

IF SHE IS AN EAVES DROPPER SHE WILL HEAR MORE TO HER DISADVANTAGE THAN PRAISE.

WAL

PEOPLE ARE NOT ALWAYS EAVES DROPPERS WHO HEAR UNPLEASANT THINGS ABOUT THEMSELVES OR FRIENDS.

THEO

FRIENDS A RESPECTABLE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS SHE HAS. IT IS POSITIVELY NOT SAFE TO DRIVE OUT WITH HER.

WAL

HAS ANYTHING HAPPENED THIS MORNING?

THEO

YES. SHE HAD THE CARRIAGE STOPPED AND KEPT ELLEN AND I WAITING IN THE PUBLIC STREET FULL TEN MINUTES. WHILE SHE LAUGHED AND TALKED IN THE MOST FAMILIAR MANNER WITH THAT NERVOUS BACKWOODS BABY NATE HARPIN WHO NOW DRIVES A DRAY IN NEW YORK I BELIEVE.

WAL

THAT WAS VERY BAD TATSE CERTAINLY.

THEO

SHE WOULD HAVE HAD HIM INTO THE CARRIAGE IF THE MAN HAD NOT HAD SENSE ENOUGH TO SEE THAT HE WAS NOT WANTED. AND WORSE STILL, SHE HAS INVITED HIM HERE AND HE WILL COME TOO.

WAL

I SHOULD HOPE NOT. IF HE HAD THE SAME SENSE ENOUGH TO DECLINE THE CARRIAGE RIDE HE WILL PROBABLY ACT AS SENSIBLE IN THIS CASE.

THEO

I DON'T THINK SO. HE WILL COME. SHE INSISTED ON IT DIRECTLY AGAINST MY WISHES. I TOLD HER THAT NATE WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE CONGENIAL COMPANY IN OUR HOUSE. AND THAT SHE MIGHT BE A LITTLE MORE CONSIDERATE OF HER HUSBANDS FAMILY. IN THE SELECTION OF HER FRIENDS. ~~ENTER REUBEN-OVERHEARS WAL SPEECH~~ AND WE SHALL BE MORE SHOCKED ONE OF THESE FINE DAYS IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. SHE IS SURE TO COMMIT SOME FOLLY THAT WILL BRING REUBEN AND ALL OF US TO SHAME.

REUBEN

THEODORA WHAT WERE YOU SAYING? WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT MY WIFE? ~~THEO~~ THEO TURNS ABOUT CONFUSED. I AM SIGNIFICANTLY ANSWERED. WALTER I AM SURPRISED THAT YOU CAN PATIENTLY LISTEN TO SUCH LANGUAGE. ~~WAL RISES, BOWS AND SAUNTERS OFF L.I.E.~~ STERNLY TO THEO. THEODORA I WILL ALLOW NO ONE TO SNEER AT MY WIFE NOT EVEN YOU. I HAVE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME YOU HAVE NOT TREATED HER KINDLY BUT I DID NOT THINK IT HAD GONE SO FAR AS THIS. IF WE CANNOT LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE, THERE HAD BETTER BE A CHANGE.

THEO

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

REUBEN

I MEAN THAT I WILL TAKE MAUD AWAY. THE RASHTON PLACE IS FOR SALE AGAIN. I WILL BUY IT, AND I CAN SOON MAKE IT AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS. I HAVE CONSIDERED IT WELL. MAUD IS NOT HAPPY HERE. SHE IS A SENSITIVE CREATURE AND FEELS SHE IS NOT APPRECIATED.

THEO

I HOPE NOTHING I HAVE SAID HAS MADE HER UNHAPPY. ~~THINK~~ *I think* YOU HAVE SAID ENOUGH UNBROTHERLY THINGS OF ME FOR ONE DAY. MUSIC P.P. MAUD APPEARS AT BACK. IT IS ALL VERY WELL TO SNEER AT ME IN ORDER TO BOLSTER UP YOUR WIFE'S SHORT COMINGS, BUT I KNOW YOU REALIZE AS CLEARLY AS ~~XXXXXX~~ I DO, THAT EVEN WITH HER TWO YEARS SCHOOLING MAUD MULLER IS NOT A PROPER PERSON TO UPHOLD THE DIGNITY OF OUR FAMILY AS YOUR WIFE.

REUBEN

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THEODORA HUSH.

THEO

I WILL NOT HUSH, YOU HAVE INSULTED AND ANGERED ME, AND I WILL SPEAK
YOU ARE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, WIFE REUBEN WAYNE. YOU CANNOT BEAR THE
DAILY COMPARISON BETWEEN HER AND ELLEN THE PEARL YOU THREW AWAY.
AND NOW REGRET IT. IT IS TOO LATE TO REPAIR THE FOLLY AND SO YOU
MUST TAKE YOUR COUNTRY JEWEL AWAY TO RASHTON PLACE WHERE YOU CAN
HIDE HER FROM THE WORLD. // MAUD STAGGERS AS IF TO FAINT // REUBEN--
REUBEN // TURNS AND GOES TO MAUD //

MAUD HERE?

MAUD- - - - - REUBEN IS IT TRUE- IS IT TRUE?

REUBEN

NO NO. DONT TAKE IT TO HEART SO.

MAUD

SHE SAID IT SHE SAID IT.

REUBEN

THEODORA YOU HAVE DONE A CRUEL WRONG.

THEO // REPENTANTLY //

I AM SURE I- I -HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS THERE- I AM SORRY-

REUBEN

YOU HEAR MAUD. SHE IS SORRY, SHE DIDNT MEAN IT.

MAUD // JOYFULLY //

DIDNT SHE MEAN IT? CARE YOU SURE? // GOING TO THEO // YOU DIDNT DID YOU?

THEO

I NO I DIDNT MEAN