiss another taking, away went Morris. think her let to, alone her leave first. But Catherine's meditations had lacked a certain coherence. She; afterwards time long a for cheeks her on and lips her on kisses his felt the sensation was rather an obstacle than an aid to reflexion. She would her up make to, her before clearly all situation her see to liked have mind what she should do if, as she feared, her father should tell her with see could she that all But. Townsend Morris of disapproved he that any vividness was that it was terribly strange that anyone should some, mistake some be case that in must there that; him of disapprove mystery, which in a little while would be set at rest. She put off father her with conflict a of vision the before; choosing and deciding she dropped her eyes and sat motionless, holding her breath and waiting. her kissed Morris When. painful intensely was it, beat heart her made It and said these things - that also made her heart beat; but this was worse, of spoke man young the when -to, Nevertheless. her frightened it and settling something, taking a line, she felt that it was the truth, and. hesitating without and simply very answered she

"We must do our duty," she said; "we must speak to my father. I will do -to it do must you -to it

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"It is very good of you to do it first," Morris answered. "The young
"!please you as just But .that does generally lover happy the man

It pleased Catherine to think that she should be brave for his sake, and
more have Women" .smile little a gave even she satisfaction her in
tact," she said "they ought to do it first. They are more conciliating;
".better persuade can they

"You will need all your powers of persuasion. But, after all," Morris
".irresistible are you" ,added

"Please don't speak that way - and promise me this. To-morrow, when you
".respectful and gentle very be will you ,father with talk

"As much so as possible," Morris promised. "It won't be much use, but I
fight to have than easily you have rather would certainly I .try shall
for you."

"Don't talk about fighting; we shall not fight."

"Ah, we must be prepared," Morris rejoined; "you especially, because for
will father your thing first the know you Do .hardest come must it you
say to you?"

"No, Morris; please tell me."

"He will tell you I am mercenary."

"Mercenary?"

"It's a big word; but it means a low thing. It means that I am after
".money your

"Oh!" murmured Catherine softly.

The exclamation was so deprecating and touching that Morris indulged in
say to sure be will he But" .affection of demonstration little another
it," he added.

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"It will be easy to be prepared for that," Catherine said. "I shall that but ,way that be may men other that mistaken is he that say simply you are not."

"You must make a great point of that, for it will be his own great ".point

Catherine looked at her lover a minute, and then she said, "I shall .added she ",rich be shall we glad am I But .him persuade

Morris turned away, looking into the crown of his hat. "No, it's a will difficulty our that from is It" .last at said he ",misfortune come."

"Well, if it is the worst misfortune, we are not so unhappy. Many people shall we that after and ,him persuade will I .bad so it think not would be very glad we have money."

Morris Townsend listened to this robust logic in silence. "I will leave defend to stoop to has man a that charge a 'it ;you to defence my himself from."

Catherine on her side was silent for a while; she was looking at him .window the of out ,fixedness of deal good a with ,looked he while "Morris," she said abruptly, "are you very sure you love me?"

He turned round, and in a moment he was bending over her. "My own "?it doubt you can ,dearest

"I have only known it five days," she said; "but now it seems to me as if ".it without do never could I

"You will never be called upon to try!" And he gave a little tender, you something is There" ,added he ,moment a in ,Then .laugh reassuring must tell me, too." She had closed her eyes after the last word she without ,head her nodded she this at and ;closed them kept and ,uttered opening them. "You must tell me," he went on, "that if your father is

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be still will you ,marriage our forbids absolutely he if ,me against dead faithful."

Catherine opened her eyes, gazing at him, and she could give no better .there read he what than promise

"You will cleave to me?" said Morris. "You know you are your own ".age of are you mistress

"Ah, Morris!" she murmured, for all answer. Or rather not for all; for he presently and ,while a it kept He .own his into hand her put she kissed her again. This is all that need be recorded of their probably would ,present been had she if ,Penniman .Mrs but ;conversation have admitted that it was as well it had not taken place beside the .Square Washington in fountain

Washington Square

Chapter XI

CATHERINE listened for her father when he came in that evening, and she beating was heart her though ,quiet sat She .study his to go him heard fast, for nearly half an hour; then she went and knocked at his door - a .apartment this of threshold the crossed never she which without ceremony On entering it now she found him in his chair beside the fire, .paper evening the and cigar a with himself entertaining

"I have something to say to you," she began very gently; and she sat down .offered that place first the in

"I shall be very happy to hear it, my dear," said her father. He at ,silence long a in ,stared she while ,her at looking ,waited waited the fire. He was curious and impatient, for he was sure she was going to was he for ,time own her take her let he but ;Townsend Morris of speak determined to be very mild.

"I am engaged to be married!" Catherine announced at last, still staring .fire the at

The Doctor was startled; the accomplished fact was more than he had he " ,me tell to right do You" .surprise no betrayed he But .expected simply said. "And who is the happy mortal whom you have honoured with "?choice your

"Mr. Morris Townsend." And as she pronounced her lover's name, Catherine his and eye grey still 'father her was saw she What .him at looked clear-cut, definite smile. She contemplated these objects for a moment, .warmer much was it ;fire the at back looked she then and

"When was this arrangement made?" the Doctor asked.

"This afternoon - two hours ago."

"Was Mr. Townsend here?"

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"Yes, father; in the front parlour." She was very glad that she was not
place taken had betrothal their of ceremony the that him tell to obliged
out there under the bare ailantus-trees.

"Is it serious?" said the Doctor.

"Very serious, father."

Her father was silent a moment. "Mr. Townsend ought to have told me."

"He means to tell you to-morrow."

"After I know all about it from you? He ought to have told me before.
"?liberty much so you left I because care 'didn I think he Does

"Oh no," said Catherine; "he knew you would care. And we have been so
".liberty the for for you to obliged much

The Doctor gave a short laugh. "You might have made a better use of it,
".Catherine

"Please don't say that, father," the girl urged softly, fixing her dull
.him upon eyes gentle and

He puffed his cigar awhile, meditatively. "You have gone very fast," he
.last at said

"Yes," Catherine answered simply; "I think we have."

Her father glanced at her an instant, removing his eyes from the fire.
".good so and simple so are You .you likes Townsend .Mr wonder 'don I"

"I don't know why it is - but he does like me. I am sure of that."

"And are you very fond of Mr. Townsend?"

"I like him very much, of course - or I shouldn't consent to marry him."

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"But you have known him a very short time, my dear."

"Oh," said Catherine, with some eagerness, "it doesn't take long to like
".begin you once when person a

"You must have begun very quickly. Was it the first time you saw
"?party 'aunt your at night that him

"I don't know, father," the girl answered. "I can't tell you about
".that

"Of course; that's your own affair. You will have observed that I have
your you left have I ,interfered not have I .principle that on acted
liberty, I have remembered that you are no longer a little girl - that you
".discretion of years at arrived have

"I feel very old - and very wise," said Catherine, smiling faintly.

"I am afraid that before long you will feel older and wiser yet. I don't
".engagement your like

"Ah!" Catherine exclaimed softly, getting up from her chair.

"No, my dear. I am sorry to give you pain; but I don't like it. You
easy too been have I .it settled you before me consulted have should
with you, and I feel as if you had taken advantage of my indulgence.
".first me to spoken have should you ,decidedly Most

Catherine hesitated a moment, and then - "It was because I was afraid you
".confessed she "!it like 'wouldn

"Ah, there it is! You had a bad conscience."

"No, I have not a bad conscience, father!" the girl cried out, with
".dreadful so anything of me accuse 'don Please" .energy considerable
These words, in fact, represented to her imagination something very
with associated she which ,cruel and base something ,indeed terrible
malefactors and prisoners. "It was because I was afraid - afraid - " she

Washington Square

.on went

"If you were afraid, it was because you had been foolish!"

"I was afraid you didn't like Mr. Townsend."

"You were quite right. I don't like him."

"Dear father, you don't know him," said Catherine, in a voice so timidly
.him touched have might it that argumentative

"Very true; I don't know him intimately. But I know him enough. I have
".either him know 'don You .him of impression my

She stood before the fire, with her hands lightly clasped in front of
,her at up looking and chair his in back leaning ,father her and ;her
made this remark with a placidity that might have been irritating.

I doubt, however, whether Catherine was irritated, though she broke into
know I ,Why" .cried she "?him know 'don I" .protest vehement a
him - better than I have ever known any one!"

"You know a part of him - what he has chosen to show you. But you don't
".rest the know

"The rest? What is the rest?"

"Whatever it may be. There is sure to be plenty of it."

"I know what you mean," said Catherine, remembering how Morris had
".mercenary is he that mean You" .her forewarned

Her father looked up at her still, with his cold, quiet reasonable eye.
wish I error an is there But !it say should I ,dear my ,it meant I If"
particularly to avoid - that of rendering Mr. Townsend more interesting to
".him about things hard saying by you

"I won't think them hard if they are true," said Catherine.

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"If you don't, you will be a remarkably sensible young woman!"

"They will be your reasons, at any rate, and you will want me to hear
".reasons your

The Doctor smiled a little. "Very true. You have a perfect right to ask
,then ,well Very" .moments few a cigar his puffed he And ".them for
without accusing Mr. Townsend of being in love only with your fortune - and
every is there that say will I expect justly you that fortune the with
reason to suppose that these good things have entered into his
happiness your for solicitude tender a than largely more calculation
strictly requires. There is, of course, nothing impossible in an
.you for affection disinterested a entertaining man young intelligent
You are an honest, amiable girl, and an intelligent young man might
this about know we that thing principal the But .out it find easily
young man - who is, indeed, very intelligent - leads us to suppose that,
money your values he ,merits personal your value may he much however
more. The principal thing we know about him is that he has led a life of
is That .so doing in own his of fortune a spent has and ,dissipation
enough for me, my dear. I wish you to marry a young man with other
Morris If .guarantees positive give could who man young a antecedents
Townsend has spent his own fortune in amusing himself, there is every
".yours spend would he that believe to reason

The Doctor delivered himself of these remarks slowly, deliberately, with
great no made which ,accent of prolongations and pauses occasional
allowance for poor Catherine's suspense as to his conclusion. She sat
and ;him upon fixed still eyes her and bent head her with ,last at down
strangely enough - I hardly know how to tell it - even while she felt that
and neatness his admired she ,her against terribly so went said he what
nobleness of expression. There was something hopeless and oppressive in
be to try must ,side her on ,too she but ;father her with argue to having
clear. He was so quiet; he was not at all angry; and she too must be
.tremble her made quiet be to effort very her But .quiet

"That is not the principal thing we know about him," she said; and there
many things other are There" .voice her in tremor her of touch a was

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other things. He has very high abilities - he wants so much to do who ,Catherine poor said ",true and ,generous and ,kind is He .something had not suspected hitherto the resources of her eloquence. "And his "!small very was spent he that fortune his fortune

"All the more reason he shouldn't have spent it," cried the Doctor, her to risen also had who ,Catherine as Then .laugh a with ,up getting feet again, stood there in her rather angular earnestness, wishing so .her kissed and him towards her drew he ,little so expressing and much "You won't think me cruel?" he said, holding her a moment.

This question was not reassuring; it seemed to Catherine, on the she But .sick feel her made which possibilities suggest to ,contrary answered coherently enough - "No, dear father; because if you knew how I so ,kind so be would you everything know you ,know must you and feel gentle."

"Yes, I think I know how you feel," the Doctor said. "I will be very ,Meanwhile -to Townsend .Mr see will I And .that of sure be kind and for the present, be so good as to mention to no one that you are ".engaged

Washington Square

Chapter XII

ON the morrow, in the afternoon, he stayed at home, awaiting Mr. .perhaps justly(him to appeared it which by proceeding a call 'Townsend for he was a very busy man) that he paid Catherine's suitor great honour, Morris .of complain to less the much so people young these both gave and presented himself with a countenance sufficiently serene - he appeared to 'Catherine solicited had he which for "insult" the forgotten have sympathy two evenings before, and Dr. Sloper lost no time in letting him .visit his for prepared been had he that know

"Catherine told me yesterday what has been going on between you," he you of becoming been have would it that say to me allow must You" .said to give me notice of your intentions before they had gone so far."

"I should have done so," Morris answered, "if you had not had so much the quite me to seems She .liberty at daughter your leaving of appearance her own mistress."

"Literally, she is. But she has not emancipated herself morally quite so left have I .me consulting without husband a choose to as ,trust I ,far her at liberty, but I have not been in the least indifferent. The truth that rapidity a with head a to come has affair little your that is surprises me. It was only the other day that Catherine made your ".acquaintance

"It was not long ago, certainly," said Morris, with great gravity. "I But .understanding an at arrive to to slow been not have we that admit that was very natural, from the moment we were sure of ourselves - and of ".her saw I time first the began Sloper Miss in interest My .other each

"Did it not by chance precede your first meeting?" the Doctor asked.

Morris looked at him an instant. "I certainly had already heard that she ".girl charming a was

"A charming girl - that's what you think her?"

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"Assuredly. Otherwise I should not be sitting here."

The Doctor meditated a moment. "My dear young man," he said at last, "a trust I have in your father's appreciation of her many good qualities; but I don't mind and your charming as her of thought never have I that you telling never expected any one else to do so."

Morris Townsend received this statement with a smile that was not wholly were I if her of think might I what know 'don I" .deference of devoid her father. I can't put myself in that place. I speak from my own point .view of

"You speak very well," said the Doctor; "but that is not all that is her of disapproved I that yesterday Catherine told I .necessary engagement."

"She let me know as much, and I was very sorry to hear it. I am greatly .floor the at looking ,awhile silence in sat Morris And ".disappointed

"Did you really expect I would say I was delighted, and throw my daughter "?arms your into

"Oh no; I had an idea you didn't like me."

"What gave you the idea?"

"The fact that I am poor."

"That has a harsh sound," said the Doctor, "but it is about the ,means of absence Your -son a as strictly you of speaking truth of a profession, of visible resources or prospects, places you in a for husband a select to me for imprudent be would it which from category my daughter, who is a weak young woman with a large fortune. In any I -son a As .you like to prepared perfectly am I capacity other abominate you!"

Washington Square

Morris Townsend listened respectfully. "I don't think Miss Sloper is a .said presently he ",woman weak

"Of course you must defend her - it's the least you can do. But I have if Even .weeks six her known have you and ,years twenty child my known she were not weak, however, you would still be a penniless man."

"Ah, yes; that is my weakness! And therefore, you mean, I am ".money 'daughter your want only I mercenary

"I don't say that. I am not obliged to say it; and to say it, save under you that simply say I .taste bad very be would ,compulsion of stress belong to the wrong category."

"But your daughter doesn't marry a category," Townsend urged, with his so is she whom individual an individual an marries She" .smile handsome good as to say she loves."

"An individual who offers so little in return!"

"Is it possible to offer more than the most tender affection and a .demanded man young the "?devotion lifelong

"It depends how we take it. It is possible to offer a few other things lifelong A .usual 'it but ,possible it is only not and ;besides devotion is measured after the fact; and meanwhile it is customary in very A ?yours are What .securities material few a give to cases these handsome face and figure, and a very good manner. They are excellent as ".enough far go 'don they but ,go they as far

"There is one thing you should add to them," said Morris; "the word of a "!gentleman

"The word of a gentleman that you will always love Catherine? You must ".that of sure be to gentleman fine very a be

"The word of a gentleman that I am not mercenary; that my affection for lodged ever was as sentiment a disinterested and pure as is Sloper Miss

Washington Square

in a human breast! I care no more for her fortune than for the ashes in
".grate that

"I take note - I take note," said the Doctor. "But having done so, I turn
take you ,lips your on vow solemn that with Even .again category our to
your place in it. There is nothing against you but an accident, if you
that seen have I ,practice medical 'years thirty my with but ;will
accidents may have far-reaching consequences."

Morris smoothed his hat - it was already remarkably glossy - and continued to
was ,admit to obliged was Doctor the as ,which -self a display
extremely creditable to him. But his disappointment was evidently keen.

"Is there nothing I can do to make you believe in me?"

"If there were I should be sorry to suggest it, for - don't you see? - I
.smiling ,Doctor the said "!you in believe to want 'don

"I would go and dig in the fields."

"That would be foolish."

"I will take the first work that offers, to-morrow."

"Do so by all means - but for your own sake, not for mine."

"I see; you think I am an idler!" Morris exclaimed, a little too much in
error his saw he But .discovery a made has who man a of tone the
immediately, and blushed.

"It doesn't matter what I think, when once I have told you I don't think
-son a as you of

But Morris persisted. "You think I would squander her money."

The Doctor smiled. "It doesn't matter, as I say; but I plead guilty to
".that

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"That's because I spent my own, I suppose," said Morris. "I frankly you tell will I .foolish been have I .wild been have I .that confess every crazy thing I ever did, if you like. There were some great follies wild my sown have I But .that concealed never have I number the among oats. Isn't there some proverb about a reformed rake? I was not a rake, oneself amused have to better is It .reformed have I you assure I but for a while and have done with it. Your daughter would never care for a one like would you that saying of liberty the take will I and ;milksoop quite as little. Besides, between my money and hers there is a great spent I that own my was it because was it ;own my spent I .difference it. And I made no debts; when it was gone I stopped. I don't owe a ".world the in penny

"Allow me to inquire what you are living on now - though I admit," the ".inconsistent is ,part my on ,question the that" ,added Doctor

"I am living on the remnants of my property," said Morris Townsend.

"Thank you!" the Doctor gravely replied.

Yes, certainly, Morris's self-control was laudable. "Even admitting I would" ,on went he " ,fortune 'Sloper Miss to importance undue an attach not that be in itself an assurance that I should take much care of it?"

"That you should take too much care would be quite as bad as that you economy your by much as suffer might Catherine .little too take should as by your extravagance."

"I think you are very unjust!" The young man made this declaration .violence without ,civilly ,decently

"It is your privilege to think so, and I surrender my reputation to you! ".you gratify I myself flatter 'don certainly I

"Don't you care a little to gratify your daughter? Do you enjoy the idea "?miserable her making of

"I am perfectly resigned to her thinking me a tyrant for a twelvemonth."

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"For a twelvemonth!" exclaimed Morris, with a laugh.

"For a lifetime, then! She may as well be miserable in that way as in
".other the

Here at last Morris lost his temper. "Ah, you are not polite, sir!" he
.cried

"You push me to it - you argue too much."

"I have a great deal at stake."

"Well, whatever it is," said the Doctor, "you have lost it!"

"Are you sure of that?" asked Morris; "are you sure your daughter will
"?up me give

"I mean, of course, you have lost it as far as I am concerned. As for
shall I as But .it of sure not am I ,no up you giving 'Catherine
strongly recommend it, as I have a great fund of respect and affection in
duty of sentiment the has she as and ,upon draw to mind 'daughter my
developed in a very high degree, I think it extremely possible."

Morris Townsend began to smooth his hat again. "I too have a fund of
.last at observed he "!upon draw to affection

The Doctor at this point showed his own first symptoms of irritation.
"?me defy to mean you Do"

"Call it what you please, sir! I mean not to give your daughter up."

The Doctor shook his head. "I haven't the least fear of your pining away
".it enjoy to made are You .life your

Morris gave a laugh. "Your opposition to my marriage is all the more
"?again me see to daughter your forbid to intend you Do !then ,cruel

Washington Square

"She is past the age at which people are forbidden, and I am not a father with break to her urge strongly shall I But .novel -old an in you."

"I don't think she will," said Morris Townsend.

"Perhaps not. But I shall have done what I could."

"She has gone too far," Morris went on.

"To retreat? Then let her stop where she is."

"Too far to stop, I mean."

The Doctor looked at him a moment; Morris had his hand on the door.

".it saying your in impertinence of deal great a is There"

"I will say no more, sir!" Morris answered; and, making his bow, he left .room the

Washington Square

Chapter XIII

IT may be thought the Doctor was too positive, and Mrs. Almond intimated him to seemed it ;impression his had he ,said he as ,But .much as sufficient, and he had no wish to modify it. He had passed his life in nineteen in and ,)trade medical the of part was it(people estimating cases out of twenty he was right.

"Perhaps Mr. Townsend is the twentieth case," Mrs. Almond suggested.

"Perhaps he is, though he doesn't look to me at all like a twentieth I ,sure make to ,and ,doubt the of benefit the him give will I But .case will go and talk with Mrs. Montgomery. She will almost certainly tell me that me to prove will she that possible just is it but ;right done have I I have made the greatest mistake of my life. If she does, I will beg Mr. kindly you as ,me meet to her invite 'needn You ,pardon 'Townsend proposed; I will write her a frank letter, telling her how matters stand, ".her see and come to leave asking and

"I am afraid the frankness will be chiefly on your side. The poor little ".be may he whatever ,brother her for up stand will woman

"Whatever he may be? I doubt that. People are not always so fond of ".brothers their

"Ah," said Mrs. Almond, "when it's a question of thirty thousand a year family a into coming

"If she stands up for him on account of the money, she will be a humbug. with time waste 'won I ,it see I If .it see shall I humbug a is she If her."

"She is not a humbug - she is an exemplary woman. She will not wish to ".selfish is he because simply trick a brother her play

"If she is worth talking to, she will sooner play him a trick than that does way the by ,Catherine seen she Has .one Catherine play should he

Washington Square

she know her?"

"Not to my knowledge. Mr. Townsend can have had no particular interest
".together them bringing in

"If she is an exemplary woman, no. But we shall see to what extent she
".description your answers

"I shall be curious to hear her description of you!" said Mrs. Almond,
"?it taking Catherine is how ,meanwhile ,And" .laugh a with

"As she takes everything - as a matter of course."

"Doesn't she make a noise? Hasn't she made a scene?"

"She is not scenic."

"I thought a love-lorn maiden was always scenic."

"A fantastic widow is more so. Lavinia has made me a speech; she thinks
".arbitrary very me

"She has a talent for being in the wrong," said Mrs. Almond. "But I am
".same the all ,Catherine for sorry very

"So am I. But she will get over it."

"You believe she will give him up?"

"I count upon it. She has such an admiration for her father."

"Oh, we know all about that! But it only makes me pity her the more. It
between choosing of effort the and ,painful more the dilemma her makes
you and her lover almost impossible."

"If she can't choose, all the better."

"Yes, but he will stand there entreating her to choose, and Lavinia will

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".side that on pull

"I am glad she is not on my side; she is capable of ruining an excellent
had she But .capsizes it boat your into gets Lavinia day The .cause
better be careful," said the Doctor. "I will have no treason in my
"!house

"I suspect she will be careful; for she is at bottom very much afraid of
".you

"They are both afraid of me - harmless as I am!" the Doctor answered. "And
"!inspire I terror salutary the on build I that that on is it

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Chapter XIV

HE wrote his frank letter to Mrs. Montgomery, who punctually answered it, and in the next moment he was in the house which at that hour he was mentioning in the Avenue. She lived in a neat little house of red brick, which had been in the neighbourhood of the city, and was distinguished by the sharp edges of the bricks, which were painted freshly white. It has now disappeared, with its companions, to make room for a row of more majestic structures of row windows, without slats, but pierced with little holes, arranged in a row with ornamental groups of bushes of mysterious character, and surrounded by a low wooden paling, like a little place. The shutters were the same as in the painted magnified baby-house, and might have been taken down from a shelf in a house as Sloper. Dr. Sloper called to him when he went to see the objects I have enumerated, that Mrs. Montgomery was a modest little person and evidently of small proportions. Her dwelling seemed to indicate that she was of small stature and had herself kept in virtuous satisfaction. She took it as a resolution that, since she might not be splendid, she would at least be precisely what she needed in her little parlour. She had expected: a small unspeckled bower, ornamented with a few drops of glass clusters and a desultory tissue of foliage which - to carry out the analogy - the temperature of the leafy season was and a dry blue flame emitting a cast of means by maintained smelling strongly of varnish. The walls were embellished with engravings and extracts of volumes with ornamented tables and gauze pink in swaths from the poets, usually bound in black cloth stamped with florid designs. The Doctor jaundiced in these details, for Mrs. Montgomery, whose conduct he pronounced under the she before ten minutes some waiting him kept in excusable circumstances appeared. At last, however, she rustled in, smoothing down a stiff poplin dress in a flushed little face with a graceless cheek.

She was a small, plump, fair woman, with a bright, clear eye, and an extraordinary neatness and briskness of air. But these qualities were evidently combined with an unaffected humility, and the Doctor gave her

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with person little brave A .her at looked had he as soon as esteem his lively perceptions, and yet a disbelief in her own talent for social, as ©√_r mental rapid his was this affairs ,practical from distinguished of Mrs. Montgomery, who, as he saw, was flattered by what she regarded as the in house red little her in ,Montgomery .Mrs .visit his of honour the Second Avenue, was a person for whom Dr. Sloper was one of the great men, agitated her fixed she while and ;York New of gentlemen fine the of one eyes upon him, while she clasped her mittened hands together in her he that herself to saying of appearance the had she ,lap poplin glossy quite answered her idea of what a distinguished guest would naturally be. .her interrupted he but ;late being for apologised She

"It doesn't matter," he said; "for while I sat here I had time to think ".begin to how mind my up make to and ,you to say to wish I what over

"Oh, do begin!" murmured Mrs. Montgomery.

"It is not so easy," said the Doctor, smiling. "You will have gathered not may you and ,questions few a you ask to wish I that letter my from find it very comfortable to answer them."

"Yes; I have thought what I should say. It is not very easy."

"But you must understand my situation - my state of mind. Your brother young a of sort what out find to wish I and ,daughter my marry to wishes man he is. A good way to do so seemed to be to come and ask you; which I ".do to proceeded have

Mrs. Montgomery evidently took the situation very seriously; she was in a which ,eyes pretty her kept She .concentration moral extreme of state were illumined by a sort of brilliant modesty, attached to his own his of each to attention earnest most the paid evidently and ,countenance words. Her expression indicated that she thought his idea of coming to to afraid really was she that but ,conception superior very a her see have opinions on strange subjects.

"I am extremely glad to see you," she said, in a tone which seemed to .question the with do to nothing had this that ,time same the at ,admit

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The Doctor took advantage of this admission. "I didn't come to see you and things disagreeable say you make to come I ;pleasure your for can't like that. What sort of a gentleman is your brother?"

Mrs. Montgomery's illuminated gaze grew vague, and began to wander. She at Doctor the that so ,answer no made time some for and ,little a smiled last became impatient. And her answer, when it came, was not ".brother 'one about talk to difficult is It" .satisfactory

"Not when one is fond of him, and when one has plenty of good to say."

"Yes, even then, when a good deal depends on it," said Mrs. Montgomery.

"Nothing depends on it, for you."

"I mean for - for - " and she hesitated.

"For your brother himself. I see!"

"I mean for Miss Sloper," said Mrs. Montgomery. The Doctor liked this; poor my If .point the 'that ;Exactly" .sincerity of accent the had it girl should marry your brother, everything - as regards her happiness - would the in creature best the is She .fellow good a being his on depend world, and she could never do him a grain of injury. He, on the other very her make might ,desire we that all be not should he if ,hand miserable. That is why I want you to throw some light upon his ,daughter My .it do to bound not are you course Of .know you ,character whom you have never seen, is nothing to you; and I, possibly, am only an tell to you to open perfectly is It .man old impertinent and indiscreet me that my visit is in very bad taste and that I had better go about my shall we think I because ;this do will you think 'don I But .business interest you, my poor girl and I. I am sure that if you were to see is she because mean 'don I .much very you interest would she ,Catherine interesting in the usual sense of the word, but because you would feel an such be would she -simple so ,soft so is She .her for sorry easy victim! A bad husband would have remarkable facilities for making the nor intelligence the neither have would she for ;miserable her

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resolution to get the better of him, and yet she would have an most his with ,Doctor the added " ,see I .suffering of power exaggerated insinuating, his most professional laugh, "you are already interested!"

"I have been interested from the moment he told me he was engaged," said .Montgomery .Mrs

"Ah! he says that - he calls it an engagement?"

"Oh, he has told me you didn't like it."

"Did he tell you that I don't like _him_?"

"Yes, he told me that too. I said I couldn't help it!" added Mrs. .Montgomery

"Of course you can't. But what you can do is to tell me I am right - to this accompanied Doctor the And " .were it as ,attestation an me give remark with another professional smile.

Mrs. Montgomery, however, smiled not at all; it was obvious that she to deal good a is That" .appeal his of view humorous the take not could ask," she said at last.

"There can be no doubt of that; and I must, in conscience, remind you of an has She .enjoy would daughter my marrying man young a advantages the income of ten thousand dollars in her own right, left her by her mother; as twice almost into come will she ,approve I husband a marries she if much more at my death."

Mrs. Montgomery listened in great earnestness to this splendid financial talked familiarly so dollars of thousands heard never had she ;statement about. She flushed a little with excitement. "Your daughter will be .softly said she " ,rich immensely

"Precisely - that's the bother of it."

"And if Morris should marry her, he - he - " And she hesitated timidly.

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"He would be master of all that money? By no means. He would be master should I but ;mother her from has she that year a thousand ten the of leave every penny of my own fortune, earned in the laborious exercise of ".institutions public to ,profession my

Mrs. Montgomery dropped her eyes at this, and sat for some time gazing at .floor her covered which matting straw the

"I suppose it seems to you," said the Doctor, laughing, "that in so doing ".trick shabby very a brother your play should I

"Not at all. That is too much money to get possession of so easily, by ".right be would it think 'don I .marrying

"It's right to get all one can. But in this case your brother wouldn't a get 'doesn she ,consent my without marries Catherine If .able be penny from my own pocket."

"Is that certain?" asked Mrs. Montgomery, looking up.

"As certain as that I sit here!"

"Even if she should pine away?"

"Even if she should pine to a shadow, which isn't probable."

"Does Morris know this?"

"I shall be most happy to inform him!" the Doctor exclaimed.

Mrs. Montgomery resumed her meditations, and her visitor, who was of spite in ,whether himself asked ,affair the to time give to prepared her little conscientious air, she was not playing into her brother's he which to ordeal the of ashamed half was he time same the At .hands had subjected her, and was touched by the gentleness with which she bore be she unless ;angry get would she" ,said he ",humbug a were she If" .it very deep indeed. It is not probable that she is as deep as that."

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"What makes you dislike Morris so much?" she presently asked, emerging from her reflections

"I don't dislike him in the least as a friend, as a companion. He seems excellent to me. I don't think he should be my fellow-charming company. I dislike him, exclusively, as a son-in-law. If the only advantage he should bring to the paternal table were that of a high value upon your brother. He dines capitally. But that is a small and protectorate to be in, which, in his function of part caretaker of my child, who is singularly ill-adapted to take care of me, I confess I don't satisfy myself that there is anything but my impression to go by; but I am in the habit of trusting my He flatly contradicts to liberty at your course. Of his impression strikes me as selfish and shallow."

Mrs. Montgomery's eyes expanded a little, and the Doctor fancied he saw in her a discovery of wonder. "I'm in admiration of light the selfish!" she exclaimed.

"Do you think he hides it so well?"

"Very well indeed," said Mrs. Montgomery. "And I think we are all rather selfish," she quickly added.

"I think so too; but I have seen people hide it better than he. You see into the classes into people dividing of habit by helped am I types. I may easily be mistaken about your brother as an individual, but his person whole his on written is type his

"He is very good-looking," said Mrs. Montgomery.

The Doctor eyed her a moment. "You women are all the same! But the type you and you of ruin the made was belongs brother your which to were made to be its handmaids and victims. The sign of the type in quiet its in terrible sometimes determination the is question intensity - to accept nothing of life but its pleasures, and to secure of men Young sex complaisant your of aid the by chiefly pleasures these

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this class never do anything for themselves that they can get other the ,devotion the ,infatuation the is it and ,them for do to people superstition of others that keeps them going. These others in friends young our What .women are hundred a of out cases -ninety chiefly insist upon is that some one else shall suffer for them; and The ".well wonderfully ,know must you as ,thing of sort that do women Doctor paused a moment, and then he added abruptly, "You have suffered"!brother your for immensely

This exclamation was abrupt, as I say, but it was also perfectly his finding not at disappointed rather been had Doctor The .calculated compact and comfortable little hostess surrounded in a more visible to said had he but ;immorality "Townsend Morris of ravages the by degree himself that this was not because the young man had spared her, but aching were They .wounds her up plaster to contrived had she because there, behind the varnished stove, the festooned engravings, beneath her ,spot tender the touch only could he if and ;bosom poplin little neat own she would make a movement that would betray her. The words I have just and ;place the upon suddenly finger his put to attempt an were quoted they had some of the success that he looked for. The tears sprang for a jerk little proud a in indulged she and ,eyes 'Montgomery .Mrs to moment of the head.

"I don't know how you have found that out!" she exclaimed.

"By a philosophic trick - by what they call induction. You know you have .question a me answer kindly But .me contradicting of option your always Don't you give your brother money? I think you ought to answer that."

"Yes, I have given him money," said Mrs. Montgomery.

"And you have not had much to give him?"

She was silent a moment. "If you ask me for a confession of poverty, ".poor very am I .made easily is that

"One would never suppose it from your - your charming house," said the and ,moderate was income your that sister my from learned I" .Doctor

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your family numerous."

"I have five children," Mrs. Montgomery observed; "but I am happy to say
".decently up them bring can I

"Of course you can - accomplished and devoted as you are! But your brother
"?suppose I ,over them counted has

"Counted them over?"

"He knows there are five, I mean. He tells me it is he that brings them
".up

Mrs. Montgomery stared a moment, and then quickly - "Oh yes; he teaches
".Spanish them

The Doctor laughed out. "That must take a great deal off your hands!
".money little very have you that ,course of ,knows also brother Your

"I have often told him so!" Mrs. Montgomery exclaimed, more unreservedly
the in comfort some taking apparently was She .spoken yet had she than
Doctor's clairvoyancy.

"Which means that you have often occasion to, and that he often sponges
I .fact a express simply I ;language my of crudity the Excuse .you on
don't ask you how much of your money he has had, it is none of my
the And ".wished I what suspected I what ascertained have I .business
Doctor got up, gently smoothing his hat. "Your brother lives on you," he
.there stood he as said

Mrs. Montgomery quickly rose from her chair, following her visitor's
certain a with ,then But .fascination of look a with movements
inconsequence - "I have never complained of him!" she said.

"You needn't protest - you have not betrayed him. But I advise you not to
".money more any him give

"Don't you see it is in my interest that he should marry a rich person?"

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rid get to wish only can I ,me on lives he ,say you as ,If" .asked she of him, and to put obstacles in the way of his marrying is to increase my ".difficulties own

"I wish very much you would come to me with your difficulties," said the can I least the ,hands your on back him throw I if ,Certainly" .Doctor do is to help you to bear the burden. If you will allow me to say so, ,present the for ,hands your in placing of liberty the take shall I ,then a certain fund for your brother's support."

Mrs. Montgomery stared; she evidently thought he was jesting; but she feelings her of complication the and ,not was he that saw presently became painful. "It seems to me that I ought to be very much offended .murmured she ",you with

"Because I have offered you money? That's a superstition," said the about talk will we and ,again you see and come me let must You" .Doctor these things. I suppose that some of your children are girls."

"I have two little girls," said Mrs. Montgomery.

"Well, when they grow up, and begin to think of taking husbands, you will .gentlemen these of character moral the about be will you anxious how see Then you will understand this visit of mine!"

"Ah, you are not to believe that Morris's moral character is bad!"

The Doctor looked at her a little, with folded arms. "There is something you hear to like should I .satisfaction moral a as like greatly should I say - 'He is abominably selfish!'"

The words came out with the grave distinctness of his voice, and they troubled 'Montgomery .Mrs poor to ,create to instant an for seemed vision, a material image. She gazed at it an instant, and then she ,all after ,is He" .exclaimed she "!sir ,me distress You" .away turned my brother, and his talents, his talents - " On these last words her voice .tears into burst had she it knew he before and ,quavered

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"His talents are first-rate!" said the Doctor. "We must find a proper
at regret his of respectfully most her assured he And "!them for field
having so greatly discomposed her. "It's all for my poor Catherine," he
".see will you and ,her know must You" .on went

Mrs. Montgomery brushed away her tears, and blushed at having shed them.
an in ,then and ;answered she ",daughter your know to like should I"
instant - "Don't let her marry him!"

Dr. Sloper went away with the words gently humming in his ears - "Don't let
had he which of satisfaction moral the him gave They "!him marry her
just spoken, and their value was the greater that they had evidently cost
.pride family 'Montgomery .Mrs little poor to pang a

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Chapter XV

HE had been puzzled by the way that Catherine carried herself; her .passive unnaturally him to seemed crisis sentimental this at attitude She had not spoken to him again after that scene in the library, the day making without elapsed had week a and ;Morris with interview his before any change in her manner. There was nothing in it that appealed for an him giving not her at disappointed little a even was he and ,pity opportunity to make up for his harshness by some manifestation of little a thought He .compensation a as operate should which liberality of offering to take her for a tour in Europe; but he was determined to do idea an had He .him reproach to mutely seem should she case in only this that she would display a talent for mute reproaches, and he was surprised said She .batteries silent these to exposed himself finding not at nothing, either tacitly or explicitly, and as she was never very poor And .reserve her in eloquence especial no now was there ,talkative Catherine was not sulky - a style of behaviour for which she had too little was she course Of .patient very simply was she ;talent histrionic thinking over her situation, and she was apparently doing so in a of best the making of view a with ,manner unimpassioned and deliberate it.

"She will do as I have bidden her," said the Doctor, and he made the I .spirit great a of woman a not was daughter his that reflexion further know not whether he had hoped for a little more resistance for the sake said had he as ,himself to said he but ;entertainment more little a of before, that though it might have its momentary alarms, paternity was, .vocation exciting an not ,all after

Catherine, meanwhile, had made a discovery of a very different sort; it be to trying in excitement great a was there that her to vivid become had a good daughter. She had an entirely new feeling, which may be described watched She .actions own her about suspense expectant of state a as herself as she would have watched another person, and wondered what she not and herself both was who ,person other this if as was It .do would herself, had suddenly sprung into being, inspiring her with a natural .functions untested of performance the to as curiosity

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"I am glad I have such a good daughter," said her father, kissing her,
.days several of lapse the after

"I am trying to be good," she answered, turning away, with a conscience
.clear altogether not

"If there is anything you would like to say to me, you know you must not
care 'shouldn I .quiet so be to obliged feel 'needn You .hesitate
that Mr. Townsend should be a frequent topic of conversation, but
very be shall I him about say to particular anything have you whenever
glad to hear it."

"Thank you," said Catherine; "I have nothing particular at present."

He never asked her whether she had seen Morris again, because he was sure
not ,fact in ,had She .him tell would she case the been had this if that
seen him, she had only written him a long letter. The letter at least
it ;Morris for long was it that ,added be may it ,and ;her for long was
consisted of five pages, in a remarkably neat and handsome hand.
of proud little a even was she and ,beautiful was handwriting 'Catherine
it; she was extremely fond of copying, and possessed volumes of extracts
exhibited had she which volumes ;accomplishment this to testified which
one day to her lover, when the bliss of feeling that she was important in
her that writing in Morris told She .keen exceptionally was eyes his
father had expressed the wish that she should not see him again, and that
up made" have should she until house the to come not would he begged she
her mind." Morris replied with a passionate epistle, in which he asked
her not Had .mind her up make to wished she ,name 'Heaven in ,what to
mind been made up two weeks before, and could it be possible that she
at down break to mean she Did ?off him throwing of idea the entertained
the very beginning of their ordeal, after all the promises of fidelity
own his of account an gave he And ?extracted and given both had she
interview with her father - an account not identical at all points with
;wrote Morris ",violent terribly was He" .pages these in offered that
"but you know my self-control. I have need of it all when I remember
".captivity cruel your upon in break to power my in it have I that
Catherine sent him, in answer to this, a note of three lines. "I am in

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and little a wait me let but ,affection my of doubt not do ;trouble great think." The idea of a struggle with her father, of setting up her will formally her kept it and ,soul her on heavy was ,own his against submissive, as a great physical weight keeps us motionless. It never she first the from but ;off lover her throw to mind her into entered tried to assure herself that there would be a peaceful way out of their of element no contained it for ,vague was assurance The .difficulty positive conviction that her father would change his mind. She only had some in would situation the ,good very be should she if that idea an mysterious manner improve. To be good, she must be patient, respectful, act any committing from and ,harshly too father her judging from abstain of open defiance. He was perhaps right, after all, to think as he did; 'Morris of judgement his that least the in not meant Catherine which by motives in seeking to marry her was perhaps a just one, but that it was be should parents conscientious that proper and natural probably suspicious and even unjust. There were probably people in the world as slightest the were there if and ,be to Morris supposed father her as bad chance of Morris being one of these sinister persons, the Doctor was she what know not could he course Of .account into it taking in right knew, how the purest love and truth were seated in the young man's eyes; such to him bringing of way a appoint might ,time its in ,Heaven but knowledge. Catherine expected a good deal of Heaven, and referred to the .dilemma her with dealing in ,say French the as ,initiative the skies She could not imagine herself imparting any kind of knowledge to her absolute and injustice his in even superior something was there ,father in his mistakes. But she could at least be good, and if she were only the things all reconciling of way some invent would Heaven ,enough good dignity of her father's errors and the sweetness of her own confidence, Morris of enjoyment the and duties filial her of performance strict the Townsend's affection. Poor Catherine would have been glad to regard Mrs. indeed herself lady this which part a ,agent illuminating an as Penniman was but imperfectly prepared to play. Mrs. Penniman took too much for ,have to drama little this of shadows sentimental the in satisfaction the moment, any great interest in dissipating them. She wished the plot own her in ,tended niece her gave she that advice the and ,thicken to imagination, to produce this result. It was rather incoherent counsel, pervaded was it but ;itself contradicted it another to day one from and by an earnest desire that Catherine should do something striking. "You

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said "act to is thing great the situation your in ;dear my ,_act_ must Mrs. Penniman, who found her niece altogether beneath her opportunities. ,marriage secret a make would girl the that was hope real 'Penniman .Mrs at which she should officiate as brideswoman or duenna. She had a vision subterranean chapel subterranean some in performed being ceremony this of chapels in New York were not frequent, but Mrs. Penniman's imagination of think to liked she couple guilty the of and trifles by chilled not was poor Catherine and her suitor as the guilty couple - being shuffled away in she where ,suburbs the in lodging obscure some to vehicle -fast a would pay them (in a thick veil) clandestine visits, where they would she after ,ultimately where and ,privation romantic of period a endure should have been their earthly providence, their intercessor, their should they ,world the with communication of medium their and ,advocate be reconciled to her brother in an artistic tableau, in which she herself recommend to yet as hesitated She .figure central the somehow be should this course to Catherine, but she attempted to draw an attractive picture young the with communication daily in was She .Townsend Morris to it of man, whom she kept informed by letters of the state of affairs in ,house the from ,said she as ,banished been had he As .Square Washington she no longer saw him; but she ended by writing to him that she longed neutral on only place take could interview This .interview an for ground, and she bethought herself greatly before selecting a place of it gave she but ,Cemetery Greenwood for inclination an had She .meeting up as too distant; she could not absent herself for so long, as she said, that but ,Battery the of thought she Then .suspicion exciting without was rather cold and windy, besides one's being exposed to intrusion from in ,appetites large with ,alight point this at who emigrants Irish the the New World and at last she fixed upon an oyster saloon in the Seventh save nothing knew she which of establishment an negro a by kept ,Avenue that she had noticed it in passing. She made an appointment with Morris enveloped ,dusk at tryst the to went she and ,there him meet to Townsend in an impenetrable veil. He kept her waiting for half an hour - he had it ,wait to liked she but traverse to city the of width whole the almost seemed to intensify the situation. She ordered a cup of tea, which suffering was she that sense a her gave this and ,bad excessively proved in a romantic cause. When Morris at last arrived, they sat together for too hardly is it and ;shop back a of corner duskiest the in hour an half much to say that this was the happiest half-hour that Mrs. Penniman had

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scarcely it and ,thrilling really was situation The .years for known seemed to her a false note when her companion asked for an oyster stew, all needed ,indeed ,Morris .eyes her before it consume to proceeded and the satisfaction that stewed oysters could give him, for it may be a of light the in Penniman .Mrs regarded he that reader the to intimated fifth wheel to his coach. He was in a state of irritation natural to a to attempt benevolent a in snubbed been had who parts fine of gentleman confer a distinction upon a young woman of inferior characteristics, and to appeared matron desiccated somewhat this of sympathy insinuating the offer him no practical relief. He thought her a humbug, and he judged of himself made and listened had He .confidence of deal good a with humbugs agreeable to her at first, in order to get a footing in Washington decently be to -self his all needed he present at and ;Square civil. It would have gratified him to tell her that she was a fantastic send and omnibus an into her put to like should he that and ,woman old her home. We know, however, that Morris possessed the virtue of be to seeking of habit constant the ,moreover ,had he and -self agreeable; so that, although Mrs. Penniman's demeanour only exasperated in deference sombre a with her to listened he ,nerves unquiet already his which she found much to admire.

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Chapter XVI

THEY had of course immediately spoken of Catherine. "Did she send me a she that think to appeared He .asked Morris "?anything or or ,message might have sent him a trinket or a lock of her hair.

Mrs. Penniman was slightly embarrassed, for she had not told her niece of 'didn I" ;said she ",message a exactly Not" .expedition intended her ask her for one, because I was afraid to - to excite her."

"I am afraid she is not very excitable!" And Morris gave a smile of some .bitterness

"She is better than that. She is steadfast - she is true!"

"Do you think she will hold fast, then?"

"To the death!"

"Oh, I hope it won't come to that," said Morris.

"We must be prepared for the worst, and that is what I wish to speak to ".about you

"What do you call the worst?"

"Well," said Mrs. Penniman, "my brother's hard, intellectual nature."

"Oh, the devil!"

"He is impervious to pity," Mrs. Penniman added, by way of explanation.

"Do you mean that he won't come round?"

"He will never be vanquished by argument. I have studied him. He will ".fact accomplished the by only vanquished be

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"The accomplished fact?"

"He will come round afterwards," said Mrs. Penniman, with extreme
"!facts by met be must he ;facts but nothing for cares He" .significance

"Well," rejoined Morris, "it is a fact that I wish to marry his daughter.
".vanquished all at not was he but ,day other the that with him met I

Mrs. Penniman was silent a little, and her smile beneath the shadow of
arranged was veil black her which of edge the on ,bonnet capacious her
curtain-wise, fixed itself upon Morris's face with a still more tender
she "!afterwards him meet and first Catherine Marry" .brilliancy
exclaimed.

"Do you recommend that?" asked the young man, frowning heavily.

She was a little frightened, but she went on with considerable boldness.
She ".marriage private a marriage private a :it see I way the is That"
repeated the phrase because she liked it.

"Do you mean that I should carry Catherine off? What do they call
"?her with elope it

"It is not a crime when you are driven to it," said Mrs. Penniman. "My
the of one ;clergyman distinguished a was ,you told have I as ,husband
most eloquent men of his day. He once married a young couple that had
in interested so was He .father 'lady young the of house the from fled
their story. He had no hesitation, and everything came out beautifully.
young the of everything thought and ,reconciled afterwards was father The
man. Mr. Penniman married them in the evening, about seven o'clock. The
was Penniman .Mr and ;see scarcely could you ,dark so was church
intensely agitated; he was so sympathetic. I don't believe he could have
".again it done

"Unfortunately Catherine and I have not Mr. Penniman to marry us," said
.Morris

"No, but you have me!" rejoined Mrs. Penniman expressively. "I can't

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".watch can I .you help can I but ,ceremony the perform

"The woman's an idiot," thought Morris; but he was obliged to say
Was" .civil more materially ,however ,not was It .different something
it in order to tell me this that you requested I would meet you here?"

Mrs. Penniman had been conscious of a certain vagueness in her errand,
long his for reward tangible very any him offer to able being not of and
walk. "I thought perhaps you would like to see one who is so near to
she " ,also And" .majesty considerable with ,observed she " ,Catherine
added, "that you would value an opportunity of sending her something."

Morris extended his empty hands with a melancholy smile. "I am greatly
".send to nothing have I but ,you to obliged

"Haven't you a _word_?" asked his companion, with her suggestive smile
.back coming

Morris frowned again. "Tell her to hold fast," he said rather curtly.

"That is a good word - a noble word. It will make her happy for many days.
her arranging ,on went Penniman .Mrs " ,brave very ,touching very is She
mantle and preparing to depart. While she was so engaged she had an
a as offer boldly could she that phrase the found She .inspiration
vindication of the step she had taken. "If you marry Catherine at all
he what being your of proof a brother my give will you" ,said she "risks
pretends to doubt."

"What he pretends to doubt?"

"Don't you know what that is?" Mrs. Penniman asked almost playfully.

"It does not concern me to know," said Morris grandly.

"Of course it makes you angry."

"I despise it," Morris declared.

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"Ah, you know what it is, then?" said Mrs. Penniman, shaking her finger
".money the like you like you that pretends He" .him at

Morris hesitated a moment; and then, as if he spoke advisedly - "I _do_
"!money the like

"Ah, but not - but not as he means it. You don't like it more than
"?Catherine

He leaned his elbows on the table and buried his head in his hands. "You
the of effect the almost was this ,indeed ,And .murmured he "!me torture
poor lady's too importunate interest in his situation.

But she insisted on making her point. "If you marry her in spite of him,
prepared are and ,him of nothing expect you that granted for take will he
to do without it. And so he will see that you are disinterested."

Morris raised his head a little, following this argument, "And what shall
"?that by gain I

"Why, that he will see that he has been wrong in thinking that you wished
".money his get to

"And seeing that I wish he would go to the deuce with it, he will leave
.Morris asked "?mean you what that Is .hospital a to it

"No, I don't mean that; though that would be very grand!" Mrs. Penniman
will he ,injustice an such you done having that mean I" .added quickly
think it his duty, at the end, to make some amends."

Morris shook his head, though it must be confessed he was a little struck
"?sentimental so is he think you Do" .idea this with

"He is not sentimental," said Mrs. Penniman; "but, to be perfectly fair
".duty of sense certain a ,way narrow own his in ,has he think I ,him to

There passed through Morris Townsend's mind a rapid wonder as to what he
of action the from to indebted be ,contingency remote a under even ,might

Washington Square

this principle in Dr. Sloper's breast, and the inquiry exhausted itself he "me to duties no has brother Your" .ludicrous the of sense his in said presently, "and I none to him."

"Ah, but he has duties to Catherine."

"Yes, but you see that on that principle Catherine has duties to him as ".well

Mrs. Penniman got up, with a melancholy sigh, as if she thought him very do ,now and ;faithfully them performed always has She" .unimaginative you think she has no duties to _you_" Mrs. Penniman always, even in .pronouns personal her italicised ,conversation

"It would sound harsh to say so! I am so grateful for her love," Morris .added

"I will tell her you said that! And now, remember that if you need me, I ,say to more nothing of think could who ,Penniman .Mrs And ".there am nodded vaguely in the direction of Washington Square.

Morris looked some moments at the sanded floor of the shop; he seemed to certain a with up looking ,last At .moment a linger to disposed be abruptness, "It is your belief that if she marries me he will cut her .asked he "?off

Mrs. Penniman stared a little, and smiled. "Why, I have explained to you to thing best the be would it end the in that happen would think I what do."

"You mean that, whatever she does, in the long run she will get the "?money

"It doesn't depend upon her, but upon you. Venture to appear as Morris .ingeniously Penniman .Mrs said "!are you as disinterested dropped his eyes on the sanded floor again, pondering this; and she .happy very were we and ,nothing had I and Penniman .Mr" .pursued Catherine, moreover, has her mother's fortune, which, at the time my

Washington Square

"one handsome very a considered was ,married -sister

"Oh, don't speak of that!" said Morris; and, indeed, it was quite
.lights its all in fact the contemplated had he for ,superfluous

"Austin married a wife with money - why shouldn't you?"

"Ah! but your brother was a doctor," Morris objected.

"Well, all young men can't be doctors!"

"I should think it an extremely loathsome profession," said Morris, with
rather on went he ,moment a in Then .independence intellectual of air an
inconsequently, "Do you suppose there is a will already made in
"?favour 'Catherine

"I suppose so - even doctors must die; and perhaps a little in mine," Mrs.
.added frankly Penniman

"And you believe he would certainly change it - as regards Catherine?"

"Yes; and then change it back again."

"Ah, but one can't depend on that!" said Morris.

"Do you want to _depend_ on it?" Mrs. Penniman asked.

Morris blushed a little. "Well, I am certainly afraid of being the cause
".Catherine to injury an of

"Ah! you must not be afraid. Be afraid of nothing, and everything will
"!well go

And then Mrs. Penniman paid for her cup of tea, and Morris paid for his
wilderness -dimly the into together out went they and ,stew oyster
of the Seventh Avenue. The dusk had closed in completely and the street
cavities which in pavement a of intervals wide by separated were lamps
and fissures played a disproportionate part. An omnibus, emblazoned with

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-cobble dislocated the over tumbling went ,pictures strange

"How will you go home?" Morris asked, following this vehicle with an arm his taken had Penniman .Mrs .eye interested

She hesitated a moment. "I think this manner would be pleasant," she .support his of value the feel him let to continued she and ;said

So he walked with her through the devious ways of the west side of the ,streets populous in nightfall gathering of bustle the through and ,town to the quiet precinct of Washington Square. They lingered a moment at white spotless a which above ,steps marble white 'Sloper .Dr of foot the door, adorned with a glittering silver plate, seemed to figure, for 'Penniman .Mrs then and ;happiness of portal closed the ,Morris companion rested a melancholy eye upon a lighted window in the upper part .house the of

"That is my room - my dear little room!" Mrs. Penniman remarked.

Morris started. "Then I needn't come walking round the Square to gaze at ".it

"That's as you please. But Catherine's is behind; two noble windows on ".street other the from them see can you think I .floor second the

"I don't want to see them, ma'am!" And Morris turned his back to the .house

"I will tell her you have been _here_, at any rate," said Mrs. Penniman, your her give will I and" ;stood they where spot the to pointing message - that she is to hold fast!"

"Oh, yes! of course. You know I write her all that."

"It seems to say more when it is spoken! And remember, if you need me, .floor third the at glanced Penniman .Mrs and ;" _there_ am I that

On this they separated, and Morris, left to himself, stood looking at the

Washington Square

round walk gloomy a took and ,away turned he which after ;moment a house
the Square, on the opposite side, close to the wooden fence. Then he
.dwelling 'Sloper .Dr of front in minute a for paused and ,back came
His eyes travelled over it; they even rested on the ruddy windows of Mrs.
.house comfortable devilish a it thought He .apartment 'Penniman

Washington Square

Chapter XVII

MRS. PENNIMAN told Catherine that evening - the two ladies were sitting in and ;Townsend Morris with interview an had had she that parlour back the on receiving this news the girl started with a sense of pain. She felt felt ever had she time first the almost was it ;moment the for angry angry. It seemed to her that her aunt was meddling; and from this came .something spoil would she that apprehension vague a

"I don't see why you should have seen him. I don't think it was right," .said Catherine

"I was so sorry for him - it seemed to me some one ought to see him."

"No one but I," said Catherine, who felt as if she were making the most instinct an had time same the at yet and ,life her of speech presumptuous that she was right in doing so.

"But you wouldn't, my dear," Aunt Lavinia rejoined; "and I didn't know ".him of become have might what

"I have not seen him, because my father has forbidden it," Catherine said .simply very

There was a simplicity in this, indeed, which fairly vexed Mrs. Penniman. keep would you suppose I ,sleep to go to you forbade father your If" awake!" she commented.

Catherine looked at her. "I don't understand you. You seem to be very ".strange

"Well, my dear, you will understand me some day!" And Mrs. Penniman, who first the from daily perused she which ,paper evening the reading was line to the last, resumed her occupation. She wrapped herself in of account an for her ask should Catherine determined was she ;silence her interview with Morris. But Catherine was silent for so long, that her to remarking of point the on was she and ;patience lost almost she

Washington Square

that she was very heartless, when the girl at last spoke.

"What did he say?" she asked.

"He said he is ready to marry you any day, in spite of everything."

Catherine made no answer to this, and Mrs. Penniman almost lost patience with Morris that information he volunteered last at which she looked again; again she looked very handsome, but terribly haggard.

"Did he seem sad?" asked her niece.

"He was dark under the eyes," said Mrs. Penniman. "So different from this in him I had seen if that sure not am I though; him I saw first I when in that condition the first time, I should not have been even more struck with his misery very his in brilliant something is There .him"

This was, to Catherine's sense, a vivid picture, and though she she "him see you did Where" .it at gazing herself felt she ,disapproved asked presently.

"In - in the Bowery; at a confectioner's," said Mrs. Penniman, who had a little a dissemble to ought she that idea general

"Whereabouts is the place?" Catherine inquired, after another pause.

"Do you wish to go there, my dear?" said her aunt.

"Oh no!" And Catherine got up from her seat and went to the fire, where .coals glowing the at while a looking stood she

"Why are you so dry, Catherine?" Mrs. Penniman said at last.

"So dry?"

"So cold - so irresponsible."

The girl turned very quickly. "Did he say that?"

Washington Square

Mrs. Penniman hesitated a moment. "I will tell you what he said. He
".afraid be would you that thing one only feared he said

"Afraid of what?"

"Afraid of your father."

Catherine turned back to the fire again, and then, after a pause, she
".father my of afraid _am_ I" said

Mrs. Penniman got quickly up from her chair and approached her niece.
"?then ,up him give to mean you Do"

Catherine for some time never moved; she kept her eyes on the coals. At
me push you do Why" .aunt her at looked and head her raised she last
so?" she asked.

"I don't push you. When have I spoken to you before?"

"It seems to me that you have spoken to me several times."

"I am afraid it is necessary, then, Catherine," said Mrs. Penniman, with
importance the feel 'don you afraid am I" .solemnity of deal good a
She paused a little; Catherine was looking at her. "The importance of
back went Penniman .Mrs And "!heart young gallant that disappointing not
to her chair, by the lamp, and, with a little jerk, picked up the evening
.again paper

Catherine stood there before the fire, with her hands behind her, looking
dark this just had never had girl the that seemed it whom to ,aunt her at
fixedness in her gaze. "I don't think you understand - or that you know
.said she ",me

"If I don't, it is not wonderful; you trust me so little."

Catherine made no attempt to deny this charge, and for some time more
the and ,restless was imagination 'Penniman .Mrs But .said was nothing

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evening paper failed on this occasion to enchain it.

"If you succumb to the dread of your father's wrath," she said, "I don't
us of become will what know

"Did he tell you to say these things to me?"

"He told me to use my influence."

"You must be mistaken," said Catherine. "He trusts me."

"I hope he may never repent of it!" And Mrs. Penniman gave a little
who ,niece her of make to what not knew She .newspaper her to slap sharp
had suddenly become stern and contradictious.

This tendency on Catherine's part was presently even more apparent. "You
she ",Townsend .Mr with appointments more any make not better much had
said. "I don't think it is right."

Mrs. Penniman rose with considerable majesty. "My poor child, are you
.inquired she "?me of jealous

"Oh, Aunt Lavinia!" murmured Catherine, blushing.

"I don't think it is your place to teach me what is right."

On this point Catherine made no concession. "It can't be right to
".deceive

"I certainly have not deceived you!"

"Yes; but I promised my father - "

"I have no doubt you promised your father. But I have promised him
"!nothing

Catherine had to admit this, and she did so in silence. "I don't believe
.last at said she ",it likes himself Townsend .Mr

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"Doesn't like meeting me?"

"Not in secret."

"It was not in secret; the place was full of people."

"But it was a secret place - away off in the Bowery."

Mrs. Penniman flinched a little. "Gentlemen enjoy such things," she
".like gentlemen what know I" .presently remarked

"My father wouldn't like it, if he knew."

"Pray, do you propose to inform him?" Mrs. Penniman inquired.

"No, Aunt Lavinia. But please don't do it again."

"If I do it again, you will inform him: is that what you mean? I do not
own my defend to how known always have I ;brother my of dread your share
position. But I shall certainly never again take any step on your
spontaneous a not were you knew I .thankless too much are you ;behalf
nature, but I believed you were firm, and I told your father that he
And "!be not will father your but disappointed am I .so you find would
with this, Mrs. Penniman offered her niece a brief good-night, and
.apartment own her to withdrew

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Chapter XVIII

CATHERINE sat alone by the parlour fire - sat there for more than an hour, foolish and aggressive her to seemed aunt Her .meditations her in lost and to see it so clearly - to judge Mrs. Penniman so positively - made her it ;weakness of imputation the resent not did She .grave and old feel made no impression on her, for she had not the sense of weakness, and she for respect immense an had She .appreciated being not at hurt not was her father, and she felt that to displease him would be a misdemeanour had purpose her but ;temple great a in profanity of act an to analogous slowly ripened, and she believed that her prayers had purified it of its her without dim burned lamp the and ,advanced evening The .violence noticing it; her eyes were fixed upon her terrible plan. She knew her time from ;evening the all there been had he that study his in was father to time she expected to hear him move. She thought he would perhaps struck clock the last At .parlour the into ,came sometimes he as ,come eleven, and the house was wrapped in silence; the servants had gone to where ,library the of door the to slowly went and up got Catherine .bed she waited a moment, motionless. Then she knocked, and then she waited turn to courage the not had she but ,her answered had father Her .again the latch. What she had said to her aunt was true enough - she was afraid that meant she weakness of sense no had she that saying in and ;him of she was not afraid of herself. She heard him move within, and he came .her for door the opened and

"What is the matter?" asked the Doctor. "You are standing there like a
".ghost

She went into the room, but it was some time before she contrived to say and -dressing his in was who ,father Her .say to come had she what slippers, had been busy at his writing-table, and after looking at her seated and went he ,speak to her for waiting and ,moments some for himself at his papers again. His back was turned to her - she began to her with ,door the near remained She .pen his of scratching the hear heart thumping beneath her bodice; and she was very glad that his back address easily more could she that her to seemed it for ,turned was herself to this portion of his person than to his face. At last she

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.spoke she while it watching ,began

"You told me that if I should have anything more to say about Mr.

".it to listen to glad be would you Townsend

"Exactly, my dear," said the Doctor, not turning round, but stopping his

.pen

Catherine wished it would go on, but she herself continued. "I thought I to like should I that but ,again him seen not have I that you tell would do so."

"To bid him good-bye?" asked the Doctor.

The girl hesitated a moment. "He is not going away."

The Doctor wheeled slowly round in his chair, with a smile that seemed to not had Catherine and ,meet extremes but ;epigram an of her accuse intended one. "It is not to bid him good-bye, then?" her father said.

"No, father, not that; at least, not for ever. I have not seen him

.repeated Catherine " ,him see to like should I but ,again

The Doctor slowly rubbed his under lip with the feather of his quill.

"Have you written to him?"

"Yes, four times."

"You have not dismissed him, then. Once would have done that."

"No," said Catherine; "I have asked him - asked him to wait."

Her father sat looking at her, and she was afraid he was going to break .cold and fine so were eyes his ;wrath into out

"You are a dear, faithful child," he said at last. "Come here to your

.her toward hands his out holding ,up got he And " .father

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The words were a surprise, and they gave her an exquisite joy. She went he then and ;soothingly ,tenderly her round arm his put he and ,him to kissed her. After this he said:

"Do you wish to make me very happy?"

"I should like to - but I am afraid I can't," Catherine answered.

"You can if you will. It all depends on your will."

"Is it to give him up?" said Catherine.

"Yes, it is to give him up."

And he held her still, with the same tenderness, looking into her face she ;silence long a was There .eyes averted her on eyes his resting and wished he would release her.

"You are happier than I, father," she said, at last.

"I have no doubt you are unhappy just now. But it is better to be never and years many for than ,it over get and months three for unhappy get over it."

"Yes, if that were so," said Catherine.

"It would be so; I am sure of that." She answered nothing, and he went solicitude my in ,tenderness my in ,wisdom my in faith no you Have" .on for your future?"

"Oh, father!" murmured the girl.

"Don't you suppose that I know something of men: their vices, their
"?falsities their ,follies

She detached herself, and turned upon him. "He is not vicious - he is not
"!false

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Her father kept looking at her with his sharp, pure eye. "You make
"?then judgement my of nothing

"I can't believe that!"

"I don't ask you to believe it, but to take it on trust."

Catherine was far from saying to herself that this was an ingenious
he has What" .squarely less the none appeal the met she but ;sophism
done - what do you know?"

"He has never done anything - he is a selfish idler."

"Oh, father, don't abuse him!" she exclaimed pleadingly.

"I don't mean to abuse him; it would be a great mistake. You may do as
.away turning ,added he " ,choose you

"I may see him again?"

"Just as you choose."

"Will you forgive me?"

"By no means."

"It will only be for once."

"I don't know what you mean by once. You must either give him up or
".acquaintance the continue

"I wish to explain - to tell him to wait."

"To wait for what?"

"Till you know him better - till you consent."

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"Don't tell him any such nonsense as that. I know him well enough, and I
".consent never shall

"But we can wait a long time," said poor Catherine, in a tone which was
her upon had which but ,conciliation humblest the express to meant
father's nerves the effect of an iteration not characterised by tact.

The Doctor answered, however, quietly enough: "Of course you can wait
.horror natural of cry a gave Catherine ".like you if ,die I till

"Your engagement will have one delightful effect upon you; it will make
".event that for impatient extremely you

Catherine stood staring, and the Doctor enjoyed the point he had made.
vague the with rather or force the with Catherine to came It
impressiveness - of a logical axiom which it was not in her province to
wholly felt she ,truth scientific a was it though ,yet and ;controvert
unable to accept it.

"I would rather not marry, if that were true," she said.

"Give me a proof of it, then; for it is beyond a question that by
".death my for wait simply you Townsend Morris to yourself engaging

She turned away, feeling sick and faint; and the Doctor went on. "And if
his what ,please you if ,judge ,impatience with it for wait you
eagerness will be!"

Catherine turned it over - her father's words had such an authority for her
dreadful a was There .him obeying of capable were thoughts very her that
ugliness in it, which seemed to glare at her through the interposing
an had she ,however ,Suddenly .reason feebler own her of medium
inspiration - she almost knew it to be an inspiration.

"If I don't marry before your death, I will not after," she said.

To her father, it must be admitted, this seemed only another epigram; and
a such select usually not does ,minds unaccomplished in ,obstinacy as

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mode of expression, he was the more surprised at this wanton play of a
.idea fixed

"Do you mean that for an impertinence?" he inquired; an inquiry of which,
.grossness the perceived quite he ,it made he as

"An impertinence? Oh, father, what terrible things you say!"

"If you don't wait for my death, you might as well marry immediately;
".for wait to else nothing is there

For some time Catherine made no answer; but finally she said:

"I think Morris - little by little - might persuade you."

"I shall never let him speak to me again. I dislike him too much."

Catherine gave a long, low sigh; she tried to stifle it, for she had made
to and ,trouble her of parade a make to wrong was it that mind her up
endeavour to act upon her father by the meretricious aid of emotion.
to inconsiderate being of sense the in wrong it thought even she ,Indeed
attempt to act upon his feelings at all; her part was to effect some
'Morris poor of perception intellectual his in change gradual ,gentle
character. But the means of effecting such a change were at present
She .hopeless and helpless miserably felt she and ,mystery in shrouded
had exhausted all arguments, all replies. Her father might have pitied
.right was he sure was he but ;so did he fact in and ,her

"There is one thing you can tell Mr. Townsend when you see him again," he
farthing a you leave 'don I ,consent my without marry you if that" :said
of money. That will interest him more than anything else you can tell
".him

"That would be very right," Catherine answered. "I ought not in that
".money your of farthing a have to case

"My dear child," the Doctor observed, laughing, "your simplicity is
of expression that with and ,tone that in ,remark that Make .touching

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countenance, to Mr. Townsend, and take a note of his answer. It won't be it as ,that of glad be shall I and ;irritation express ,will it polite will put me in the right; unless, indeed - which is perfectly possible - you ".you to rude being for better the him like should

"He will never be rude to me," said Catherine gently.

"Tell him what I say, all the same."

She looked at her father, and her quiet eyes filled with tears.

"I think I will see him, then," she murmured, in her timid voice.

"Exactly as you choose!" And he went to the door and opened it for her her turning his of sense terrible a her gave movement The .out go to off.

"It will be only once, for the present," she added, lingering a moment.

"Exactly as you choose," he repeated, standing there with his hand on the an be will you ,him see you If .think I what you told have I" .door ungrateful, cruel child; you will have given your old father the greatest ".life his of pain

This was more than the poor girl could bear; her tears overflowed, and Her .cry pitiful a with parent consistent grimly her towards moved she hands were raised in supplication, but he sternly evaded this appeal. took simply he ,shoulder his on misery her out sob her letting of Instead her by the arm and directed her course across the threshold, closing the remained he ,so done had he After .her behind firmly but gently door listening. For a long time there was no sound; he knew that she was so was he but ;said have I as ,her for sorry was He .outside standing sure he was right. At last he heard her move away, and then her footstep .stairs the upon faintly creaked

The Doctor took several turns round his study, with his hands in his of also partly but ,irritation of possibly ,sparkle thin a and ,pockets something like humour, in his eye. "By Jove," he said to himself, "I

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of idea this And "stick will she believe I stick will she believe
Catherine "sticking" appeared to have a comical side, and to offer a
see to ,himself to said he as ,determined He .entertainment of prospect
it out.

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Chapter XIX

It was for reasons connected with this determination that on the morrow he sent for her to the library, and he there informed her that he hoped very much her mind would she regard this as ,that much

"I don't know what you mean by such an expression," said his sister. ".alphabet the learning were I if as speak You"

"The alphabet of common sense is something you will never learn," the Doctor responded to himself

"Have you called me here to insult me?" Mrs. Penniman inquired.

"Not at all. Simply to advise you. You have taken up young Townsend; your ,sentiments your with do to nothing have I .affair own your 'that fancies, your affections, your delusions; but what I request of you is views my explained have I .yourself to things these keep will you that to Catherine; she understands them perfectly, and anything that she does in be will attentions 'Townsend .Mr encouraging of way the in further deliberate opposition to my wishes. Anything that you should do in the the me permit be will comfort and aid her giving of way expression - distinctly treasonable. You know high treason is a capital .penalty the incur you how care take ;offence

Mrs. Penniman threw back her head, with a certain expansion of the eye a like talk you that me to seems It" .practised occasionally she which great autocrat."

"I talk like my daughter's father."

"Not like your sister's brother!" cried Lavinia. "My dear Lavinia," said so are We .brother your am I whether wonder sometimes I" ,Doctor the extremely different. In spite of differences, however, we can, at a .now just thing essential the is that and ;other each understand ,pinch

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Walk straight with regard to Mr. Townsend; that's all I ask. It is three last the for him with corresponding been have you probable highly weeks - perhaps even seeing him. I don't ask you - you needn't tell me." He the about fib a tell to contrive would she that conviction moral a had matter, which it would disgust him to listen to. "Whatever you have ".wish I all "That .it doing stop ,done

"Don't you wish also by chance to murder our child?" Mrs. Penniman .inquired

"On the contrary, I wish to make her live and be happy."

"You will kill her; she passed a dreadful night."

"She won't die of one dreadful night, nor of a dozen. Remember that I am ".physician distinguished a

Mrs. Penniman hesitated a moment. Then she risked her retort. "Your losing already from you prevented not has physician distinguished a being _two members_ of your family!"

She had risked it, but her brother gave her such a terribly incisive her at frightened was she that lancet 'surgeon a like so look a look courage. And he answered her in words that corresponded to the look: "It ".another still of society the losing from ,either ,me prevent not may

Mrs. Penniman took herself off, with whatever air of depreciated merit girl poor the where ,room 'Catherine to repaired and ,command her at was was closeted. She knew all about her dreadful night, for the two had met .Mrs .father her left Catherine after ,before evening the ,again Penniman was on the landing of the second floor when her niece came should subtlety much so of person a that remarkable not was It .upstairs have discovered that Catherine had been shut up with the Doctor. It was to curiosity extreme an felt have should she that remarkable less still learn the result of this interview, and that this sentiment, combined to her prompted have should ,generosity and amiability great her with regret the sharp words lately exchanged between her niece and herself. a made she ,corridor dusky the in ,sight into came girl unhappy the As

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lively demonstration of sympathy. Catherine's bursting heart was equally .arms her into her taking was aunt her that knew only She .oblivious Mrs. Penniman drew her into Catherine's own room, and the two women sat head her with one younger the ;hours small the into far ,together there on the other's lap, sobbing and sobbing at first in a soundless, stifled to Penniman .Mrs gratified It .still perfectly last at then and ,manner be able to feel conscientiously that this scene virtually removed the with communion further her upon placed had Catherine which interdict Morris Townsend. She was not gratified, however, when, in coming back to and risen had Catherine that found she ,breakfast before room 'niece her was preparing herself for this meal.

"You should not go to breakfast," she said; "you are not well enough, ".night fearful your after

"Yes, I am very well, and I am only afraid of being late."

"I can't understand you!" Mrs. Penniman cried. "You should stay in bed ".days three for

"Oh, I could never do that!" said Catherine, to whom this idea presented .attractions no

Mrs. Penniman was in despair, and she noted, with extreme annoyance, that 'Catherine from vanished completely had tears 'night the of trace the eyes. She had a most impracticable _physique_. "What effect do you come you if" ,demanded aunt her " ,father your upon have to expect plumping down, without a vestige of any sort of feeling, as if nothing in "?happened had world the

"He would not like me to lie in bed," said Catherine simply.

"All the more reason for your doing it. How else do you expect to move "?him

Catherine thought a little. "I don't know how; but not in that way. I to according ,and ,dressing finished she And ".usual as just be to wish her aunt's expression, went plumping down into the paternal presence.

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.pathos consistent for modest too really was She

And yet it was perfectly true that she had had a dreadful night. Even at staring lay She .sleep no had had she her left Penniman .Mrs after the uncomfoting gloom, with her eyes and ears filled with the movement in words the of and ,room his of out her turned had father her which with which he had told her that she was a heartless daughter. Her heart was her to seemed it moments At .that for enough heart had She .breaking that she believed him, and that to do what she was doing, a girl must try would She .it help 'couldn she but ;bad _was_ She .bad be indeed to appear good, even if her heart were perverted; and from time to time ingenious by something accomplish might she that fancy a had she concessions to form, though she should persist in caring for Morris. to upon called not are we and ,indefinite were ingenuities 'Catherine expose their hollowness. The best of them perhaps showed itself in that was who ,Penniman .Mrs to discouraging so was which aspect of freshness amazed at the absence of haggardness in a young woman who for a whole was Catherine Poor .curse 'father a beneath quivering lain had night conscious of her freshness; it gave her a feeling about the future which was she that proof a seemed It .mind her upon weight the to added rather strong and solid and dense, and would live to a great age - longer than it for ,depressing was idea this and ;convenient generally be might appeared to saddle her with a pretension the more, just when the She .right doing her with inconsistent was pretension any of cultivation wrote that day to Morris Townsend, requesting him to come and see her on would She .nothing explaining and ,words few very using ;morrow the explain everything face to face.

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Chapter XX

ON the morrow, in the afternoon, she heard his voice at the door, and his and ,parlour front bright ,big the in him received She .hall the in step she instructed the servant that if any one should call she was for ,in coming 'father her of afraid not was She .engaged particularly at that hour he was always driving about town. When Morris stood there was he that was of conscious was she that thing first the ,her before even more beautiful to look at than fond recollection had painted him; free was she When .arms his in her pressed had he that was next the again it appeared to her that she had now indeed thrown herself into the to married been had she that ,instant an for ,even and ,defiance of gulf him.

He told her that she had been very cruel, and had made him very unhappy; forced which ,destiny her of difficulty the acutely felt Catherine and her to give pain in such opposite quarters. But she wished that, instead certainly was he ;help her give would he ,tender however ,reproaches of wise enough, and clever enough, to invent some issue from their troubles. he if as assurance the received Morris and ,belief this expressed She thought it natural; but he interrogated, at first - as was natural .course a out marking to himself committed than rather too

"You should not have made me wait so long," he said. "I don't know how I decided have should You .years like seemed hour every ;living been have sooner."

"Decided?" Catherine asked.

"Decided whether you would keep me or give me up."

"Oh, Morris," she cried, with a long tender murmur, "I never thought of
"!up you giving

"What, then, were you waiting for?" The young man was ardently logical.

"I thought my father might - might - " and she hesitated.

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"Might see how unhappy you were?"

"Oh no! But that he might look at it differently."

"And now you have sent for me to tell me that at last he does so. Is
"it that

This hypothetical optimism gave the poor girl a pang. "No, Morris," she
".way same the in still it at looks he" ,solemnly said

"Then why have you sent for me?"

"Because I wanted to see you!" cried Catherine piteously.

"That's an excellent reason, surely. But did you want to look at me
"me tell to nothing you Have ?only

His beautiful persuasive eyes were fixed upon her face, and she wondered
a For .that as gaze a such to make to enough noble be would answer what
moment her own eyes took it in, and then - "I _did_ want to look at you!"
her hid she ,inconsistently most ,speech this after But .gently said she
face.

Morris watched her for a moment, attentively. "Will you marry me
.suddenly asked he -to

"To-morrow?"

"Next week, then. Any time within a month."

"Isn't it better to wait?" said Catherine.

"To wait for what?"

She hardly knew for what; but this tremendous leap alarmed her. "Till we
".more little a it about thought have

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He shook his head, sadly and reproachfully. "I thought you had been your in over it turn to want you Do .weeks three these it about thinking mind for five years? You have given me more than time enough. My poor "!sincere not are you" ,moment a in added he ",girl

Catherine coloured from brow to chin, and her eyes filled with tears. .murmured she "?that say you can how ,Oh"

"Why, you must take me or leave me," said Morris, very reasonably. "You ".us between choose must you ;both me and father your please 'can

"I have chosen you!" she said passionately.

"Then marry me next week."

She stood gazing at him. "Isn't there any other way?"

"None that I know of for arriving at the same result. If there is, I ".it of hear to happy be should

Catherine could think of nothing of the kind, and Morris's luminosity her that was of think could she thing only The .pitiless almost seemed father might, after all, come round, and she articulated, with an awkward might miracle this that wish a ,so doing in helplessness her of sense happen.

"Do you think it is in the least degree likely?" Morris asked.

"It would be, if he could only know you!"

"He can know me if he will. What is to prevent it?"

"His ideas, his reasons," said Catherine. "They are so - so terribly .yet them of recollection the with trembled She ".strong

"Strong?" cried Morris. "I would rather you should think them weak."

"Oh, nothing about my father is weak!" said the girl.

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Morris turned away, walking to the window, where he stood looking out.
"I am afraid of him," he said.

"I am afraid of him," she said, "because I have no shame in it; for if it
I suppose I am to honour him as it least at least, myself to honour no was
must be," she said simply.

"Then you don't love me - not as I love you. If you fear your father more
"I am afraid of him," she said.

"Ah, my friend!" she said, going to him.

"Do I fear anything?" he demanded, turning round on her. "For your
"I am afraid of him," she said.

"You are noble - you are brave!" she answered, stopping short at a distance
"I am afraid of him," she said.

"Small good it does me, if you are so timid."

"I don't think that I am - really," said Catherine.

"I don't know what you mean by 'really.' It is really enough to make us
"I am afraid of him," she said.

"I should be strong enough to wait - to wait a long time."

"And suppose after a long time your father should hate me worse than
"I am afraid of him," she said.

"He wouldn't - he couldn't!"

"He would be touched by my fidelity? Is that what you mean? If he is so
"I am afraid of him," she said.

This was much to the point, and Catherine was struck by it. "I will try
in, she said, "I am afraid of him," she said.

Washington Square

advance, of a dutiful and responsible wife. This image could not fail to of proof give to continued he and ,Townsend Morris to itself recommend the high estimation in which he held her. It could only have been at the the that her to mentioned presently he that sentiment a such of prompting course recommended by Mrs. Penniman was an immediate union, regardless of .consequences

"Yes, Aunt Penniman would like that," Catherine said simply - and yet with ,simplicity pure in been have ,however ,must It .shrewdness certain a and from motives quite untouched by sarcasm, that, a few moments after, for message a her given had father her that Morris to say to on went she him. It was quite on her conscience to deliver this message, and had the scrupulously as have would she painful more times ten been mission performed it. "He told me to tell you - to tell you very distinctly, and not shall I ,consent his without marry I if that ,himself from directly inherit a penny of his fortune. He made a great point of this. He think to seemed he think to seemed

Morris flushed, as any young man of spirit might have flushed at an .baseness of imputation

"What did he seem to think?"

"That it would make a difference."

"It will make a difference - in many things. We shall be by many it But .difference great a is that and ;poorer the dollars of thousands will make none in my affection."

"We shall not want the money," said Catherine; "for you know I have a ".myself deal good

"Yes, my dear girl, I know you have something. And he can't touch that!"

"He would never," said Catherine. "My mother left it to me."

Morris was silent a while. "He was very positive about this, was he?" he and ,terribly me annoy would message a such thought He" .last at asked

Washington Square

make me throw off the mask, eh?"

"I don't know what he thought," said Catherine wearily.

"Please tell him that I care for his message as much as for that!" And
.sonorously fingers his snapped Morris

"I don't think I could tell him that."

"Do you know you sometimes disappoint me?" said Morris.

"I should think I might. I disappoint every one - father and Aunt
".Penniman

"Well, it doesn't matter with me, because I am fonder of you than they
".are

"Yes, Morris," said the girl, with her imagination - what there was of
no to invidious ,all after ,seemed which ,truth happy this in swimming it
one.

"Is it your belief that he will stick to it - stick to it for ever, to this
never will patience and goodness your that ?you disinheriting of idea
wear out his cruelty?"

"The trouble is that if I marry you, he will think I am not good. He
".proof a that think will

"Ah, then, he will never forgive you!"

This idea, sharply expressed by Morris's handsome lips, renewed for a
its all ,conscience pacified temporarily 'girl poor the to ,moment
dreadful vividness. "Oh, you must love me very much!" she cried.

"There is no doubt of that, my dear!" her lover rejoined. "You don't
.moment a in added he "" ,disinherited' word that like

"It isn't the money; it is that he should - that he should feel so."

Washington Square

"I suppose it seems to you a kind of curse," said Morris. "It must be you if that" .presently on went he " ,think you 'don But .dismal very were to try to be very clever, and to set rightly about it, you might in a in ,further continued he " ,think you 'Don ?away it conjure end the tone of sympathetic speculation, "that a really clever woman, in your " ?think you 'Don ?last at round him bring might ,place

Here, suddenly, Morris was interrupted; these ingenious inquiries had not all with " ,disinheritance" word terrible The .ears 'Catherine reached its impressive moral reprobation, was still ringing there; seemed indeed struck situation her of chill mortal The .lingered it as force gather to more deeply into her child-like heart, and she was overwhelmed by a to close ,there was refuge her But .danger and loneliness of feeling her, and she put out her hands to grasp it. "Ah, Morris," she said, with surrendered she And " .please you as soon as you marry will I" ,shudder a herself, leaning her head on his shoulder.

"My dear good girl!" he exclaimed, looking down at his prize. And then .eyebrows lifted and lips parted with ,vaguely rather ,again up looked he

Washington Square

Chapter XXI

DR. SLOPER very soon imparted his conviction to Mrs. Almond, in the same way, by sticking to going "She" himself to it announced had he which in terms Jove! she's going to stick."

"Do you mean that she is going to marry him?" Mrs. Almond inquired.

"I don't know that; but she is not going to break down. She is going to relent me making of hope the in engagement the out drag

"And shall you not relent?"

"Shall a geometrical proposition relent? I am not so superficial."

"Doesn't geometry treat of surfaces?" asked Mrs. Almond, who, as we know, smiling, clever was

"Yes; but it treats of them profoundly. Catherine and her young man are measure their taken have I; surfaces my

"You speak as if it surprised you."

"It is immense; there will be a great deal to observe."

"You are shockingly cold-blooded!" said Mrs. Almond.

"I need to be with all this hot blood about me. Young Townsend indeed is merit that him allow must I; cool

"I can't judge him," Mrs. Almond answered; "but I am not at all surprised Catherine at

"I confess I am a little; she must have been so deucedly divided and bothered

"Say it amuses you outright! I don't see why it should be such a joke

Washington Square

".you adores daughter your that

"It is the point where the adoration stops that I find it interesting to

".fix

"It stops where the other sentiment begins."

"Not at all - that would be simple enough. The two things are extremely third some produce will It .odd extremely is mixture the and ,up mixed element, and that's what I am waiting to see. I wait with suspense - with suppose 'didn I that emotion of sort a is that and ;excitement positive Catherine would ever provide for me. I am really very much obliged to".her

"She will cling," said Mrs. Almond; "she will certainly cling."

"Yes; as I say, she will stick."

"Cling is prettier. That's what those very simple natures always do, and many take 'doesn She .Catherine than simpler be could nothing impressions; but when she takes one she keeps it. She is like a copper 'can you but ,kettle the up polish may you ;dent a receives that kettle efface the mark."

"We must try and polish up Catherine," said the Doctor. "I will take her".Europe to

"She won't forget him in Europe."

"He will forget her, then."

Mrs. Almond looked grave. "Should you really like that?"

"Extremely!" said the Doctor.

Mrs. Penniman, meanwhile, lost little time in putting herself again in with her favour to him requested She .Townsend Morris with communication another interview, but she did not on this occasion select an oyster

Washington Square

join should he that proposed She .meeting their of scene the as saloon
her at the door of a certain church, after service on Sunday afternoon,
usually she which worship of place the appoint to not careful was she and
visited, and where, as she said, the congregation would have spied upon
its from issuing on and ,resort elegant less a out picked She .her
portal at the hour she had fixed she saw the young man standing apart.
had he and street the crossed had she till recognition no him offered She
followed her to some distance. Here, with a smile - "Excuse my apparent
.that about believe to what know You" .said she ",cordiality of want
Prudence before everything." And on his asking her in what direction
.murmured she ",observed least be shall we Where" ,walk should they

Morris was not in high good-humour, and his response to this speech was
much be shall we myself flatter 'don I" .gallant particularly not
observed anywhere." Then he turned recklessly toward the centre of the
he ",under knocked has he that me tell to come have you hope I" .town
went on.

"I am afraid I am not altogether a harbinger of good; and yet, too, I am
great a thinking been have I .peace of messenger a extent certain a to
deal, Mr. Townsend," said Mrs. Penniman.

"You think too much."

"I suppose I do; but I can't help it, my mind is so terribly active.
my ,headaches my in penalty the pay I .myself give I ,myself give I When
famous headaches - a perfect circlet of pain! But I carry it as a queen
'wouldn I ?now one have I that believe you Would .crown her carries
however, have missed our rendezvous for anything. I have something very
".you tell to important

"Well, let's have it," said Morris.

"I was perhaps a little headlong the other day in advising you to marry
a just it see I now and ,over it thinking been have I .immediately
little differently."

"You seem to have a great many different ways of seeing the same object."

Washington Square

"Their number is infinite!" said Mrs. Penniman, in a tone which seemed to .attributes brightest her of one was faculty convenient this that suggest

"I recommend you to take one way and stick to it," Morris replied.

"Ah! but it isn't easy to choose. My imagination is never quiet, never capital a me makes it but ;perhaps ,adviser bad a me makes It .satisfied friend!"

"A capital friend who gives bad advice!" said Morris.

"Not intentionally - and who hurries off, at every risk, to make the most
"!excuses humble

"Well, what do you advise me now?"

"To be very patient; to watch and wait."

"And is that bad advice or good?"

"That is not for me to say," Mrs. Penniman rejoined, with some dignity.
".sincere 'it pretend only I"

"And will you come to me next week and recommend something different and
"?sincere equally

"I may come to you next week and tell you that I am in the streets!"

"In the streets?"

"I have had a terrible scene with my brother, and he threatens, if
poor a am I know You .house the of out me turn to ,happens anything
woman."

Morris had a speculative idea that she had a little property; but he
.this press not did naturally

Washington Square

"I should be very sorry to see you suffer martyrdom for me," he said.
".Turk regular a out brother your make you But"

Mrs. Penniman hesitated a little.

"I certainly do not regard Austin as a satisfactory Christian."

"And am I to wait till he is converted?"

"Wait, at any rate, till he is less violent. Bide your time, Mr.
"!great is prize the remember ;Townsend

Morris walked along some time in silence, tapping the railings and
.stick his with sharply very gateposts

"You certainly are devilish inconsistent!" he broke out at last. "I have
".marriage private a to consent to Catherine got already

Mrs. Penniman was indeed inconsistent, for at this news she gave a little
.gratification of jump

"Oh! when and where?" she cried. And then she stopped short.

Morris was a little vague about this.

"That isn't fixed; but she consents. It's deuced awkward, now, to back
".out

Mrs. Penniman, as I say, had stopped short; and she stood there with her
.companion her on brilliantly fixed eyes

"Mr. Townsend," she proceeded, "shall I tell you something? Catherine
".anything do may you that much so you loves

This declaration was slightly ambiguous, and Morris opened his eyes.

"I am happy to hear it! But what do you mean by 'anything'?"

Washington Square

"You may postpone - you may change about; she won't think the worse of
".you

Morris stood there still, with his raised eyebrows; then he said simply
if that Penniman .Mrs to remarked he this After "!Ah" dryly rather and
she walked so slowly she would attract notice, and he succeeded, after a
had tenure her which of domicile the to back her hurrying in ,fashion
become so insecure.

Chapter XXII

HE had slightly misrepresented the matter in saying that Catherine had that declaring now just her left We .step great the take to consented she would burn her ships behind her; but Morris, after having elicited it taking not for reasons good of conscious become had ,declaration this up. He avoided, gracefully enough, fixing a day, though he left her had have may Catherine .one on eye his had he that impression the under her difficulties; but those of her circumspect suitor are also worthy of won be to only was it but ;great certainly was prize The .consideration by striking the happy mean between precipitancy and caution. It would be was Providence ;Providence to trust and jump 'one take to well very all more especially on the side of clever people, and clever people were a of reward ultimate The .bones their risk to indisposition an by known union with a young woman who was both unattractive and impoverished ought .chain palpable very some by disadvantages immediate with connected be to Between the fear of losing Catherine and her possible fortune altogether, as fortune possible this finding and soon too her taking of fear the and void of actuality as a collection of emptied bottles, it was not be should that fact a ;choose to Townsend Morris for comfortable remembered by readers disposed to judge harshly of a young man who may fine of use successful indifferently an but making as them struck have natural parts. He had not forgotten that in any event Catherine had her to meditation of abundance an devoted had he ;year a thousand ten own this circumstance. But with his fine parts he rated himself high, and he him to seemed which ,value his of appreciation definite perfectly a had inadequately represented by the sum I have mentioned. At the same time is everything that ,considerable was sum this that himself reminded he relative, and that if a modest income is less desirable than a large one, These .advantage an accounted nowhere is revenue of absence complete the reflexions gave him plenty of occupation, and made it necessary that he quantity unknown the was opposition 'Sloper .Dr .sail his trim should in the problem he had to work out. The natural way to work it out was by and ,cuts short many are there mathematics in but ;Catherine marrying Morris was not without a hope that he should yet discover one. When to attempt the renounce to consented and word his at him took Catherine mollify her father, he drew back skilfully enough, as I have said, and

Washington Square

sincerity his in faith Her .question open an still -wedding the kept was so complete that she was incapable of suspecting that he was playing an had girl poor The .kind another of was now just trouble her ;her with admirable sense of honour; and from the moment she had brought herself to had she that her to seemed it ,wish 'father her violating of point the no right to enjoy his protection. It was on her conscience that she .wisdom his to conformed she as long so only roof his under live to ought There was a great deal of glory in such a position, but poor Catherine a with lot her cast had She .it to claim her forfeited had she that felt young man against whom he had solemnly warned her, and broken the not could She .home happy a with her provided he which under contract give up the young man, so she must leave the home; and the sooner the situation her sooner the another her offered preference her of object would lose its awkward twist. This was close reasoning; but it was .penitence instinctive merely of amount infinite an with commingled Catherine's days at this time were dismal, and the weight of some of her at looked never father Her .bear could she than more almost was hours her, never spoke to her. He knew perfectly what he was about, and this was she for(dared she as much as him at looked She .plan a of part was afraid of seeming to offer herself to his observation), and she pitied and head her up held She .him upon brought had she sorrow the for him busied her hands, and went about her daily occupations; and when the her closed she ,intolerable seemed Square Washington in things of state eyes and indulged herself with an intellectual vision of the man for three the of ,Penniman .Mrs .law sacred a broken had she sake whose persons in Washington Square, had much the most of the manner that quietly was she ,quiet was Catherine If .crisis great a to belongs quiet, as I may say, and her pathetic effects, which there was no one to stiff was Doctor the If .unintended and unstudied entirely were ,notice and dry and absolutely indifferent to the presence of his companions, it him know to had have would you that ,done easily ,neatly ,lightly so was well to discover that, on the whole, he rather enjoyed having to be so and reserved elaborately was Penniman .Mrs But .disagreeable significantly silent; there was a richer rustle in the very deliberate ,spoke occasionally she when and ,herself confined she which to movements in connexion with some very trivial event, she had the air of meaning father her and Catherine Between .said she what than deeper something nothing had passed since the evening she went to speak to him in his

Washington Square

say to ought she her to seemed it him to say to something had She .study it; but she kept it back, for fear of irritating him. He also had He .first speak to not determined was he but ;her to say to something was interested, as we know, in seeing how, if she were left to herself, Townsend Morris seen had she him told she last At ".stick" would she again, and that their relations remained quite the same.

"I think we shall marry - before very long. And probably, meanwhile, I ".more not ,week a once about ;often rather him see shall

The Doctor looked at her coldly from head to foot, as if she had been a ,week a for her on rested had eyes his time first the was It .stranger which was fortunate, if that was to be their expression. "Why not three you as often as meeting your prevents What" .asked he "?day a times choose?"

She turned away a moment; there were tears in her eyes. Then she said, ".week a once better is It"

"I don't see how it is better. It is as bad as it can be. If you you ,sort that of modifications little for care I that yourself flatter are very much mistaken. It is as wrong of you to see him once a week as ,me to matters it that Not .long day all him see to be would it however."

Catherine tried to follow these words, but they seemed to lead towards a pretty marry shall we think I" .recoiled she which from horror vague soon," she repeated at last.

Her father gave her his dreadful look again, as if she were some one ".mine of concern no 'It ?that me tell you do Why" .else

"Oh, father!" she broke out, "don't you care, even if you do feel so?"

"Not a button. Once you marry, it's quite the same to me when or where hoisting by folly your for compound to think you if and ;it do you why or your flag in this way, you may spare yourself the trouble."

Washington Square

With this he turned away. But the next day he spoke to her of his own married be you Shall" .changed somewhat was manner his and ,accord within the next four or five months?" he asked.

"I don't know, father," said Catherine. "It is not very easy for us to ".minds our up make

"Put it off, then, for six months, and in the meantime I will take you to ".go to much very you like should I .Europe

It gave her such delight, after his words of the day before, to hear that heart his in had still he that and ,something do to her "like" should he any of the tenderness of preference, that she gave a little exclamation in included not was Morris that conscious became she then But .joy of this proposal, and that - as regards really going - she would greatly prefer more ,less the none ,blushed she But .him with home at remain to comfortably than she had done of late. "It would be delightful to go to and ,original not was idea the that sense a with ,remarked she ",Europe that her tone was not all it might be.

"Very well, then, we will go. Pack up your clothes."

"I had better tell Mr. Townsend," said Catherine.

Her father fixed his cold eyes upon her. "If you mean that you had ".it give will he hope to is me to remains that all ,leave his ask better

The girl was sharply touched by the pathetic ring of the words; it was ever had Doctor the speech little dramatic most the ,calculated most the uttered. She felt that it was a great thing for her, under the ;respect her him showing of opportunity fine this have to ,circumstances and yet there was something else that she felt as well, and that she so dislike you what do I if that think sometimes I" .expressed presently much, I ought not to stay with you."

"To stay with me?"

"If I live with you, I ought to obey you."

Washington Square

"If that's your theory, it's certainly mine," said the Doctor, with a dry laugh

"But if I don't obey you, I ought not to live with you - to enjoy your protection and kindness

This striking argument gave the Doctor a sudden sense of having young a of worthy than more even seemed it ;daughter his underestimated woman who had revealed the quality of unaggressive obstinacy. But it That" .much as signified he and ,deeply him displeased him displeased idea is in very bad taste," he said. "Did you get it from Mr. Townsend?"

"Oh no; it's my own!" said Catherine eagerly.

"Keep it to yourself, then," her father answered, more than ever .Europe to go should she determined

Washington Square

Chapter XXIII

IF Morris Townsend was not to be included in this journey, no more was who but ,invitation an for thankful been have would who ,Penniman .Mrs (to do her justice) bore her disappointment in a perfectly ladylike the ruins the and Raphael of works the seeing enjoy should I" .manner ruins of the Pantheon," she said to Mrs. Almond; "but, on the other hand, in months few next the for peace at and alone be to sorry be not shall I Washington Square. I want rest; I have been through so much in the last brother her that cruel rather it thought Almond .Mrs ".months four should not take poor Lavinia abroad; but she easily understood that, if it ,lover her forget Catherine make to was expedition his of purpose the was not in his interest to give his daughter this young man's best friend the visit might she ,foolish so been not had Lavinia If" .companion a as ruins of the Pantheon," she said to herself; and she continued to regret often had she that her assured latter the though even ,folly 'sister her heard the relics in question most satisfactorily described by Mr. in motive 'brother her that aware perfectly was Penniman .Mrs .Penniman undertaking a foreign tour was to lay a trap for Catherine's constancy; .niece her to frankly very conviction this imparted she and

"He thinks it will make you forget Morris," she said (she always called He .know you ,mind of out ,sight of out" ;)now "Morris" man young the thinks that all the things you will see over there will drive him out of ".thoughts your

Catherine looked greatly alarmed. "If he thinks that, I ought to tell ".beforehand him

Mrs. Penniman shook her head. "Tell him afterwards, my dear! After he ".him serve to way the "That !expense the and trouble the all had has And she added, in a softer key, that it must be delightful to think of .Pantheon the of ruins the among us love who those

Her father's displeasure had cost the girl, as we know, a great deal of without ,kind generous most and purest the of sorrow sorrow -deep a touch of resentment or rancour; but for the first time, after he had

Washington Square

charge a being for apology her brevity contemptuous such with dismissed upon him, there was a spark of anger in her grief. She had felt his her made taste bad her about speech that ;her scorched had it ;contempt ears burn for three days. During this period she was less considerate; of sense her to agreeable was it but ,one vague rather a idea an had she injury - that now she was absolved from penance, and might do what she Square the in her meet to Townsend Morris to write to chose She .chose and take her to walk about the town. If she were going to Europe out of .satisfaction this herself give least at might she ,father her to respect She felt in every way at present more free and more resolute; there was a her ,unreservedly and completely ,last at Now .her urged that force passion possessed her.

Morris met her at last, and they took a long walk. She told him .away her take to wished father her that happened had what immediately It would be for six months, to Europe; she would do absolutely what it think would he that inexpressibly hoped She .best think should Morris best she should stay at home. It was some time before he said what he There .questions many great a ,along walked they as ,asked he :thought was one that especially struck her; it seemed so incongruous.

"Should you like to see all those celebrated things over there?"

"Oh no, Morris!" said Catherine, quite deprecatingly.

"Gracious Heaven, what a dull woman!" Morris exclaimed to himself.

"He thinks I will forget you," said Catherine: "that all these things
".mind my of out you drive will

"Well, my dear, perhaps they will!"

"Please don't say that," Catherine answered gently, as they walked along.
".disappointed be will father Poor"

Morris gave a little laugh. "Yes, I verily believe that your poor father added he ",Europe seen have will you But !disappointed be will humorously. "What a take-in!"

Washington Square

"I don't care for seeing Europe," Catherine said.

"You ought to care, my dear. And it may mollify your father."

Catherine, conscious of her obstinacy, expected little of this, and could firm remaining yet and abroad going in that idea the of herself rid not she should play her father a trick. "Don't you think it would be a kind .asked she "?deception of

"Doesn't he want to deceive you?" cried Morris. "It will serve him ".go better had you think really I !right

"And not be married for so long?"

"Be married when you come back. You can buy your wedding clothes in view his explained ,tone of kindness great with ,Morris then And ".Paris of the matter. It would be a good thing that she should go; it would put and reasonable were they show would It .right the in completely them willing to wait. Once they were so sure of each other, they could afford that chance of particle a was there If ?fear to they had what wait to her father would be favourably affected by her going, that ought to of cause the be to unwilling very was Morris ,all after ,for ;it settle her being disinherited. It was not for himself, it was for her and for he but ,hard be would it ;her for wait to willing was He .children her could do it. And over there, among beautiful scenes and noble monuments, to supposed were things such ;softened be would gentleman old the perhaps exert a humanising influence. He might be touched by her gentleness, her if and ;one _that_ but sacrifice any make to willingness her ,patience she should appeal to him some day, in some celebrated spot - in Italy, say, a be should she if moonlight by ,gondola a in ,Venice in ;evening the in little clever about it and touch the right chord, perhaps he would fold was Catherine .her forgave he that her tell and arms his in her immensely struck with this conception of the affair, which seemed it viewed she though ;intellect brilliant 'lover her of worthy eminently askance in so far as it depended upon her own powers of execution. The to her to appeared moonlight by gondola a in "clever" being of idea involve elements of which her grasp was not active. But it was settled

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follow to ready was she that father her tell should she that them between him obediently anywhere, making the mental reservation that she loved .ever than more Townsend Morris

She informed the Doctor she was ready to embark, and he made rapid but ,make to farewells many had Catherine .event this for arrangements with only two of them are we actively concerned. Mrs. Penniman took a proper very her to seemed it ;journey 'niece her of view discriminating that Mr. Townsend's destined bride should wish to embellish her mind by a .tour foreign

"You leave him in good hands," she said, pressing her lips to Catherine's an was it ;foreheads 'people kissing of fond very was She(.forehead involuntary expression of sympathy with the intellectual part.) "I shall the tending ,old of vestals the of one like feel shall I ;often him see sacred flame."

"You behave beautifully about not going with us," Catherine answered, not .analogy this examine to presuming

"It is my pride that keeps me up," said Mrs. Penniman, tapping the body .ring metallic of sort a forth gave always which ,dress her of

Catherine's parting with her lover was short, and few words were .exchanged

"Shall I find you just the same when I come back?" she asked; though the .scepticism of fruit the not was question

"The same - only more so!" said Morris, smiling.

It does not enter into our scheme to narrate in detail Dr. Sloper's ,Europe of tour grand the made He .hemisphere eastern the in proceedings travelled in considerable splendour, and (as was to have been expected in to antiquity and art in much so found)cultivation high his of man a interest him, that he remained abroad, not for six months, but for his to herself accommodated ,Square Washington in ,Penniman .Mrs .twelve absence. She enjoyed her uncontested dominion in the empty house, and

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than friends their to attractive more it made she that herself flattered when her brother was at home. To Morris Townsend, at least, it would altogether was He .attractive singularly it made she that appeared have her most frequent visitor, and Mrs. Penniman was very fond of asking him back the in fireside the at one easy very a chair his had He .tea to parlour (when the great mahogany sliding-doors, with silver knobs and were ,neighbour formal more its from apartment this divided which ,hinges closed), and he used to smoke cigars in the Doctor's study, where he absent its of collections curious the over turning in hour an spent often proprietor. He thought Mrs. Penniman a goose, as we know; but he was no scanty and tastes luxurious of man young a as ,and ,himself goose resources, he found the house a perfect castle of indolence. It became her of less much saw Penniman .Mrs .member single a with club a him for sister than while the Doctor was at home; for Mrs. Almond had felt moved She .Townsend .Mr with relations her of disapproved she that her tell to had no business to be so friendly to a young man of whom their brother in levity her at surprised was Almond .Mrs and ,meanly so thought foisting a most deplorable engagement upon Catherine.

"Deplorable?" cried Lavinia. "He will make her a lovely husband!"

"I don't believe in lovely husbands," said Mrs. Almond; "I only believe they ,money 'Austin into comes she and ,her marries he If .ones good in may get on. He will be an idle, amiable, selfish, and doubtless he and money the get 'doesn she if But .fellow -good tolerably finds himself tied to her, Heaven have mercy on her! He will have none. be will he ;revenge his take and ,disappointment his for her hate will He pitiless and cruel. Woe betide poor Catherine! I recommend you to talk "!_her_ marry 'can Catherine pity a 'it ;sister his with little a

Mrs. Penniman had no appetite whatever for conversation with Mrs. the and ;cultivate to trouble no made she acquaintance whose ,Montgomery effect of this alarming forecast of her niece's destiny was to make her nature generous 'Townsend .Mr that pities thousand a indeed it think should be embittered. Bright enjoyment was his natural element, and how It ?enjoy to nothing be to prove should there if comfortable be he could became a fixed idea with Mrs. Penniman that he should yet enjoy her her that perceive to enough acuteness had she which on ,fortune 'brother

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own claim was small.

"If he doesn't leave it to Catherine, it certainly won't be to leave it
.said she ",me to

Chapter XXIV

THE Doctor, during the first six months he was abroad, never spoke to his daughter because partly and, system on partly ;difference little their of daughter he had a great many other things to think about. It was idle to attempt ,because ,inquiry direct without affections her of state the ascertain to if she had not had an expressive manner among the familiar influences of or Switzerland of mountains the from animation gather to failed she ,home the monuments of Italy. She was always her father's docile and deferential in -sight their through going associate reasonable silence, never complaining of fatigue, always ready to start at the hour indulging and criticisms foolish no making -over appointed had he in no refinements of appreciation. "She is about as intelligent as the while that being superiority main her ;said Doctor the ",shawls of bundle the bundle of shawls sometimes got lost, or tumbled out of the carriage, her But .seat ample and firm a had and ,post her at always was Catherine father had expected this, and he was not constrained to set down her had she ;depression sentimental to tourist a as limitations intellectual completely divested herself of the characteristics of a victim, and audible an uttered never she abroad were they that time whole the during sigh. He supposed she was in correspondence with Morris Townsend; but he and ,letters 'man young the saw never he for ,it about peace his held Catherine's own missives were always given to the courier to post. She came letters his but ,regularity considerable with lover her from heard enclosed in Mrs. Penniman's; so that whenever the Doctor handed her a instrument involuntary an was he ,hand 'sister his in addressed packet of the passion he condemned. Catherine made this reflexion, and six she now but ;warning him give to bound felt have would she earlier months deemed herself absolved. There was a sore spot in her heart that his own ;prompted honour thought she as him to spoke she once when made had words she would try and please him as far as she could, but she would never .secret in letters 'lover her read She .again way that speak

One day at the end of the summer, the two travellers found themselves in and ,passes the of one crossing were They .Alps the of valley lonely a on the long ascent they had got out of the carriage and had wandered much leading ,which footpath a descried Doctor the while a After .advance in

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through a transverse valley, would bring them out, as he justly supposed, way devious this followed They ascent the of point higher much a at and finally lost the path; the valley proved very wild and rough, and however, walkers good were They scramble a rather became walk their and they took their adventure easily; from time to time they stopped, about looked and stone a upon sat she then and ;rest might Catherine that her at the hard-featured rocks and the glowing sky. It was late in the had they as ,and ,on coming was night ;August of last the in ,afternoon reached a great elevation, the air was cold and sharp. In the west there the of sides the made which ,light red ,cold of suffusion great a was little valley look only the more rugged and dusky. During one of their a at ,place high some to away wandered and her left father her ,pauses distance, to get a view. He was out of sight; she sat there alone, in of ,somewhere ,murmur vague the by touched just was which ,stillness the a mountain brook. She thought of Morris Townsend, and the place was so remained father Her .away far very seemed he that lonely and desolate absent a long time; she began to wonder what had become of him. But at got she and ,twilight clear the in her towards coming ,reappeared he last up, to go on. He made no motion to proceed, however, but came close to stood and her of front in stopped He .say to something had he if as ,her looking at her, with eyes that had kept the light of the flushing low a in ,abruptly ,Then .fixed been just had they which on -snow tone, he asked her an unexpected question:

"Have you given him up?"

The question was unexpected, but Catherine was only superficially .unprepared

"No, father!" she answered.

He looked at her again for some moments, without speaking.

"Does he write to you?" he asked.

"Yes - about twice a month."

The Doctor looked up and down the valley, swinging his stick; then he

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tone low same the in ,her to said

"I am very angry."

She wondered what he meant - whether he wished to frighten her. If he did, the by abandoned ,dell melancholy ,hard this ;chosen well was place the summer light, made her feel her loneliness. She looked around her, and could she But .great was fear her moment a for ;cold grew heart her think of nothing to say, save to murmur gently, "I am sorry."

"You try my patience," her father went on, "and you ought to know what I at ,externally smooth very am I Though .man good very a not am I ,am bottom I am very passionate; and I assure you I can be very hard."

She could not think why he told her these things. Had he brought her ?plan the was What ?plan a of part it was and ,purpose on there Catherine asked herself. Was it to startle her suddenly into a The ?what of Dread ?dread by her of advantage an take to retractation place was ugly and lonely, but the place could do her no harm. There was but ,dangerous him made which ,father her about intensity still of kind a Catherine hardly went so far as to say to herself that it might be part a of hand supple ,fine ,neat the hand his fasten to plan his of distinguished physician - in her throat. Nevertheless, she receded a step. her was it And .said she ",please you anything be can you sure am I" simple belief.

"I am very angry," he replied, more sharply.

"Why has it taken you so suddenly?"

"It has not taken me suddenly. I have been raging inwardly for the last so 'It .out flare to place good a seemed this now just But .months six quiet, and we are alone."

"Yes, it's very quiet," said Catherine vaguely, looking about her.

"?carriage the to back come you 'Won"

"In a moment. Do you mean that in all this time you have not yielded an

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"?inch

"I would if I could, father; but I can't."

The Doctor looked round him too. "Should you like to be left in such a
"?starve to ,this as place

"What do you mean?" cried the girl.

"That will be your fate - that's how he will leave you."

He would not touch her, but he had touched Morris. The warmth came back
ought you and" ,out broke she " ,father ,true not is That" .heart her to
not to say it! It is not right, and it's not true!"

He shook his head slowly. "No, it's not right, because you won't believe
".carriage the to back Come .true _is_ it But .it

He turned away, and she followed him; he went faster, and was presently
turning without ,stopped he time to time from But .advance in much
round, to let her keep up with him, and she made her way forward with
first the for having of excitement the with beating heart her ,difficulty
time spoken to him in violence. By this time it had grown almost dark,
after and ,course her kept she But .him of sight losing by ended she and
a little, the valley making a sudden turn, she gained the road, where the
in ;silent and rigid ,father her sat it In .waiting stood carriage
silence, too, she took her place beside him.

It seemed to her, later, in looking back upon all this, that for days
had scene The .them between exchanged been had word a not afterwards
been a strange one, but it had not permanently affected her feeling
should he that ,all after ,natural was it for ,father her towards
occasionally make a scene of some kind, and he had let her alone for six
good a not was he said had he that was it of part strangest The .months
man; Catherine wondered a great deal what he had meant by that. The
to grateful not was it and ,credence her to appeal to failed statement
any resentment that she entertained. Even in the utmost bitterness that
less him think to satisfaction no her give would it ,feel might she

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complete. Such a saying as that was a part of his great subtlety - men so being his to as And .anything mean and anything say might he as clever hard, that surely, in a man, was a virtue.

He let her alone for six months more - six months during which she .tour their of extension the to protest a without herself accommodated But he spoke again at the end of this time; it was at the very last, the They .Liverpool at hotel the in ,York New for embarked they before night had been dining together in a great dim, musty sitting-room; and then the .down and up slowly walked Doctor the and ,removed been had cloth Catherine at last took her candle to go to bed, but her father motioned .stay to her

"What do you mean to do when you get home?" he asked, while she stood .hand her in candle her with there

"Do you mean about Mr. Townsend?"

"About Mr. Townsend."

"We shall probably marry."

The Doctor took several turns again while she waited. "Do you hear from "?ever as much as him

"Yes; twice a month," said Catherine promptly.

"And does he always talk about marriage?"

"Oh yes! That is, he talks about other things too, but he always says ".that about something

"I am glad to hear he varies his subjects; his letters might otherwise be ".monotonous

"He writes beautifully," said Catherine, who was very glad of a chance to .it say

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"They always write beautifully. However, in a given case that doesn't with off going are you ,arrive you as soon as ,So .merit the diminish him?"

This seemed a rather gross way of putting it, and something that there we till you tell cannot I" .it resented Catherine in dignity of was arrive," she said.

"That's reasonable enough," her father answered. "That's all I ask of poor a When .notice definite me give you that ,me tell _do_ you that you man is to lose his only child, he likes to have an inkling of it ".beforehand

"Oh, father, you will not lose me!" Catherine said, spilling her -candle

"Three days before will do," he went on, "if you are in a position to be have I .know you do ,me to thankful very be to ought He .then positive done a mighty good thing for him in taking you abroad; your value is .acquired have you that taste and knowledge the all with ,great as twice A year ago, you were perhaps a little limited - a little rustic; but now a be will you and ,everything appreciated and ,everything seen have you most entertaining companion. We have fattened the sheep for him before .door blank the at staring stood and ,away turned Catherine "!it kills he "Go to bed," said her father; "and, as we don't go aboard till noon, you ".voyage uncomfortable most a have probably shall We .late sleep may

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Chapter XXV

THE voyage was indeed uncomfortable, and Catherine, on arriving in New York, found her father in a state of "off going" of compensation the not had with Morris Townsend. She saw him, however, the day after she landed; between conversation of subject natural a formed he, meantime the in, and our heroine and her Aunt Lavinia, with whom, the night she disembarked, she rested to retired lady either before time long a for closeted was girl the

"I have seen a great deal of him," said Mrs. Penniman. "He is not very dear to me, but you know you think you suppose I know to easy. You will some day; but it will only be after you have lived with him. I while, proceeded Penniman. "Mrs. " "him with lived have _I_ say almost may Catherine stared. "I think I know him now; I have had such remarkable opportunities and Aunt Lavinia smiled. "Then you will see what I mean. It's a true as just and, energy and passion of full, character wonderful

Catherine listened with a mixture of interest and apprehension. Aunt Lavinia, year past the for, Catherine and, sympathetic intensely was Lavinia while she wandered through foreign galleries and churches, and rolled never that thoughts the nursing, roads posting of smoothness the over passed her lips, had often longed for the company of some intelligent moments at woman kind some to story her tell To. sex own her of person it seemed to her that this would give her comfort, and she had more than person young nice the or, landlady the taking of point the on been once from the dressmaker's, into her confidence. If a woman had been near her of fit a to companion a such treated have occasions certain on would she weeping; and she had an apprehension that, on her return, this would form two the, however, fact In. embrace first 'Lavinia Aunt to response her ladies had met, in Washington Square, without tears, and when they found emotion 'girl the upon fell dryness certain a together alone themselves It came over her with a greater force that Mrs. Penniman had enjoyed a to her to pleasure a not was it and, society 'lover her of year whole hear her aunt explain and interpret the young man, speaking of him as if was Catherine that not was It. supreme were him of knowledge own her jealous; but her sense of Mrs. Penniman's innocent falsity, which had

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was she that glad was she and ,again her haunt to began ,dormant lain safely at home. With this, however, it was a blessing to be able to talk to unjust not was who person a with be to ,name his sound to ,Morris of him.

"You have been very kind to him," said Catherine. "He has written me .Lavinia Aunt ,that forget never shall I .often ,that

"I have done what I could; it has been very little. To let him come and Almond Aunt Your .all was that tea of cup his him give and ,me to talk thought it was too much, and used to scold me terribly; but she promised .me betray to not ,least at ,me

"To betray you?"

"Not to tell your father. He used to sit in your father's study!" said .laugh little a with ,Penniman .Mrs

Catherine was silent a moment. This idea was disagreeable to her, and .habits secretive 'aunt her of ,pain with ,again reminded was she Morris, the reader may be informed, had had the tact not to tell her that and ,months few a for but her known had He .study 'father her in sat he her aunt had known her for fifteen years; and yet he would not have made .thing the of joke the see would Catherine that thinking of mistake the "I am sorry you made him go into father's room," she said, after a while.

"I didn't make him go; he went himself. He liked to look at the books, he ;them about all knows He .cases glass the in things those all and knows all about everything."

Catherine was silent again; then, "I wish he had found some employment," .said she

"He has found some employment! It's beautiful news, and he told me to a with partnership into gone has He .arrived you as soon as you tell commission merchant. It was all settled, quite suddenly, a week ago."

This seemed to Catherine indeed beautiful news; it had a fine prosperous

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was she ,moment a for ,now and ;said she "!glad so 'I ,Oh" .air disposed to throw herself on Aunt Lavinia's neck.

"It's much better than being under some one; and he has never been used they partner his as good as just is He" .on went Penniman .Mrs ",that to are perfectly equal! You see how right he was to wait. I should like to Duane in office an got have They !now say can father your what know Street, and little printed cards; he brought me one to show me. I have said he what 'That -to it see shall you and ,room my in it got to me the last time he was here - 'You see how right I was to wait!' He could He .subordinate a being of instead ,him under people other got has never be a subordinate; I have often told him I could never think of him ".way that in

Catherine assented to this proposition, and was very happy to know that of satisfaction the of deprived was she but ;master own his was Morris thinking that she might communicate this news in triumph to her father. in established were Morris whether little equally care would father Her business or transported for life. Her trunks had been brought into her ,suspended time short a for was lover her to reference further and ,room while she opened them and displayed to her aunt some of the spoils of brought had Catherine and ;abundant and rich were These .travel foreign home a present to every one - to every one save Morris, to whom she had been had she Penniman .Mrs To .heart undiverted her simply brought lavishly generous, and Aunt Lavinia spent half an hour in unfolding and She .taste and gratitude of ejaculations little with ,again folding marched about for some time in a splendid cashmere shawl, which Catherine down twisting and ,shoulders her on it settling ,accept to her begged had her head to see how low the point descended behind.

"I shall regard it only as a loan," she said. "I will leave it to you will I" ,again niece her kissing ,added she ",rather or ;die I when again leave it to your first-born little girl!" And draped in her shawl, she .smiling there stood

"You had better wait till she comes," said Catherine.

"I don't like the way you say that," Mrs. Penniman rejoined, in a moment.

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"?changed you are ,Catherine"

"No; I am the same."

"You have not swerved a line?"

"I am exactly the same," Catherine repeated, wishing her aunt were a .sympathetic less little

"Well, I am glad!" and Mrs. Penniman surveyed her cashmere in the glass. her on eyes her with ,moment a in asked she "?father your is How" ,Then niece. "Your letters were so meagre - I could never tell!"

"Father is very well."

"Ah, you know what I mean," said Mrs. Penniman, with a dignity to which "!implacable still he Is" .effect richer a gave cashmere the

"Oh yes!"

"Quite unchanged?"

"He is, if possible, more firm."

Mrs. Penniman took off her great shawl, and slowly folded it up. "That "?project little your with success no had You .bad very is

"What little project?"

"Morris told me all about it. The idea of turning the tables on him, in some by impressed agreeably was he when ,him watching of ;Europe celebrated sight - he pretends to be so artistic, you know - and then just ".round him bringing and him with pleading

"I never tried it. It was Morris's idea; but if he had been with us, in .way that in impressed never was father that seen have would he ,Europe He _is_ artistic - tremendously artistic; but the more celebrated places we to been have would it use less the ,them admired he more the and ,visited

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plead with him. They seemed only to make him more determined - more I and ,round him bring never shall I" .Catherine poor said " ,terrible expect nothing now."

"Well, I must say," Mrs. Penniman answered, "I never supposed you were ".up it give to going

"I have given it up. I don't care now."

"You have grown very brave," said Mrs. Penniman, with a short laugh. "I ".property your sacrifice to you advise 'didn

"Yes, I am braver than I was. You asked me if I had changed; I have .much very changed have I" ,on went girl the " ,Oh .way that in changed And it isn't my property. If _he_ doesn't care for it, why should I?"

Mrs. Penniman hesitated. "Perhaps he does care for it."

"He cares for it for my sake, because he doesn't want to injure me. But .that about afraid be need he little how already knows he know will he Besides," said Catherine, "I have got plenty of money of my own. We am I ?business his got he 'hasn now and ;off well very be shall delighted about that business." She went on talking, showing a good deal just with her seen never had aunt Her .proceeded she as excitement of this manner, and Mrs. Penniman, observing her, set it down to foreign also thought She .mature more ,positive more her made had which ,travel that Catherine had improved in appearance; she looked rather handsome. .that with struck be would Townsend Morris whether wondered Penniman .Mrs While she was engaged in this speculation, Catherine broke out, with a You ?Penniman Aunt ,contradictory so you are Why" ,sharpness certain seem to think one thing at one time, and another at another. A year ago, ;father displeasing about mind to not me wished you ,away went I before and now you seem to recommend me to take another line. You change about ".so

This attack was unexpected, for Mrs. Penniman was not used, in any possibly country own her into carried war the seeing to ,discussion because the enemy generally had doubts of finding subsistence there. To

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been rarely had reason her of fields flowery the ,consciousness own her ravaged by a hostile force. It was perhaps on this account that in .agile than rather majestic was she them defending

"I don't know what you accuse me of, save of being too deeply interested am I told been have I time first the is It .happiness your in capricious. That fault is not what I am usually reproached with."

"You were angry last year that I wouldn't marry immediately, and now you him serve would it me told You .over father my winning my about talk right if he should take me to Europe for nothing. Well, he has taken me nothing changed is Nothing .satisfied be to ought you and ,nothing for but my feeling about father. I don't mind nearly so much now. I have .either care 'don I Now .care 'doesn he but ,could I as good as been I don't know whether I have grown bad; perhaps I have. But I don't care ought That .know I all 'that married be to home come have I .that for to please you, unless you have taken up some new idea; you are so again me to speak never must you but ;please you as do may You .strange about pleading with father. I shall never plead with him for anything; ".married be to home come am I .off me put has He .over all is that

This was a more authoritative speech than she had ever heard on her was She .startled proportionately was Penniman .Mrs and ,lips 'niece indeed a little awestruck, and the force of the girl's emotion and she and ,frightened easily was She .reply to nothing her left resolution always carried off her discomfiture by a concession; a concession which .laugh nervous little a by ,case present the in as ,accompanied often was

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Chapter XXVI

IF she had disturbed her niece's temper - she began from this moment up which article an ,temper 'Catherine about deal good a talk to forward to that time had never been mentioned in connexion with our her recover to ,morrow the on ,opportunity had Catherine heroine serenity. Mrs. Penniman had given her a message from Morris Townsend, to her after day the on home her welcome and come would he that effect the arrival. He came in the afternoon; but, as may be imagined, he was not and coming been had He .study 'Sloper .Dr of free made occasion this on going, for the past year, so comfortably and irresponsibly, that he had a must he that reminded himself finding by wronged being of sense certain now limit his horizon to the front parlour, which was Catherine's .province particular

"I am very glad you have come back," he said; "it makes me very happy to though ;foot to head from ,smiling ,her at looked he And ".again you see it did not appear, afterwards, that he agreed with Mrs. Penniman (who, .embellished her thinking in)details into more went ,womanlike

To Catherine he appeared resplendent; it was some time before she could exclusive own her was man young beautiful this that again believe property. They had a great deal of characteristic lovers' talk - a soft an had Morris matters these In .assurances and inquiries of exchange excellent grace, which flung a picturesque interest even over the account his which to as subject a business commission the in ©√d his of companion earnestly questioned him. From time to time he got up from the he which after ;room the about walked and ,together sat they where sofa came back, smiling and passing his hand through his hair. He was a to reunited been just has who man young a in natural was as ,unquiet long-absent mistress, and Catherine made the reflexion that she had never .fact this note to ,somehow ,pleasure her gave It .excited so him seen He asked her questions about her travels, to some of which she was unable her of order the and ,places of names the forgotten had she for ,reply to father's journey. But for the moment she was so happy, so lifted up by be to forgot she that ,over were last at troubles her that belief the ashamed of her meagre answers. It seemed to her now that she could marry

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that those save tremor single a or scruple a of remnant the without him belonged to joy. Without waiting for him to ask, she told him that her not had he that mind of state same the exactly in back come had father yielded an inch.

"We must not expect it now," she said, "and we must do without it."

Morris sat looking and smiling. "My poor dear girl!" he exclaimed.

"You mustn't pity me," said Catherine; "I don't mind it now - I am used to".it

Morris continued to smile, and then he got up and walked about again. "I'll try to let you be better than I am"

"Try to bring him over? You would only make him worse," Catherine .resolutely answered

"You say that because I managed it so badly before. But I should manage .it of think to year a had have I ;wiser much am I .now differently it I have more tact."

"Is that what you have been thinking of for a year?"

"Much of the time. You see, the idea sticks in my crop. I don't like to ".beaten be

"How are you beaten if we marry?"

"Of course, I am not beaten on the main issue; but I am, don't you see, relations my of ,reputation my of question the on it of rest the all on with your father, of my relations with my own children, if we should have ".any

"We shall have enough for our children - we shall have enough for "?business in succeed to expect you 'Don .everything

"Brilliantly, and we shall certainly be very comfortable. But it isn't

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said "comfort moral the of is it ;speak I comfort material mere the of Morris - "of the intellectual satisfaction!"

"I have great moral comfort now," Catherine declared, very simply.

"Of course you have. But with me it is different. I have staked my at am I that now and ;wrong is he that father your to proving on pride the head of a flourishing business, I can deal with him as an equal. I "!him at go me let do plan capital a have

He stood before her with his bright face, his jaunty air, his hands in Please" .own his on resting eyes her with ,up got she and ;pockets his don't, Morris; please don't," she said; and there was a certain mild, sad no ask must We" .time first the for heard he which tone her in firmness favours of him - we must ask nothing more. He won't relent, and nothing ".reason good very a have I now it know I .it of come will good

"And pray; what is your reason?"

She hesitated to bring it out, but at last it came. "He is not very fond "!me of

"Oh, bother!" cried Morris angrily.

"I wouldn't say such a thing without being sure. I saw it, I felt it, in last the night one me to talked He .away came he before just ,England night; and then it came over me. You can tell when a person feels that 'don I .way that feel me made 'hadn he if him accuse 'wouldn I .way accuse him; I just tell you that that's how it is. He can't help it; we to that say he 'mightn ?mine govern I Do .affections our govern 'can me? It's because he is so fond of my mother, whom we lost so long ago. of thinking always is he ;brilliant very ,very and ,beautiful was She her. I am not at all like her; Aunt Penniman has told me that. Of ,is mean I All .fault his it is neither but ;fault my 'isn it ,course it's true; and it's a stronger reason for his never being reconciled than ".you for dislike his simply

"Simply?" cried Morris, with a laugh, "I am much obliged for that!"

Washington Square

"I don't mind about his disliking you now; I mind everything less. I
".father my from separated feel I ;differently feel

"Upon my word," said Morris, "you are a queer family!"

"Don't say that - don't say anything unkind," the girl entreated. "You
hesitated she and " ,because Morris ,because ,now me to kind very be must
a moment - "because I have done a great deal for you."

"Oh, I know that, my dear!"

She had spoken up to this moment without vehemence or outward sign of
emotion her But .explain to trying only ,reasoningly ,gently ,emotion
had been ineffectually smothered, and it betrayed itself at last in the
that like separated be to thing great a is It" .voice her of trembling
from your father, when you have worshipped him before. It has made me
can You .you love 'didn I if so me made have would it or ;unhappy very
tell when a person speaks to you as if - as if - "

"As if what?"

"As if they despised you!" said Catherine passionately. "He spoke that
I and ,enough was it but ,much 'wasn It .sailed we before night the way
thought of it on the voyage, all the time. Then I made up my mind. I
It .him from anything expect or ,again anything for him ask never will
would not be natural now. We must be very happy together, and we must
must you ,Morris ,Morris And .forgiveness his upon depend to seem not
never despise me!"

This was an easy promise to make, and Morris made it with fine effect.
.onerous more nothing undertook he moment the for But

Washington Square

Chapter XXVII

THE Doctor, of course, on his return, had a good deal of talk with his sisters to or travels his narrate to pains great no at was He .sisters communicate his impressions of distant lands to Mrs. Penniman, upon whom ,experience enviable his of memento a bestowing with himself contented he in the shape of a velvet gown. But he conversed with her at some length was he that her assuring in time no lost and ,home nearer matters about still an inflexible father.

"I have no doubt you have seen a great deal of Mr. Townsend, and done ask 'don I" .said he ",absence 'Catherine for him console to best your you, and you needn't deny it. I wouldn't put the question to you for the an excogitate a to having of inconvenience the to you expose and ,world answer. No one has betrayed you, and there has been no spy upon your you mentioned never has and ,tales no told has Elizabeth .proceedings except to praise your good looks and good spirits. The thing is simply seems It .say philosophers the as ,induction an own my of inference an to me likely that you would have offered an asylum to an interesting is there ;house the in deal good a been has Townsend .Mr .sufferer something in the house that tells me so. We doctors, you know, end by he that sensorium my upon impressed is it and ,perceptions fine acquiring has sat in these chairs, in a very easy attitude, and warmed himself at he one only the is it ;it of comfort the him grudge 'don I .fire that will ever enjoy at my expense. It seems likely, indeed, that I shall be to said have may you what know 'don I .own his at economise to able him, or what you may say hereafter; but I should like you to know that if hanging by anything gain will he that believe to him encouraged have you on, or that I have budged a hair's-breadth from the position I took up a .reparation exact may he which for trick a him played have you ,ago year I'm not sure that he may not bring a suit against you. Of course you can I that believe yourself made have you ;conscientiously it done have be tired out. This is the most baseless hallucination that ever visited as am I ;tired least the in not am I .optimist genial a of brain the fresh as when I started; I am good for fifty years yet. Catherine we so ;fresh equally is she ;either inch an budged have to not appears are about where we were before. This, however, you know as well as I.

Washington Square

Take !mind of state own my of notice you give to simply is wish I What
it to heart, dear Lavinia. Beware of the just resentment of a deluded
-fortune

"I can't say I expected it," said Mrs. Penniman. "And I had a sort of
tone ironical odious that without home come would you that hope foolish
with which you treat the most sacred subjects."

"Don't undervalue irony, it is often of great use. It is not, however,
.aside it lay can I gracefully how you show will I and ,necessary always
I should like to know whether you think Morris Townsend will hang on."

"I will answer you with your own weapons," said Mrs. Penniman. "You had
"!see and wait better

"Do you call such a speech as that one of my own weapons? I never said
".rough so anything

"He will hang on long enough to make you very uncomfortable, then."

"My dear Lavinia," exclaimed the Doctor, "do you call that irony? I call
".pugilism it

Mrs. Penniman, however, in spite of her pugilism, was a good deal
meanwhile brother Her .fears her of counsel took she and ,frightened
took counsel, with many reservations, of Mrs. Almond, to whom he was no
.communicative more deal good a and ,Lavinia to than generous less

"I suppose she has had him there all the while," he said. "I must look
have I ;now me telling mind 'needn You !wine my of state the into
already said all I mean to say to her on the subject."

"I believe he was in the house a good deal," Mrs. Almond answered. "But
change great a was alone quite Lavinia leaving your that admit must you
for her, and that it was natural she should want some society."

"I do admit that, and that is why I shall make no row about the wine; I
telling of capable is She .Lavinia to compensation as down it set shall

Washington Square

me that she drank it all herself. Think of the inconceivable bad taste, coming or house the with free making fellow that of ,circumstances the in there at all! If that doesn't describe him, he is indescribable."

"His plan is to get what he can. Lavinia will have supported him for a .gained much so 'It" .Almond .Mrs said " ,year

"She will have to support him for the rest of his life, then!" cried the 'd _tables the at say they as ,wine without But" .Doctor

"Catherine tells me he has set up a business, and is making a great deal ".money of

The Doctor stared. "She has not told me that - and Lavinia didn't deign. all for ,matters it that Not .up me given has Catherine" ,cried he "!Ah that the business amounts to."

"She has not given up Mr. Townsend," said Mrs. Almond. "I saw that in ".same the exactly home come has She .minute half first the

"Exactly the same; not a grain more intelligent. She didn't notice a not ,view a nor picture a not away were we while the all stone a or stick a statue nor a cathedral."

"How could she notice? She had other things to think of; they are never ".much very me touches She .mind her of out instant an for

"She would touch me if she didn't irritate me. That's the effect she has quite been have really I ;her upon everything tried have I .now me upon merciless. But it is of no use whatever; she is absolutely _glued_. I had I first At .stage exasperated the into ,consequence in ,passed have a good deal of a certain genial curiosity about it; I wanted to see if I !satisfied is curiosity 'one ,Lord good ,But .stick would really she see she is capable of it, and now she can let go."

"She will never let go," said Mrs. Almond.

"Take care, or you will exasperate me too. If she doesn't let go, she

Washington Square

position nice a "That !dust the into tumbling sent off shaken be will
for my daughter. She can't see that if you are going to be pushed you
".bruises her of complain will she then And ,jump better had

"She will never complain," said Mrs. Almond.

"That I shall object to even more. But the deuce will be that I can't
".anything prevent

"If she is to have a fall," said Mrs. Almond, with a gentle laugh, "we
by idea this out carried she And ".can we as carpets many as spread must
showing a great deal of motherly kindness to the girl.

Mrs. Penniman immediately wrote to Morris Townsend. The intimacy between
with myself content must I but ,consummate time this by was two these
noting but a few of its features. Mrs. Penniman's own share in it was a
in which but ,misinterpreted been have might which ,sentiment singular
itself was not discreditable to the poor lady. It was a romantic
not was it yet and ,man young unfortunate and attractive this in interest
such an interest as Catherine might have been jealous of. Mrs. Penniman
if as felt she ,herself For .niece her of jealousy of particle a not had
she were Morris's mother or sister - a mother or sister of an emotional
and comfortable him make to desire absorbing an had she and temperament
happy. She had striven to do so during the year that her brother left
success the with attended been had efforts her and ,field open an her
that has been pointed out. She had never had a child of her own, and
that importance the with invest to best her done had she whom ,Catherine
would naturally belong to a youthful Penniman, had only partly rewarded
never had ,solicitude and affection of object an as ,Catherine .zeal her
had that picturesque charm which (as it seemed to her) would have been a
.Mrs in passion maternal the Even .progeny own her of attribute natural
Penniman would have been romantic and factitious, and Catherine was not
of fond as was Penniman .Mrs .passion romantic a inspire to constituted
her as ever, but she had grown to feel that with Catherine she lacked
had she though(had she ,therefore ,speaking Sentimentally .opportunity
not disinherited her niece) adopted Morris Townsend, who gave her
a have to happy very been have would She .abundance in opportunity
handsome and tyrannical son, and would have taken an extreme interest in

Washington Square

regard to come had she which in light the was This .affairs love his
Morris, who had conciliated her at first, and made his impression by his
.Mrs which to exhibition of sort a deference calculated and delicate
Penniman was particularly sensitive. He had largely abated his deference
,made was impression the but ,resources his economised he for ,afterwards
and the young man's very brutality came to have a sort of filial value.
of afraid been have probably would she ,son a had had Penniman .Mrs If
him, and at this stage of our narrative she was certainly afraid of
in domestication his of results the of one was This .Townsend Morris
Washington Square. He took his ease with her - as, for that matter, he
.mother own his with done have certainly would

Washington Square

Chapter XXVIII

THE letter was a word of warning; it informed him that the Doctor had that reflected have might She .ever than impracticable more home come Catherine would supply him with all the information he needed on this ,and ;just rarely were reflexions 'Penniman .Mrs that know we but ;point moreover, she felt that it was not for her to depend on what Catherine I .Catherine of irrelative quite ,duty her do to was She .do might have said that her young friend took his ease with her, and it is an took He .letter her to answer no made he that fact the of illustration note of it, amply; but he lighted his cigar with it, and he waited, in mind of state His" .another receive should he that confidence tranquil really freezes my blood," Mrs. Penniman had written, alluding to her could she statement this upon that seemed have would it and ;brother hardly improve. Nevertheless, she wrote again, expressing herself with lurid a with burns you of hatred His" .figure different a of aid the flame - the flame that never dies," she wrote. "But it doesn't light up years the all ,so do could affection my If .future your of darkness the of your life would be an eternal sunshine. I can extract nothing from expect to seems She .father her like ,secretive terribly so is she ;.C to be married very soon, and has evidently made preparations in ,friend dear My .etc ,shoes of pairs ten ,clothing of quantities Europe you cannot set up in married life simply with a few pairs of shoes, can ;you see to anxious intensely am I .this of think you what me Tell ?you I have so much to say. I miss you dreadfully; the house seems so empty ?extending business the Is ?town down news the is What .you without That dear little business - I think it's so brave of you! Couldn't I come is customer a for pass might I ?minutes three for just ?office your to that what you call them? I might come in to buy something - some shares or would I .plan_ this of think you what me _Tell .things railroad some carry a little reticule, like a woman of the people."

In spite of the suggestion about the reticule, Morris appeared to think whatever encouragement no Penniman .Mrs gave he for ,plan the of poorly to visit his office, which he had already represented to her as a place in persisted she as But .find to difficult unnaturally and peculiarly desiring an interview - up to the last, after months of intimate colloquy,

Washington Square

a take should they that agreed he "interviews" meetings these called she walk together, and was even kind enough to leave his office for this to supposed been have might business which at hours the during ,purpose be liveliest. It was no surprise to him, when they met at a street .Mrs(pavements undeveloped and lots empty of region a in ,corner Penniman being attired as much as possible like a "woman of the people"), to convey to had chiefly she what ,urgency her of spite in ,that find to him was the assurance of her sympathy. Of such assurances, however, he his worth been have not would it and ,collection voluminous a already had while to forsake a fruitful avocation merely to hear Mrs. Penniman say, had Morris .own her cause his made had she that ,time thousandth the for something of his own to say. It was not an easy thing to bring out, and .acrimonious him made difficulty the over it turned he while

"Oh yes, I know perfectly that he combines the properties of a lump of thoroughly it made has Catherine" .observed he ",coal -red a and ice clear, and you have told me so till I am sick of it. You needn't tell me regard I ;penny a us give never will He .satisfied perfectly am I ;again that as mathematically proved."

Mrs. Penniman at this point had an inspiration.

"Couldn't you bring a lawsuit against him?" She wondered that this .before her to occurred never had expedient simple

"I will bring a lawsuit against _you_," said Morris, "if you ask me any ",beaten is he when know should man A .questions aggravating such more he added, in a moment. "I must give her up!"

Mrs. Penniman received this declaration in silence, though it made her had she for ,unprepared means no by her found It .little a beat heart accustomed herself to the thought that, if Morris should decidedly not be marry to him for do not would it ,money 'brother her get to able Catherine without it. "It would not do" was a vague way of putting the ,which ,idea the completed affection natural 'Penniman .Mrs but ;thing though it had not as yet been so crudely expressed between them as in the so implied been nevertheless had ,it given just had Morris that form often, in certain easy intervals of talk, as he sat stretching his legs

Washington Square

to first grown had she that ,armchairs -well 'Doctor the in regard it with an emotion which she flattered herself was philosophic, her kept she that fact The .it for tenderness secret a have to then and tenderness secret proves, of course, that she was ashamed of it; but she ,all after ,was she that herself reminding by shame her blink to managed the official protector of her niece's marriage. Her logic would scarcely _must_ Morris ,place first the In .Doctor the with muster passed have get the money, and she would help him to it. In the second, it was plain should he pity grievous a be would it and ,him to come never would it marry without it - a young man who might so easily find something better. of ,Europe from return his on ,himself delivered had brother her After that incisive little address that has been quoted, Morris's cause seemed the upon exclusively attention her fixed Penniman .Mrs that hopeless so latter branch of her argument. If Morris had been her son, she would his of conception superior a to Catherine sacrificed have certainly future; and to be ready to do so as the case stood was therefore even a little a breath her checked it ,Nevertheless .devotion of degree finer to have the sacrificial knife, as it were, suddenly thrust into her hand.

Morris walked along a moment, and then he repeated harshly: "I must give
"!up her

"I think I understand you," said Mrs. Penniman gently.

"I certainly say it distinctly enough - brutally and vulgarly enough."

He was ashamed of himself, and his shame was uncomfortable; and as he was wanted He .cruel and vicious felt he ,discomfort of intolerant extremely to abuse somebody, and he began, cautiously - for he was always .himself with cautious

"Couldn't you take her down a little?" he asked.

"Take her down?"

"Prepare her - try and ease me off."

Mrs. Penniman stopped, looking at him very solemnly.

Washington Square

"My poor Morris, do you know how much she loves you?"

"No, I don't. I don't want to know. I have always tried to keep from
".painful too be would It .knowing

"She will suffer much," said Mrs. Penniman.

"You must console her. If you are as good a friend to me as you pretend
".it manage will you ,be to

Mrs. Penniman shook her head sadly.

"You talk of my 'pretending' to like you; but I can't pretend to hate
that will how and ;you of highly very think I her tell only can I .you
console her for losing you?"

"The Doctor will help you. He will be delighted at the thing being
to something invent will he ,fellow knowing a is he as ,and ,off broken
comfort her."

"He will invent a new torture!" cried Mrs. Penniman. "Heaven deliver her
and her over crowing his of consist will It .comfort 'father her from
saying, 'I always told you so!'"

Morris coloured a most uncomfortable red.

"If you don't console her any better than you console me, you certainly
it feel I ;necessity disagreeable damned a 'It !use much of be 'won
extremely, and you ought to make it easy for me."

"I will be your friend for life!" Mrs. Penniman declared.

"Be my friend now!" And Morris walked on.

She went with him; she was almost trembling.

"Should you like me to tell her?" she asked. "You mustn't tell her, but

Washington Square

Penniman .Mrs what think to trying ,hesitated he And can you can you could do. "You can explain to her why it is. It's because I can't bring he pretext the him give to father her and her between in step to myself grasps at - so eagerly (it's a hideous sight) for depriving her of her ".rights

Mrs. Penniman felt with remarkable promptitude the charm of this formula.

"That's so like you," she said; "it's so finely felt."

Morris gave his stick an angry swing.

"Oh, botheration!" he exclaimed perversely.

Mrs. Penniman, however, was not discouraged.

"It may turn out better than you think. Catherine is, after all, so very him assure to herself upon it take might she thought she And ".peculiar that, whatever happened, the girl would be very quiet - she wouldn't make a .Mrs ,proceeded they while ,and ,walk their extended They .noise Penniman took upon herself other things besides, and ended by having be may as ,enough ready being Morris ;burden considerable a assumed imagined, to put everything off upon her. But he was not for a single she what of that knew he ;alacrity blundering her of dupe the instant promised she was competent to perform but an insignificant fraction, and he fool greater the ,him serve to willingness her professed she more the thought her.

"What will you do if you don't marry her?" she ventured to inquire in the .conversation this of course

"Something brilliant," said Morris. "Shouldn't you like me to do "?brilliant something

The idea gave Mrs. Penniman exceeding pleasure.

"I shall feel sadly taken in if you don't."

Washington Square

"I shall have to, to make up for this. This isn't at all brilliant, you
".know

Mrs. Penniman mused a little, as if there might be some way of making out
the off carry to ,and ,attempt the up give to had she but ;was it that
awkwardness of failure, she risked a new inquiry.

"Do you mean - do you mean another marriage?"

Morris greeted this question with a reflexion which was hardly the less
"!men than crude more are women ,Surely" .inaudible being from impudent
And then he answered audibly:

"Never in the world!"

Mrs. Penniman felt disappointed and snubbed, and she relieved herself in
.perverse certainly was He .cry -vaguely little a

"I give her up, not for another woman, but for a wider career!" Morris
.announced

This was very grand; but still Mrs. Penniman, who felt that she had
.rancorous faintly was ,herself exposed

"Do you mean never to come to see her again?" she asked, with some
.sharpness

"Oh no, I shall come again; but what is the use of dragging it out? I
.work awkward terribly 'it and ,back came she since times four been have
I can't keep it up indefinitely; she oughtn't to expect that, you know.
.finely added he "!dangling man a keep never should woman A

"Ah, but you must have your last parting!" urged his companion, in whose
in inferior place a occupied partings last of idea the imagination
dignity only to that of first meetings.

Chapter XXIX

HE came again, without managing the last parting; and again and again, path the pave to much done yet as had Penniman .Mrs that finding without of retreat with flowers. It was devilish awkward, as he said, and he quite now had he as ,who ,aunt 'Catherine for animosity lively a felt formed the habit of saying to himself, had dragged him into the mess and tell to ,Penniman .Mrs .it of out him get to charity common in bound was the truth, had, in the seclusion of her own apartment - and, I may add, the days those in wore which 'Catherine of suggestiveness the amid appearance of that of a young lady laying out her _trousseau_ - Mrs. their at fright taken and ,responsibilities her measured had Penniman magnitude. The task of preparing Catherine and easing off Morris the led even and ,execution the in increased which difficulties presented impulsive Lavinia to ask herself whether the modification of the young brilliant A .spirit happy a in conceived been had project original 'man future, a wider career, a conscience exempt from the reproach of excellent these rights natural her and lady young a between interference things might be too troublesomely purchased. From Catherine herself Mrs. apparently was girl poor the ;whatever assistance no received Penniman without suspicion of her danger. She looked at her lover with eyes of than aunt her in confidence less had she though and ,trust undiminished in a young man with whom she had exchanged so many tender vows, she gave and faltering ,Penniman .Mrs .confessing or explaining for handle no her wavering, declared Catherine was very stupid, put off the great scene, as very about wandered and ,day to day from ,it called have would she uncomfortably, primed, to repletion, with her apology, but unable to just ones small very were scenes own 'Morris .light the to it bring now; but even these were beyond his strength. He made his visits as terribly found ,mistress his with sat he while and ,possible as brief little to talk about. She was waiting for him, in vulgar parlance, to this on explicit be to unprepared was he as long so and ;day the name point it seemed a mockery to pretend to talk about matters more abstract. her disguise to attempted never she ;arts no and airs no had She expectancy. She was waiting on his good pleasure, and would wait might time supreme this at back hanging his ;patiently and modestly appear strange, but of course he must have a good reason for it.

Washington Square

-old gentle the of wife a made have would Catherine
pattern - regarding reasons as favours and windfalls, but no more expecting
.camellias of bouquet a expected have would she than day every one
During the period of her engagement, however, a young lady even of the
;times other at than bouquets more upon counts pretensions slender most
and there was a want of perfume in the air at this moment which at last
.alarm 'girl the excited

"Are you sick?" she asked of Morris. "You seem so restless, and you look
".pale

"I am not at all well," said Morris; and it occurred to him that, if he
.off get might he ,enough him pity her make only could

"I am afraid you are overworked; you oughtn't to work so much."

"I must do that." And then he added, with a sort of calculated
"!everything you owe to want 'don I" ,brutality

"Ah, how can you say that?"

"I am too proud," said Morris.

"Yes - you are too proud!"

"Well, you must take me as I am," he went on, "you can never change me."

"I don't want to change you," she said gently. "I will take you as you
.him at looking stood she And "!are

"You know people talk tremendously about a man's marrying a rich girl,"
".disagreeable excessively 'It" .remarked Morris

"But I am not rich?" said Catherine.

"You are rich enough to make me talked about!"

"Of course you are talked about. It's an honour!"

Washington Square

"It's an honour I could easily dispense with."

She was on the point of asking him whether it were not a compensation for upon it bring to misfortune the had who girl poor the that annoyance this him, loved him so dearly and believed in him so truly; but she hesitated, she while and ,speech exacting an seem perhaps would this that thinking hesitated, he suddenly left her.

The next time he came, however, she brought it out, and she told him and ,change 'couldn he that repeated He .proud too was he that again this time she felt the impulse to say that with a little effort he might .change

Sometimes he thought that if he could only make a quarrel with her it woman young a with quarrel to how was question the but ;him help might who had such treasures of concession. "I suppose you think the effort is that believe you 'Don" .exclaiming to reduced was he "!side your on all I have my own effort to make?"

"It's all yours now," she said. "My effort is finished and done with!"

"Well, mine is not."

"We must bear things together," said Catherine. "That's what we ought to ".do

Morris attempted a natural smile. "There are some things which we can't ".separation ,instance for together bear well very

"Why do you speak of separation?"

"Ah! you don't like it; I knew you wouldn't!"

"Where are you going, Morris?" she suddenly asked.

He fixed his eye on her for a moment, and for a part of that moment she "?scene a make to not promise you Will" .it of afraid was

Washington Square

"A scene! - do I make scenes?"

"All women do!" said Morris, with the tone of large experience.

"I don't. Where are you going?"

"If I should say I was going away on business, should you think it very
"?strange

She wondered a moment, gazing at him. "Yes - no. Not if you will take me
".you with

"Take you with me - on business?"

"What is your business? Your business is to be with me."

"I don't earn my living with you," said Morris. "Or rather," he cried
says world the what or do I what just 'that" ,inspiration sudden a with
I do!"

This ought perhaps to have been a great stroke, but it miscarried.
.repeated simply Catherine "?going you are Where"

"To New Orleans. About buying some cotton."

"I am perfectly willing to go to New Orleans." Catherine said.

"Do you suppose I would take you to a nest of yellow fever?" cried
"?this as time a such at you expose would I suppose you Do" .Morris

"If there is yellow fever, why should you go? Morris, you must not go!"

"It is to make six thousand dollars," said Morris. "Do you grudge me
"?satisfaction that

"We have no need of six thousand dollars. You think too much about
"!money

Washington Square

"You can afford to say that? This is a great chance; we heard of it last told and ;consisted chance the what in her to explained he And ".night her a long story, going over more than once several of the details, about planned had partner his and he which business of stroke remarkable the between them.

But Catherine's imagination, for reasons best known to herself, can I ,Orleans New to go can you If" .fired be to refused absolutely go," she said. "Why shouldn't you catch yellow fever quite as easily as any of afraid least the in not and ,you as strong as bit every am I ?I fever. When we were in Europe, we were in very unhealthy places; my I and ,anything caught never I .pills some take me make to used father never was nervous. What will be the use of six thousand dollars if you to 'oughtn they married be to going are persons When ?fever a of die think so much about business. You shouldn't think about cotton, you there time other some Orleans New to go can You .me about think should will always be plenty of cotton. It isn't the moment to choose - we have he than volubly and forcibly more spoke She ".already long too waited had ever heard her, and she held his arm in her two hands.

"You said you wouldn't make a scene!" cried Morris. "I call this a ".scene

"It's you that are making it! I have never asked you anything before. think to her to comfort a was it And ".already long too waited have We that she had hitherto asked so little; it seemed to make her right to .now greater the insist

Morris bethought himself a little. "Very well, then; we won't talk about to began he And ".letter by business my transact will I .more any it smooth his hat, as if to take leave.

"You won't go?" And she stood looking up at him.

He could not give up his idea of provoking a quarrel; it was so much the darkest the with ,face upturned her on eyes his bent He !way simplest frown he could achieve. "You are not discreet. You mustn't bully me!"

Washington Square

But, as usual, she conceded everything. "No, I am not discreet; I know I
".moment a for only is It ?natural it 'isn But .pressing too am

"In a moment you may do a great deal of harm. Try and be calmer the next
".come I time

"When will you come?"

"Do you want to make conditions?" Morris asked. "I will come next
".Saturday

"Come to-morrow," Catherine begged; "I want you to come to-morrow. I
become time this by had agitation her and ;added she ",quiet very be will
so great that the assurance was not becoming. A sudden fear had come
disembodied dozen a of conjunction solid the like was it ;her over
doubts, and her imagination, at a single bound, had traversed an enormous
him keep to wish the in centred ,moment the for ,being her All .distance
in the room.

Morris bent his head and kissed her forehead. "When you are quiet, you
in not are you ,violent are you when but" ;said he ",perfection are
character."

It was Catherine's wish that there should be no violence about her save
as ,on went she and ;help not could she which ,heart her of beating the
gently as possible, "Will you promise to come to-morrow?"

"I said Saturday!" Morris answered, smiling. He tried a frown at one
.end 'wit his at was he ;another at smile a ,moment

"Yes, Saturday too," she answered, trying to smile. "But to-morrow
She .quickly him with went she and ,door the to going was He ".first
leaned her shoulder against it; it seemed to her that she would do
.him keep to anything

"If I am prevented from coming to-morrow, you will say I have deceived
.said he "!you

Washington Square

"How can you be prevented? You can come if you will."

"I am a busy man - I am not a dangler!" cried Morris sternly.

His voice was so hard and unnatural that, with a helpless look at him, He -door the on hand his laid quickly he then and ;away turned she felt as if he were absolutely running away from her. But in an instant less the none tone a in murmuring and ,again him to close was she penetrating for being low, "Morris, you are going to leave me."

"Yes, for a little while."

"For how long?"

"Till you are reasonable again."

"I shall never be reasonable in that way!" And she tried to keep him broke she "!done have I what of Think" .struggle a almost was it ;longer out. "Morris, I have given up everything!"

"You shall have everything back!"

"You wouldn't say that if you didn't mean something. What is it? - what "?you changed has what ?done I have what ?happened has

"I will write to you - that is better," Morris stammered.

"Ah, you won't come back!" she cried, bursting into tears.

"Dear Catherine," he said, "don't believe that I promise you that you door the close to and away get to managed he And "!again me see shall behind him.

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Chapter XXX

IT was almost her last outbreak of passive grief; at least, she never was one this But .about anything knew world the that another in indulged long and terrible; she flung herself on the sofa and gave herself up to only had she ostensibly ;happened had what knew hardly She .misery her had a difference with her lover, as other girls had had before, and the to obligation no under was she but ,rupture a not only not was thing regard it even as a menace. Nevertheless, she felt a wound, even if he from fallen suddenly had mask a that her to seemed it ;it dealt not had his face. He had wished to get away from her; he had been angry and smothered was She .looks strange with ,things strange said and ,cruel and stunned; she buried her head in the cushions, sobbing and talking to her either that fear the with ,herself raised she last at But .herself father or Mrs. Penniman would come in; and then she sat there, staring perhaps that herself to said She .darker grew room the while ,her before he would come back to tell her he had not meant what he said; and she was this that believe to trying ,door the at ring his for listened probable. A long time passed, but Morris remained absent; the shadows ,light the of elegance meagre the on down settled evening the ;gathered clear-coloured room; the fire went out. When it had grown dark, an half for there stood she ;out looked and window the to went Catherine hour, on the mere chance that he would come up the steps. At last she the at her seen had He .in come father her saw she for ,away turned window looking out, and he stopped a moment at the bottom of the white hat his lifted ,courtesy exaggerated of air an with ,gravely and ,steps to her. The gesture was so incongruous to the condition she was in, this so was forsaken and despised girl poor a to respect of tribute stately out of place, that the thing gave her a kind of horror, and she hurried .up Morris given had she that her to seemed It .room her to away

She had to show herself half an hour later, and she was sustained at perceive not should father her that desire her of immensity the by table that anything had happened. This was a great help to her afterwards, and On .first the from)supposed she as much as never though(her served it this occasion Dr. Sloper was rather talkative. He told a great many old an of house the at seen had he that poodle wonderful a about stories

Washington Square

lady whom he visited professionally. Catherine not only tried to appear interest to endeavoured she but ,poodle the of anecdotes the to listen to herself in them, so as not to think of her scene with Morris. That people ;jealous was she ,mistaken was he ;hallucination an was perhaps didn't change like that from one day to another. Then she knew that she and vague once at were that ,suspicious strange before doubts had had acute - and that he had been different ever since her return from Europe: so story a told who ,father her to listen to again tried she whereupon remarkably well. Afterwards she went straight to her own room; it was All .aunt her with evening the spend to undertake to strength her beyond the evening, alone, she questioned herself. Her trouble was terrible; extravagant an by engendered ,imagination her of thing a it was but sensibility, or did it represent a clear-cut reality, and had the worst of degree a with ,Penniman .Mrs ?pass to come actually possible was that tact that was as unusual as it was commendable, took the line of leaving she ,aroused been having suspicions her that ,is truth The .alone her indulged a desire, natural to a timid person, that the explosion should .way the of out kept she vibrated still air the as long So .localised be

She passed and repassed Catherine's door several times in the course of But .it behind moan plaintive a hear to expected she if as ,evening the the room remained perfectly still; and accordingly, the last thing before was Catherine .admittance for applied she ,couch own her to retiring sitting up, and had a book that she pretended to be reading. She had no .Mrs After .sleeping of expectation no had she for ,bed to go to wish Penniman had left her she sat up half the night, and she offered her ,gently very in stealing came aunt Her .remain to inducement no visitor and approached her with great solemnity.

"I am afraid you are in trouble, my dear. Can I do anything to help
"?you

"I am not in any trouble whatever, and do not need any help," said ,faults our only not that thereby proving and ,roundly fibbing ,Catherine but our most involuntary misfortunes, tend to corrupt our morals.

"Has nothing happened to you?"

Washington Square

"Nothing whatever."

"Are you very sure, dear?"

"Perfectly sure."

"And can I really do nothing for you?"

"Nothing, aunt, but kindly leave me alone," said Catherine.

Mrs. Penniman, though she had been afraid of too warm a welcome before, she as afterwards relating in and ;one a cold so at disappointed now was did to many persons, and with considerable variations of detail, the usually was she ,engagement 'niece her of termination the of history careful to mention that the young lady, on a certain occasion, had Penniman .Mrs of characteristic was It .room the of out her "hustled" that she related this fact, not in the least out of malignity to natural a from simply but ,pitied sufficiently very she whom ,Catherine disposition to embellish any subject that she touched.

Catherine, as I have said, sat up half the night, as if she still this morrow the On .door the at ring Townsend Morris hear to expected expectation was less unreasonable; but it was not gratified by the a not was there ;written he had Neither .man young the of reappearance word of explanation or reassurance. Fortunately for Catherine she could her in ,intense become now had which ,excitement her from refuge take determination that her father should see nothing of it. How well she innocent her but ;learn to occasion have shall we father her deceived arts were of little avail before a person of the rare perspicacity of there if and ,agitated was she that saw easily lady This .Penniman .Mrs was any agitation going forward, Mrs. Penniman was not a person to next the charge the to returned She .it in share natural her forfeit evening, and requested her niece to lean upon her - to unburden her heart. seemed now that things certain explain to able be should she Perhaps dark, and that she knew more about than Catherine supposed. If Catherine .haughty was she -to ,before night the frigid been had

"You are completely mistaken, and I have not the least idea what you

Washington Square

never have I and ,me on fasten to trying are you what know 'don I .mean had less need of any one's explanations in my life."

In this way the girl delivered herself, and from hour to hour kept her She .grew curiosity 'Penniman .Mrs hour to hour From .bay at aunt would have given her little finger to know what Morris had said and done, ,him to wrote She .found had he pretext what ,taken had he tone what naturally, to request an interview; but she received, as naturally, no Catherine for ;mood writing a in not was Morris .petition her to answer had addressed him two short notes which met with no acknowledgment. give you 'Won" .entire them give may I that brief so were notes These me some sign that you didn't mean to be so cruel as you seemed on was I If" .longer little a was other the ;first the was that "?Tuesday unreasonable or suspicious on Tuesday - if I annoyed you or troubled you in so be to again never promise I and ,forgiveness your beg I way any foolish. I am punished enough, and I don't understand. Dear Morris, you ;Saturday and Friday the on despatched were notes These "!me killing are but Saturday and Sunday passed without bringing the poor girl the to continued she ;accumulated punishment Her .desired she satisfaction bear it, however, with a good deal of superficial fortitude. On Saturday sister his to spoke ,silence in watching been had who ,Doctor the morning Lavinia.

"The thing has happened - the scoundrel has backed out!"

"Never!" cried Mrs. Penniman, who had bethought herself what she should her against defence of line a with provided not was but ,Catherine to say brother, so that indignant negation was the only weapon in her hands.

"He has begged for a reprieve, then, if you like that better!"

"It seems to make you very happy that your daughter's affections have ".with trifled been

"It does," said the Doctor; "'for I had foretold it! It's a great ".right the in be to pleasure

"Your pleasures make one shudder!" his sister exclaimed.

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Catherine went rigidly through her usual occupations; that is, up to the generally She .morning Sunday on church to aunt her with going of point went to afternoon service as well; but on this occasion her courage .her without go to Penniman .Mrs of begged she and ,faltered

"I am sure you have a secret," said Mrs. Penniman, with great .grimly rather her at looking ,significance

"If I have, I shall keep it!" Catherine answered, turning away.

Mrs. Penniman started for church; but before she had arrived, she stopped the -re she elapsed had minutes twenty before and ,back turned and house, looked into the empty parlours, and then went upstairs and knocked ,room her in not was Catherine ;answer no got She .door 'Catherine at and Mrs. Penniman presently ascertained that she was not in the house. hands her clasping ,cried Lavinia "!fled has she ,him to gone has She" with admiration and envy. But she soon perceived that Catherine had was room her in property personal her all her with nothing taken intact - and then she jumped at the hypothesis that the girl had gone to him followed has She" .resentment in but ,tenderness in not ,forth his own door - she has burst upon him in his own apartment!" It was in ,errand 'niece her herself to depicted Penniman .Mrs that terms these which, viewed in this light, gratified her sense of the picturesque only visit To .marriage clandestine a of idea the than strongly less shade a one's lover, with tears and reproaches, at his own residence, was an of sort a felt she that mind 'Penniman .Mrs to agreeable so image √Aesthetic disappointment at its lacking, in this case, the harmonious appeared afternoon Sunday quiet A .storm and darkness of accompaniments an inadequate setting for it; and, indeed, Mrs. Penniman was quite out of she as slowly very passed which ,time the of conditions the with humour sat in the front parlour in her bonnet and her cashmere shawl, awaiting .return 'Catherine

This event at last took place. She saw her - at the window - mount the her upon pounced she where ,hall the in her await to went she and ,steps as soon as she had entered the house, and drew her into the parlour, was eye her and ,flushed was Catherine .solemnity with door the closing

Washington Square

bright. Mrs. Penniman hardly knew what to think.

"May I venture to ask where you have been?" she demanded.

"I have been to take a walk," said Catherine. "I thought you had gone to
".church

"I did go to church; but the service was shorter than usual. And pray,
"?walk you did where

"I don't know!" said Catherine.

"Your ignorance is most extraordinary! Dear Catherine, you can trust
".me

"What am I to trust you with?"

"With your secret - your sorrow."

"I have no sorrow!" said Catherine fiercely.

"My poor child," Mrs. Penniman insisted, "you can't deceive me. I know
".you with converse to a to requested been have I .everything

"I don't want to converse!"

"It will relieve you. Don't you know Shakespeare's lines? - 'the grief
".is it as better is it ,girl dear My !speak not does that

"What is better?" Catherine asked.

She was really too perverse. A certain amount of perversity was to be
such not but ;over her thrown had lover whose lady young a in for allowed
an amount as would prove inconvenient to his apologists. "That you
That" .sternness some with ,Penniman .Mrs said ",reasonable be should
you should take counsel of worldly prudence, and submit to practical
".separate a to agree should you That .considerations

Washington Square

Catherine had been ice up to this moment, but at this word she flamed up.
"Separating our about know you do What ?Separate"

Mrs. Penniman shook her head with a sadness in which there was almost a
are susceptibilities your and ,pride my is pride Your" .injury of sense
mine. I see your side perfectly, but I also" - and she smiled with
"!whole a as situation the see also I" suggestiveness melancholy

This suggestiveness was lost upon Catherine, who repeated her violent
"?it about know you do what ;separation about talk you do Why" .inquiry

"We must study resignation," said Mrs. Penniman, hesitating, but
.venture a at sententious

"Resignation to what?"

"To a change of - of our plans."

"My plans have not changed!" said Catherine, with a little laugh.

"Ah, but Mr. Townsend's have," her aunt answered very gently.

"What do you mean?"

There was an imperious brevity in the tone of this inquiry, against which
had she which with information the ;protest to bound felt Penniman .Mrs
undertaken to supply her niece was, after all, a favour. She had tried
was she ;do would neither but :sternness tried had she and ,sharpness
shocked at the girl's obstinacy. "Ah, well," she said, "if he hasn't
.away turned she and !you told

Catherine watched her a moment in silence; then she hurried after her,
you do What ?what me Told" .door the reached she before her stopping
mean? What are you hinting at and threatening me with?"

"Isn't it broken off?" asked Mrs. Penniman.

"My engagement? Not in the least!"

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"I beg your pardon in that case. I have spoken too soon!"

"Too soon! Soon or late," Catherine broke out, "you speak foolishly and
"!cruelly

"What has happened between you, then?" asked her aunt, struck by the
".happened has certainly something For" .cry this of sincerity

"Nothing has happened but that I love him more and more!"

Mrs. Penniman was silent an instant. "I suppose that's the reason you
".afternoon this him see to went

Catherine flushed as if she had been struck. "Yes, I did go to see him!
".business own my 'that But

"Very well, then; we won't talk about it." And Mrs. Penniman moved
cry imploring sudden a by stopped was she But .again door the towards
from the girl.

"Aunt Lavinia, _where_ has he gone?"

"Ah, you admit, then, that he has gone away? Didn't they know at his
"?house

"They said he had left town. I asked no more questions; I was ashamed,"
.enough simply ,Catherine said

"You needn't have taken so compromising a step if you had had a little
of deal good a with ,observed Penniman .Mrs " ,me in confidence more
grandeur.

"Is it to New Orleans?" Catherine went on irrelevantly.

It was the first time Mrs. Penniman had heard of New Orleans in this
in was she that know Catherine letting to averse was she but ;connexion
the dark. She attempted to strike an illumination from the instructions

Washington Square

a when" ,said she " ,Catherine dear My" .Morris from received had she separation has been agreed upon, the farther he goes away the better."

"Agreed upon? Has he agreed upon it with you?" A consummate sense of five last the during her over come had folly meddlesome 'aunt her minutes, and she was sickened at the thought that Mrs. Penniman had been .happiness her upon ,were it as ,loose let

"He certainly has sometimes advised with me," said Mrs. Penniman.

"Is it you, then, that have changed him and made him so unnatural?" from him taken and him on worked have that you it Is" .cried Catherine me? He doesn't belong to you, and I don't see how you have anything to told and plot this made have that you it Is !us between is what with do him to leave me? How could you be so wicked, so cruel? What have I ever spoil would you afraid was I ?alone me leave you 'can why ;you to done everything; for you _do_ spoil everything you touch; I was afraid of you were you that thought I when rest no had I ;abroad were we time the all always talking to him." Catherine went on with growing vehemence, passion her of clairvoyance the in and bitterness her in out pouring (which suddenly, jumping all processes, made her judge her aunt finally upon months many so for lain had which uneasiness the)appeal without and her heart.

Mrs. Penniman was scared and bewildered; she saw no prospect of You" .motives 'Morris of purity the of account little her introducing are a most ungrateful girl!" she cried. "Do you scold me for talking "!you but anything of talked never we sure am I ?him with

"Yes; and that was the way you worried him; you made him tired of my very your asked never I ;him to me of spoken never had you wish I !name help!"

"I am sure if it hadn't been for me he would never have come to the .Mrs " ,you of thought he what known have never would you and ,house Penniman rejoined, with a good deal of justice.

"I wish he never had come to the house, and that I never had known it!

Washington Square

Catherine poor said "this than better" That

"You are a very ungrateful girl," Aunt Lavinia repeated.

Catherine's outbreak of anger and the sense of wrong gave her, while they they ;force of assertion all from comes that satisfaction the ,lasted hurried her along, and there is always a sort of pleasure in cleaving the of conscious was she and ,violent be to hated she bottom the at But .air no aptitude for organised resentment. She calmed herself with a great ,moments few a room the about walked and ,rapidity great with but ,effort trying to say to herself that her aunt had meant everything for the best. little a after but ,conviction much with it saying in succeed not did She she was able to speak quietly enough.

"I am not ungrateful, but I am very unhappy. It's hard to be grateful
"?is he where me tell please you Will" .said she ",that for

"I haven't the least idea; I am not in secret correspondence with him!"
him let might she that so ,were she that indeed wished Penniman .Mrs And
know how Catherine abused her, after all she had done.

"Was it a plan of his, then, to break off - ?" By this time Catherine had
.quiet completely become

Mrs. Penniman began again to have a glimpse of her chance for explaining.
the was it but ,courage lacked He" .said she ",shrank he shrank He"
courage to injure you! He couldn't bear to bring down on you your
".curse 'father

Catherine listened to this with her eyes fixed upon her aunt, and
to you tell he Did" .afterwards time some for her at gaze to continued
say that?"

"He told me to say many things - all so delicate, so discriminating. And
".him despise 'wouldn you hoped he you tell to me told he

"I don't," said Catherine. And then she added: "And will he stay away
"?ever for

Washington Square

"Oh, for ever is a long time. Your father, perhaps, won't live for
".ever

"Perhaps not."

"I am sure you appreciate - you understand - even though your heart bleeds,"
I do So .scrupulous too him think doubtless You" .Penniman .Mrs said
but I respect his scruples. What he asks of you is that you should do
".same the

Catherine was still gazing at her aunt, but she spoke at last, as if she
.then ,plan regular a been has It" .her understood not or heard not had
He has broken it off deliberately; he has given me up."

"For the present, dear Catherine. He has put it off only."

"He has left me alone," Catherine went on.

"Haven't you _me_?" asked Mrs. Penniman, with much expression.

Catherine shook her head slowly. "I don't believe it!" and she left the
.room

Washington Square

Chapter XXXI

THOUGH she had forced herself to be calm, she preferred practising this, which repast a tea at herself show to forbore she and, private in virtue on Sundays, at six o'clock, took the place of dinner. Dr. Sloper and his eye 'brother her met never Penniman. Mrs but, face to face sat sister Late in the evening she went with him, but without Catherine, to their unhappy 'Catherine, ladies two the between, where 'Almond sister situation was discussed with a frankness that was conditioned by a good part 'Penniman. Mrs on reticence mysterious of deal

"I am delighted he is not to marry her," said Mrs. Almond, "but he ought".same the all horsewhipped be to

Mrs. Penniman, who was shocked at her sister's coarseness, replied that to not desire the motives of noblest the by actuated been had he impoverish Catherine.

"I am very happy that Catherine is not to be impoverished - but I hope he to say girl poor the does what And !much too penny a have never may _you_?" Mrs. Almond asked.

"She says I have a genius for consolation," said Mrs. Penniman.

This was the account of the matter that she gave to her sister, and it that return her on, that genius of consciousness the with perhaps was evening to Washington Square, she again presented herself for admittance apparently was she; it opened and came Catherine. door 'Catherine at very quiet.

"I only want to give you a little word of advice," she said. "If your".on going is everything that say, you asks father

Catherine stood there, with her hand on the knob looking at her aunt, but "?me ask will he think you Do" .in come to her asking not

"I am sure he will. He asked me just now, on our way home from your Aunt

Washington Square

said I .Elizabeth Aunt your to thing whole the explained I 'Elizabeth to your father I know nothing about it."

"Do you think he will ask me when he sees - when he sees - ?" But here .stopped Catherine

"The more he sees the more disagreeable he will be," said her aunt.

"He shall see as little as possible!" Catherine declared.

"Tell him you are to be married."

"So I am," said Catherine softly; and she closed the door upon her aunt.

She could not have said this two days later - for instance, on Tuesday, an was It .Townsend Morris from letter a received last at she when epistle of considerable length, measuring five large square pages, and it and ,document explanatory an was It .Philadelphia at written explained a great many things, chief among which were the considerations "professional" urgent an of advantage take to writer the led had that absence to try and banish from his mind the image of one whose path he but expect to ventured He .ruins with it scatter to only crossed had partial success in this attempt, but he could promise her that, whatever heart generous her between interpose again never would he ,failure his and her brilliant prospects and filial duties. He closed with an for travel to him compel might pursuits professional his that intimation some months, and with the hope that when they should each have respective their in involved sternly was what to themselves accommodated positions - even should this result not be reached for years - they should victims philosophic but innocent as -fellow as ,friends as meet of a great social law. That her life should be peaceful and happy was most her himself subscribe to still ventured who him of wish dearest the obedient servant. The letter was beautifully written, and Catherine, who the of sense her when ,able was ,this after years many for it kept bitterness of its meaning and the hollowness of its tone had grown less time long a for ,present At .expression of grace its admire to ,acute after she received it, all she had to help her was the determination, .father her of compassion the to appeal no make to ,rigid more daily

Washington Square

He suffered a week to elapse, and then one day, in the morning, at an
He ,parlour back the into strolled he ,him saw rarely she which at hour
had watched his time, and he found her alone. She was sitting with some
on had he ,out going was He .her of front in stood and came he and ,work
his hat and was drawing on his gloves.

"It doesn't seem to me that you are treating me just now with all the
.moment a in said he ",deserve I consideration

"I don't know what I have done," Catherine answered, with her eyes on her
.work

"You have apparently quite banished from your mind the request I made you
in me notify would you that request the ;sailed we before ,Liverpool at
advance before leaving my house."

"I have not left your house!" said Catherine.

"But you intend to leave it, and by what you gave me to understand, your
,body in here still are you though ,fact In .impending be must departure
you are already absent in spirit. Your mind has taken up its residence
lodged be well as quite might you and ,husband prospective your with
under the conjugal roof, for all the benefit we get from your society."

"I will try and be more cheerful!" said Catherine.

"You certainly ought to be cheerful, you ask a great deal if you are not.
having of that add you ,man young brilliant a marrying of pleasure the To
your own way; you strike me as a very lucky young lady!"

Catherine got up; she was suffocating. But she folded her work,
father Her .it upon face burning her bending ,correctly and deliberately
stood where he had planted himself; she hoped he would go, but he
his upon hands his rested he then and ,gloves his buttoned and smoothed
hips.

"It would be a convenience to me to know when I may expect to have an

Washington Square

"house empty", he went on. "When you go, your aunt marches."

She looked at him at last, with a long silent gaze, which, in spite of what she had tried to appeal to, part of her resolution and pride she could not make. Her father's cold grey eye sounded her own, and he insisted on his point.

"Is it to-morrow? Is it next week, or the week after?"

"I shall not go away!" said Catherine.

The Doctor raised his eyebrows. "Has he backed out?"

"I have broken off my engagement."

"Broken it off?"

"I have asked him to leave New York, and he has gone away for a long time."

The Doctor was both puzzled and disappointed, but he solved his difficulty by saying to himself that his daughter had misrepresented - justifiably, if one would? but nevertheless he was which, he eased his disappointment; facts the misrepresented that of a man losing a chance for a little triumph that he had rather uttered those few words by, on counted aloud.

"How does he take his dismissal?"

"I don't know!" said Catherine, less ingeniously than she had hitherto spoken.

"You mean you don't care? You are rather cruel, after encouraging him so long for him with playing and"

The Doctor had his revenge, after all.

Chapter XXXII

OUR story has hitherto moved with very short steps, but as it approaches might it, on went time As stride long a take must it termination its have appeared to the Doctor that his daughter's account of her rupture some in was, it deemed had he as bravado mere, Townsend Morris with degree justified by the sequel. Morris remained as rigidly and Catherine and, heart broken a of died had he if as absent unremittingly had apparently buried the memory of this fruitless episode as deep as if deeply been had she that know We choice own her by terminated had it and incurably wounded, but the Doctor had no means of knowing it. He was discover to deal good a given have would and, it about curious certainly the exact truth; but it was his punishment that he never knew - his his with relations his in sarcasm of abuse the for, mean I, punishment daughter. There was a good deal of effective sarcasm in her keeping him, sense this in, her with conspired world the of rest the and, dark the in to be sarcastic. Mrs. Penniman told him nothing, partly because he never partly and that for Penniman. Mrs of light too made he her questioned because she flattered herself that a tormenting reserve, and a serene had she that theory his for her avenge would, ignorance of profession meddled in the matter. He went two or three times to see Mrs. knew simply She impart to nothing had Montgomery. Mrs but, Montgomery that her brother's engagement was broken off, and now that Miss Sloper against way any in witness bear to not preferred she danger of out was Morris. She had done so before - however unwillingly - because she was sorry all at not now Sloper Miss for sorry not was she but; Sloper Miss for sorry. Morris had told her nothing about his relations with Miss Sloper and, away always was He since nothing her told had he and, time the at he very seldom wrote to her; she believed he had gone to California. violently Catherine "up taken", phrase 'sister her in, had Almond. Mrs since the recent catastrophe; but though the girl was very grateful to could lady good the and, secrets no revealed she, kindness her for her give the Doctor no satisfaction. Even, however, had she been able to, affair love unhappy 'daughter his of history private the him to narrate it would have given her a certain comfort to leave him in ignorance; for. brother her with sympathy in altogether not time this at was Almond. Mrs She had guessed for herself that Catherine had been cruelly jilted - she

Washington Square

to ventured not had Penniman .Mrs for ,Penniman .Mrs from nothing knew lay the famous explanation of Morris's motives before Mrs. Almond, though her pronounced she and Catherine for enough good it thought had she brother too consistently indifferent to what the poor creature must have he and ,theory his had Sloper .Dr .suffering be still must and suffered rarely altered his theories. The marriage would have been an abominable for pitied be to not was She .escape blessed a had had girl the and ,one that, and to pretend to condole with her would have been to make .Morris of think to right a had ever had she that idea the to concessions

"I put my foot on this idea from the first, and I keep it there now," it keep 'can one ;that in cruel anything see 'don I" .Doctor the said there too long." To this Mrs. Almond more than once replied that if credit the deserved she ,lover incongruous her of rid got had Catherine of it, and that to bring herself to her father's enlightened view of the .appreciate to bound was he that effort an her cost have must matter

"I am by no means sure she has got rid of him," the Doctor said. "There a as obstinate as been having after ,that probability smallest the not is mule for two years, she suddenly became amenable to reason. It is ".her of rid got he that probable more infinitely

"All the more reason you should be gentle with her."

"I am gentle with her. But I can't do the pathetic; I can't pump up happened ever that thing fortunate most the over ,graceful look to ,tears to her."

"You have no sympathy," said Mrs. Almond; "that was never your strong and ,wrong or right ,that see to her at look to only have You .point whether the rupture came from herself or from him, her poor little heart ".bruised grievously is

"Handling bruises - and even dropping tears on them - doesn't make them any shall I that and ,knocks more no gets she see to is business My !better carefully attend to. But I don't at all recognise your description of going woman young a as least the in me strike 'doesn She .Catherine about in search of a moral poultice. In fact, she seems to me much

Washington Square

perfectly is She .about hanging was fellow the while than better comfortable and blooming; she eats and sleeps, takes her usual exercise, knitting always is She .finery with ,usual as ,herself overloads and some purse or embroidering some handkerchief, and it seems to me she ;say to much 'hasn She .ever as fast as about out articles these turns but when had she anything to say? She had her little dance, and now she ".it enjoys she ,whole the on ,that suspect I .rest to down sitting is

"She enjoys it as people enjoy getting rid of a leg that has been of one doubtless is amputation after mind of state The .crushed comparative repose."

"If your leg is a metaphor for young Townsend, I can assure you he has ,intact perfectly and alive is He !he Not ?Crushed .crushed been never and that's why I am not satisfied."

"Should you have liked to kill him?" asked Mrs. Almond.

"Yes, very much. I think it is quite possible that it is all a blind."

"A blind?"

"An arrangement between them. *_Il fait le mort_*, as they say in France; it upon depend can You .eye his of corner the of out looking is he but he has not burned his ships; he has kept one to come back in. When I am ".him marry will she then and ,again sail set will he ,dead

"It is interesting to know that you accuse your only daughter of being .Almond .Mrs said ",hypocrites of vilest the

"I don't see what difference her being my only daughter makes. It is is There .one any accuse 'don I But .dozen a than one accuse to better not the smallest hypocrisy about Catherine, and I deny that she even ".miserable be to pretends

The Doctor's idea that the thing was a "blind" had its intermissions and grew he as increased have to whole the on said be may it but ;revivals older; together with his impression of Catherine's blooming and

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for grounds found not had he if ,Naturally .condition comfortable
viewing her as a lovelorn maiden during the year or two that followed her
recovered completely had she when time a at none found he ,trouble great
her self-possession. He was obliged to recognise the fact that if the
at were they ,way the of out get to him for waiting were people young two
least waiting very patiently. He had heard from time to time that Morris
of best the to ,and ,long there remained never he but ;York New in was
the Doctor's belief, had no communication with Catherine. He was sure
to wrote never Morris that suspect to reason had he and ,met never they
her. After the letter that has been mentioned, she heard from him twice
she did occasions these of none on but ;intervals considerable at ,again
write herself. On the other hand, as the Doctor observed, she averted
Her .people other marrying of idea the from rigidly herself
opportunities for doing so were not numerous, but they occurred often
a with man a ,widower a refused She .disposition her test to enough
genial temperament, a handsome fortune, and three little girls (he had
with own his to pointed he and ,children of fond very was she that heard
some confidence); and she turned a deaf ear to the solicitations of a
the and ,practice great a of prospect the with ,who ,lawyer young clever
reputation of a most agreeable man, had had the shrewdness, when he came
better him suit would she that believe to ,wife a for him about look to
than several younger and prettier girls. Mr. Macalister, the widower,
for Catherine chosen had and ,reason of marriage a make to desired had
what he supposed to be her latent matronly qualities; but John Ludlow,
who man young a as always of spoken and ,junior 'girl the year a was who
might have his "pick," was seriously in love with her. Catherine,
she that him to plain it made she ;him at look never would ,however
thought he came to see her too often. He afterwards consoled himself,
whose ,Sturtevant Miss little ,person different very a married and
attractions were obvious to the dullest comprehension. Catherine, at the
and ,her behind well year thirtieth her left had ,events these of time
had quite taken her place as an old maid. Her father would have
would she hoped he that her told once he and ,marry should she preferred
not be too fastidious. "I should like to see you an honest man's wife
to compelled been had Ludlow John after was This .said he ",die I before
give it up, though the Doctor had advised him to persevere. The Doctor
at "worrying" not of credit the had and ,pressure further no exercised
all over his daughter's singleness. In fact he worried rather more than

Washington Square

sure felt he which during periods considerable were there and ,appeared that Morris Townsend was hidden behind some door. "If he is not, why may intelligence her as Limited" .himself asked he "?marry she 'doesn be, she must understand perfectly well that she is made to do the usual formed She .maid old admirable an became ,however ,Catherine ".thing habits, regulated her days upon a system of her own, interested herself and ;societies aid and ,hospitals ,asylums ,institutions charitable in went generally, with an even and noiseless step, about the rigid business a as well as history secret a ,however ,had life This .life her of public one - if I may talk of the public history of a mature and diffident From .terrors of combination a always had publicity whom for spinster her own point of view the great facts of her career were that Morris broken had father her that and ,affection her with trifled had Townsend its spring. Nothing could ever alter these facts; they were always undo ever could Nothing .face plain her ,age her ,name her like ,there the wrong or cure the pain that Morris had inflicted on her, and nothing younger her in felt she as father her towards feel her make ever could years. There was something dead in her life, and her duty was to try and a had she ;utmost the to duty this recognised Catherine .void the fill great disapproval of brooding and moping. She had, of course, no faculty usual the in freely mingled she but ;dissipation in memory quenching for gaieties of the town, and she became at last an inevitable figure at all on went time as and ,liked greatly was She .entertainments respectable she grew to be a sort of kindly maiden aunt to the younger portion of affairs love their her to confide to apt were girls Young .society (which they never did to Mrs. Penniman), and young men to be fond of her her ;eccentricities harmless few a developed She .why knowing without habits, once formed, were rather stiffly maintained; her opinions, on all was she before and ;conservative extremely were ,matters social and moral forty she was regarded as an old-fashioned person, and an authority on a quite was ,comparison in ,Penniman .Mrs .away passed had that customs girlish figure; she grew younger as she advanced in life. She lost none to opportunity little had she but ,mystery and beauty for relish her of exercise it. With Catherine's later wooers she failed to establish interesting many so her given had which those as intimate as relations hours in the society of Morris Townsend. These gentlemen had an her to talked never they and ,offices good her of mistrust indefinable about Catherine's charms. Her ringlets, her buckles and bangles,

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quite remained she and ,year succeeding each with brightly more glistened
the same officious and imaginative Mrs. Penniman, and the odd mixture of
regards As .known hitherto have we that ,circumspection and impetuosity
one point, however, her circumspection prevailed, and she must be given
mentioned never she years seventeen of upwards For .it for credit due
Morris Townsend's name to her niece. Catherine was grateful to her, but
,character 'aunt her with accord in little so ,silence consistent this
gave her a certain alarm, and she could never wholly rid herself of a
.him of news had sometimes Penniman .Mrs that suspicion

Washington Square

Chapter XXXIII

LITTLE by little Dr. Sloper had retired from his profession; he visited certain a recognised he symptoms whose in patients those only originality. He went again to Europe, and remained two years; Catherine .party the of was Penniman .Mrs occasion this on and ,him with went Europe apparently had few surprises for Mrs. Penniman, who frequently with familiar very am I know You" sites romantic most the in ,remarked all this." It should be added that such remarks were usually not who -fellow to but ,niece her to yet or ,brother her to addressed happened to be at hand, or even to the cicerone or the goat-herd in the .foreground

One day, after his return from Europe, the Doctor said something to his the of out far so from come to seemed it start her made that daughter past.

"I should like you to promise me something before I die."

"Why do you talk about your dying?" she asked.

"Because I am sixty-eight years old."

"I hope you will live a long time," said Catherine.

"I hope I shall! But some day I shall take a bad cold, and then it will ,exit my of manner the be will That .hopes one any what much matter not and when it takes place, remember I told you so. Promise me not to marry ".gone am I after Townsend Morris

This was what made Catherine start, as I have said; but her start was a of speak you do Why" .nothing said she moments some for and ,one silent him?" she asked at last.

"You challenge everything I say. I speak of him because he's a topic, still is he and ,else one any like ,seen be to 'He .other any like looking for a wife - having had one and got rid of her, I don't know by

Washington Square

"Marian cousin your at and ,York New in been lately has He .means what house; your Aunt Elizabeth saw him there."

"They neither of them told me," said Catherine.

"That's their merit; it's not yours. He has grown fat and bald, and he steel to alone facts those trust 'can I But .fortune his made not has your heart against him, and that's why I ask you to promise."

"Fat and bald": these words presented a strange image to Catherine's the in man young beautiful most the of memory the which of out ,mind world had never faded. "I don't think you understand," she said. "I ".Townsend .Mr of think seldom very

"It will be very easy for you to go on, then. Promise me, after my ".same the do to ,death

Again, for some moments, Catherine was silent; her father's request I" .afresh ache it made and wound old an opened it ;her amazed deeply don't think I can promise that," she answered.

"It would be a great satisfaction," said her father.

"You don't understand. I can't promise that."

The Doctor was silent a minute. "I ask you for a particular reason. I ".will my altering am

This reason failed to strike Catherine; and indeed she scarcely was he that sense the in merged were feelings her All .it understood trying to treat her as he had treated her years before. She had suffered tranquillity acquired her all ,experience her all now and ;then it from and rigidity, protested. She had been so humble in her youth that she this in something was there and ,pride little a have to afford now could request, and in her father's thinking himself so free to make it, that not was dignity 'Catherine Poor .dignity her to injury an seemed aggressive; it never sat in state; but if you pushed far enough you could .far very pushed had father Her .it find

Washington Square

"I can't promise," she simply repeated.

"You are very obstinate," said the Doctor.

"I don't think you understand."

"Please explain, then."

"I can't explain," said Catherine. "And I can't promise."

"Upon my word," her father explained, "I had no idea how obstinate you
"!are

She knew herself that she was obstinate, and it gave her a certain joy.
.woman -middle a now was She

About a year after this, the accident that the Doctor had spoken of
April one Bloomingdale to out Driving .cold violent a took he ;occurred
day to see a patient of unsound mind, who was confined in a private
opinion medical a desired greatly family whose and ,insane the for asylum
from an eminent source, he was caught in a spring shower, and being in a
home came He .skin the to soaked himself found he ,hood a without ,buggy
with an ominous chill, and on the morrow he was seriously ill. "It is
good very need shall I" ;Catherine to said he ",lungs the of congestion
nursing. It will make no difference, for I shall not recover; but I wish
an hate I .should I if as ,detail smallest the to ,done be to everything
ill-conducted sick-room; and you will be so good as to nurse me on the
his of which her told He ".well get shall I that hypothesis
fellow-physicians to send for, and gave her a multitude of minute
nursed she that hypothesis optimistic the on quite was it ;directions
him. But he had never been wrong in his life, and he was not wrong now.
very a had he though and ,year seventieth his touching was He
well-tempered constitution, his hold upon life had lost its firmness. He
as well as ,Penniman .Mrs which during ,illness 'weeks three after died
his daughter, had been assiduous at his bedside.

On his will being opened after a decent interval, it was found to consist

Washington Square

and ,back years ten from dated these of first The .portions two of consisted of a series of dispositions by which he left the great mass of The .sisters two his to legacies becoming with ,daughter his to property second was a codicil, of recent origin, maintaining the annuities to Mrs. of fifth a to share 'Catherine reducing but ,Almond .Mrs and Penniman what he had first bequeathed her. "She is amply provided for from her a than more spent having never" ,ran document the " ,side 'mother fraction of her income from this source; so that her fortune is already she whom adventurers unscrupulous those attract to sufficient than more has given me reason to believe that she persists in regarding as an .Dr ,therefore ,property his of remainder large The ".class interesting Sloper had divided into seven unequal parts, which he left, as in ,medicine of schools and hospitals different many as to ,endowments various cities of the Union.

To Mrs. Penniman it seemed monstrous that a man should play such tricks ,said she as ,course of ,death his after for ;money 'people other with it was other people's. "Of course, you will dispute the will," she .Catherine to ,fatuously ,remarked

"Oh no," Catherine answered, "I like it very much. Only I wish it had "!differently little a expressed been

Washington Square

Chapter XXXIV

IT was her habit to remain in town very late in the summer; she preferred it and, whatever habitation other any to Square Washington in house the was under protest that she used to go to the seaside for the month of her that year The .hotel an at month her spent she sea the At .August father died she intermitted this custom altogether, not thinking it her off put she that after year the and ;mourning deep with consistent departure till so late that the middle of August found her still in the a of fond was who ,Penniman .Mrs .Square Washington of solitude heated change, was usually eager for a visit to the country; but this year she ,gather could she as impressions rural such with content quite appeared at the parlour window, from the ailantus-trees behind the wooden paling. the in itself diffuse to used vegetation this of fragrance peculiar The evening air, and Mrs. Penniman, on the warm nights of July, often sat at .Mrs for moment happy a was This .it inhaled and window open the Penniman; after the death of her brother she felt more free to obey her she and ,life her from disappeared had oppression vague A .impulses enjoyed a sense of freedom of which she had not been conscious since the Catherine with abroad went Doctor the when ,ago long so ,time memorable and left her at home to entertain Morris Townsend. The year that had ,time happy that of her reminded death 'brother her since elapsed because, although Catherine, in growing older, had become a person to be .Mrs as ,thing different very a was society her yet ,with reckoned Penniman said, from that of a tank of cold water. The elder lady hardly and sat she ;life her of margin larger this of make to use what knew looked at it very much as she had often sat, with her poised needle in ,however ,hope confident a had She .frame tapestry her before ,hand her that her rich impulses, her talent for embroidery, would still find their had months many before justified was confidence this and ,application elapsed.

Catherine continued to live in her father's house in spite of its being more a find might habits quiet of lady maiden a that her to represented convenient abode in one of the smaller dwellings, with brown stone transverse the adorn to begun time this at had which ,fronts thoroughfares in the upper part of the town. She liked the earlier

Washington Square

and house "old" an called be to time this by begun had it structure proposed to herself to end her days in it. If it was too large for a opposite the than better was this ,gentlewomen unpretending of pair fault; for Catherine had no desire to find herself in closer quarters Washington in life her of rest the spend to expected She .aunt her with Square, and to enjoy Mrs. Penniman's society for the whole of this aunt her ,live might she as long ,that conviction a had she as ;period would live at least as long, and always retain her brilliancy and .vitality rich a of idea the her to suggested Penniman .Mrs .activity

On one of those warm evenings in July of which mention has been made, the quiet the on out looking ,window open an at together sat ladies two Square. It was too hot for lighted lamps, for reading, or for work; it having Penniman .Mrs ,conversation for even hot too appeared have might long been speechless. She sat forward in the window, half on the low a in ,room the within was Catherine .song little a humming ,balcony rocking-chair, dressed in white, and slowly using a large palmetto fan. they after ,niece and aunt the that ,season this at ,way this in was It had had tea, habitually spent their evenings.

"Catherine," said Mrs. Penniman at last, "I am going to say something
".you surprise will that

"Pray do," Catherine answered; "I like surprises. And it is so quiet
".now

"Well, then, I have seen Morris Townsend."

If Catherine was surprised, she checked the expression of it; she gave some for ,indeed ,remained She .exclamation an nor start a neither moments intensely still, and this may very well have been a symptom of .last at said she ",well was he hope I" .emotion

"I don't know; he is a great deal changed. He would like very much to
".you see

"I would rather not see him," said Catherine quickly.

Washington Square

"I was afraid you would say that. But you don't seem surprised!"

"I am - very much."

"I met him at Marian's," said Mrs. Penniman. "He goes to Marian's, and that that belief my 'It .there him meet will you afraid so are they why he goes. He wants so much to see you." Catherine made no response is he ;first at him know 'didn I" .on went Penniman .Mrs and ,this to so remarkably changed. But he knew me in a minute. He says I am not in coming was He .was always he polite how know You .changed least the away when I came, and we walked a little distance together. He is still so so not is he and ,older looks he ,course of ,only ,handsome very animated as he used to be. There was a touch of sadness about him; but went he when especially before him about sadness of touch a was there away. I am afraid he has not been very successful - that he has never got and ,plodding sufficiently is he suppose 'don I .established thoroughly that, after all, is what succeeds in this world." Mrs. Penniman had not of fifth the of upwards for niece her to name 'Townsend Morris mentioned a century; but now that she had broken the spell, she seemed to wish to in exhilaration of sort a been had there if as ,time lost for up make hearing herself talk of him. She proceeded, however, with considerable Catherine .sign some give Catherine let to occasionally pausing ,caution gave no other sign than to stop the rocking of her chair and the swaying ",last Tuesday on was It" .silent and motionless sat she ;fan her of said Mrs. Penniman, "and I have been hesitating ever since about telling was it that thought I last At .it like might you how know 'didn I .you so long ago that you would probably not have any particular feeling. I ,street the in him met I 'Marian at him meeting after ,again him saw and he went a few steps with me. The first thing he said was about you; ;you to speak to me want 'didn Marian .questions many so ever asked he she didn't want you to know that they receive him. I told him I was sure you ;that about feeling any have 'couldn you years these all after that couldn't grudge him the hospitality of his own cousin's house. I said most the has Marian .that did you if indeed bitter be would you extraordinary ideas about what happened between you; she seems to think reminding of liberty the took I .manner unusual very some in behaved he her of the real facts, and placing the story in its true light. _He_ has for excused be might he and ;you assure can I ,Catherine ,bitterness no

Washington Square

it, for things have not gone well with him. He has been all over the world against him. It is most interesting to hear him talk of his evil star. I believe he married some lady somewhere in Europe. You know you his but everything ;failed Everything high spirit. I believe he married some lady somewhere in Europe. You a ;Europe in way -matter peculiar a such in marry they know marriage of reason they call it. She died soon afterwards; as he said to for York New in been not has He .life his across flitted only she ,me ten years; he came back a few days ago. The first thing he did was to very seemed he ;married never had you heard had He .you about me ask much interested about that. He said you had been the real romance of his ".life

Catherine had suffered her companion to proceed from point to point, and the on eyes her fixed she ;her interrupting without ,pause to pause ground and listened. But the last phrase I have quoted was followed by a It .spoke Catherine ,last at ,then and ,significance peculiar of pause will be observed that before doing so she had received a good deal of 'don please ;more no say Please" .Townsend Morris about information follow up that subject."

"Doesn't it interest you?" asked Mrs. Penniman, with a certain timorous .archness

"It pains me," said Catherine.

"I was afraid you would say that. But don't you think you could get used ".you see to much so wants He ?it to

"Please don't, Aunt Lavinia," said Catherine, getting up from her seat. to open stood which ,window other the to went and ,away quickly moved She the balcony; and here, in the embrasure, concealed from her aunt by the warm the into out looking ,time long a remained she ,curtains white darkness. She had had a great shock; it was as if the gulf of the past There .it of out risen had figure spectral a and ,opened suddenly had were some things she believed she had got over, some feelings that she in vitality certain a was there apparently but ;dead as of thought had them still. Mrs. Penniman had made them stir themselves. It was but a

Washington Square

pass presently would it ;herself to said Catherine ,agitation momentary
away. She was trembling, and her heart was beating so that she could
waited she while ,suddenly ,Then .subside would also this but ;it feel
for a return of her calmness, she burst into tears. But her tears flowed
was It .them of observation no had Penniman .Mrs that so ,silently very
perhaps, however, because Mrs. Penniman suspected them that she said no
.Townsend Morris about evening that more

Washington Square

Chapter XXXV

HER refreshed attention to this gentleman had not those limits of which to enough long lasted it ;conscious be to ,herself for ,desired Catherine enable her to wait another week before speaking of him again. It was .subject the attacked more once she that circumstances same the under She had been sitting with her niece in the evening; only on this and ,lighted been had lamp the ,warm so not was night the as ,occasion Catherine had placed herself near it with a morsel of fancy-work. Mrs. she then ;balcony the on hour an half for alone sat and went Penniman came in, moving vaguely about the room. At last she sank into a seat .excitement of look little a and ,hands clasped with ,Catherine near

"Shall you be angry if I speak to you again about _him_?" she asked.

Catherine looked up at her quietly. "Who is _he_?"

"He whom you once loved."

"I shall not be angry, but I shall not like it."

"He sent you a message," said Mrs. Penniman. "I promised him to deliver
".promise my keep must I and ,it

In all these years Catherine had had time to forget how little she had to forgiven ago long had she ;misery her of season the in for aunt her thank Mrs. Penniman for taking too much upon herself. But for a moment this of carrying this ,disinterestedness and interposition of attitude messages and redeeming of promises, brought back the sense that her ;angry be not would she said had She .woman dangerous a was companion but for an instant she felt sore. "I don't care what you do with your .answered she "!promise

Mrs. Penniman, however, with her high conception of the sanctity of ,said she ",retreat to far too gone have I" .point her carried ,pledges though precisely what this meant she was not at pains to explain. "Mr. that believes he ;Catherine ,you see to particularly most wishes Townsend

Washington Square

if you knew how much, and why, he wishes it, you would consent to do so."

"There can be no reason," said Catherine; "no good reason."

"His happiness depends upon it. Is not that a good reason?" asked Mrs. Penniman

"Not for me. My happiness does not."

"I think you will be happier after you have seen him. He is going away, restless, lonely, very a is It .wanderings his resume to going again joyless life. Before he goes he wishes to speak to you; it is a fixed very something has He .it of thinking always is he him with idea important to say to you. He believes that you never understood him - that him upon weighed always has belief the and ,rightly him judged never you terribly. He wishes to justify himself; he believes that in a very few .friend a as you meet to wishes He .so do could he words

Catherine listened to this wonderful speech without pausing in her work; Morris of think to herself accustom to days several had now had she Townsend again as an actuality. When it was over she said simply, ".alone me leave would he wish I that Townsend .Mr to say Please"

She had hardly spoken when a sharp, firm ring at the door vibrated a marked it ;clock the at up looked Catherine .night summer the through quarter-past nine - a very late hour for visitors, especially in the empty little a gave moment same the at Penniman .Mrs .town the of condition start, and then Catherine's eyes turned quickly to her aunt. They met Penniman .Mrs .sharply ,moment a for them sounded and 'Penniman .Mrs was blushing; her look was a conscious one; it seemed to confess her from quickly rose and ,meaning its guessed Catherine .something chair.

"Aunt Penniman," she said, in a tone that scared her companion, "have you _liberty_ the taken

"My dearest Catherine," stammered Mrs. Penniman, "just wait till you see"!him

Washington Square

Catherine had frightened her aunt, but she was also frightened herself; was who, servant the to orders give to rushing of point the on was she passing to the door, to admit no one; but the fear of meeting her visitor .her checked

"Mr. Morris Townsend."

This was what she heard, vaguely but recognisably articulated by the of door the to turned back her had She .hesitated she while ,domestic the parlour, and for some moments she kept it turned, feeling that he had Then .about faced she last at and ,however ,spoken not had He .in come she saw a gentleman standing in the middle of the room, from which her .retired discreetly had aunt

She would never have known him. He was forty-five years old, and his But .remembered she man young slim ,straight the of that not was figure it was a very fine person, and a fair and lustrous beard, spreading a After .effect its to contributed ,chest -well a upon itself moment Catherine recognised the upper half of the face, which, though her .handsome remarkably still was ,thin grown had locks clustering 'visitor He stood in a deeply deferential attitude, with his eyes on her face. "I looking ,paused he then and ;said he ",ventured have I ventured have about him, as if he expected her to ask him to sit down. It was the old was ,minute a for ,Catherine .charm old the not had it but ,voice conscious of a distinct determination not to invite him to take a seat. ,embarrassed was Morris .come to him for wrong was It ?come he had Why but Catherine gave him no help. It was not that she was glad of his of liabilities own her all excited it ,contrary the on ;embarrassment this kind, and gave her great pain. But how could she welcome him when I much so wanted I" ?come have to not ought he that vividly so felt she was determined," Morris went on. But he stopped again; it was not easy. with recalled have well may he and ,nothing said still Catherine apprehension her ancient faculty of silence. She continued to look at It .observation strangest the made she so did she as and ,however ,him seemed to be he, and yet not he; it was the man who had been everything, had she old how was it ago long How .nothing was person this yet and grown - how much she had lived! She had lived on something that was

Washington Square

person This .so doing in it consumed had she and ,_him_ with connected did not look unhappy. He was fair and well-preserved, perfectly dressed, life his of story the ,him at looked Catherine As .complete and mature defined itself in his eyes; he had made himself comfortable, and he had ,this to itself opened perception her while even But .caught been never she had no desire to catch him; his presence was painful to her, and she .go would he wished only

"Will you not sit down?" he asked.

"I think we had better not," said Catherine.

"I offend you by coming?" He was very grave; he spoke in a tone of the .respect richest

"I don't think you ought to have come."

"Did not Mrs. Penniman tell you - did she not give you my message?"

"She told me something, but I did not understand."

"I wish you would let _me_ tell you - let me speak for myself."

"I don't think it is necessary," said Catherine.

"Not for you, perhaps, but for me. It would be a great satisfaction - and .away turned Catherine ;nearer coming be to seemed He ".many not have I "Can we not be friends again?" he said.

"We are not enemies," said Catherine. "I have none but friendly feelings ".you to

"Ah, I wonder whether you know the happiness it gives me to hear you say influence the measured she that intimation no uttered Catherine "!that of her words; and he presently went on, "You have not changed - the years ".you for happily passed have

"They have passed very quietly," said Catherine.

Washington Square

"They have left no marks; you are admirably young." This time he
glossy his saw she ;her to close was he nearer coming in succeeded
perfumed beard, and his eyes above it looking strange and hard. It was
seen first had she If .face young his from old his from different very
him this way she would not have liked him. It seemed to her that he was
,voice his lowering ,said he ",Catherine" .smile to trying or ,smiling
"I have never ceased to think of you."

"Please don't say those things," she answered.

"Do you hate me?"

"Oh no," said Catherine.

Something in her tone discouraged him, but in a moment he recovered
"?then ,me for kindness some still you Have" .himself

"I don't know why you have come here to ask me such things!" Catherine
.exclaimed

"Because for many years it has been the desire of my life that we should
".again friends be

"That is impossible."

"Why so? Not if you will allow it."

"I will not allow it!" said Catherine.

He looked at her again in silence. "I see; my presence troubles you and
".again come to leave me give must you but ;away go will I .you pains

"Please don't come again," she said.

"Never? - never?"

She made a great effort; she wished to say something that would make it

Washington Square

of wrong is it" .threshold her cross again ever should he impossible
you. There is no propriety in it - no reason for it."

"Ah, dearest lady, you do me injustice!" cried Morris Townsend. "We have
".free are we now and ,waited only

"You treated me badly," said Catherine.

"Not if you think of it rightly. You had your quiet life with your
".of you rob to mind my up make not could I what just was which father

"Yes; I had that."

Morris felt it to be a considerable damage to his cause that he could not
say to needless is it for ;besides more something had had she that add
that he had learnt the contents of Dr. Sloper's will. He was
he "!that than fates worse are There" .loss a at not nevertheless
exclaimed, with expression; and he might have been supposed to refer to
,tenderness deeper a with ,added he Then .situation unprotected own his
"Catherine, have you never forgiven me?"

"I forgave you years ago, but it is useless for us to attempt to be
".friends

"Not if we forget the past. We have still a future, thank God!"

"I can't forget - I don't forget," said Catherine. "You treated me too
,on went she then And ".years for it felt I ;much very it felt I .badly
with her wish to show him that he must not come to her this way, "I can't
was It .buried and dead is Everything .up it take 'can I again begin
too serious; it made a great change in my life. I never expected to see
".here you

"Ah, you are angry!" cried Morris, who wished immensely that he could
might he case that In .mildness her from passion of flash some extort
hope.

"No, I am not angry. Anger does not last, that way, for years. But

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.strong been have they when ,last Impressions .things other are there
But I can't talk."

Morris stood stroking his beard, with a clouded eye. "Why have you never
".opportunities had have You" .abruptly asked he "?married

"I didn't wish to marry."

"Yes, you are rich, you are free; you had nothing to gain."

"I had nothing to gain," said Catherine.

Morris looked vaguely round him, and gave a deep sigh. "Well, I was in
".friends been have still might we that hopes

"I meant to tell you, by my aunt, in answer to your message - if you had
that in come to you for unnecessary was it that answer an for waited
hope."

"Good-bye, then," said Morris. "Excuse my indiscretion."

He bowed, and she turned away - standing there, averted, with her eyes on
of door the close him heard had she after moments some for ,ground the
the room.

In the hall he found Mrs. Penniman, fluttered and eager; she appeared to
her of promptings irreconcilable the under there hovering been have
curiosity and her dignity.

"That was a precious plan of yours!" said Morris, clapping on his hat.

"Is she so hard?" asked Mrs. Penniman.

"She doesn't care a button for me - with her confounded little dry manner."

"Was it very dry?" pursued Mrs. Penniman, with solicitude.

Morris took no notice of her question; he stood musing an instant, with

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"?marry never she would ,then ,deuce the why But" .on hat his

"Yes - why indeed?" sighed Mrs. Penniman. And then, as if from a sense of will you despair not will you But" ,explanation this of inadequacy the come back?"

"Come back? Damnation!" And Morris Townsend strode out of the house, .staring Penniman .Mrs leaving

Catherine, meanwhile, in the parlour, picking up her morsel of fancy .were it as ,life for again it with herself seated had ,work

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We make no recommendations about therapy, but if you would like to contact a therapist, we suggest you also seek out an EMDR practitioner or a CBT therapist who will put their reading material into Empowerment Script. If you have a therapist, let them know you have been reading Empowerment Script, and ask if they will add an EMDR or CBT therapist to your therapy team.



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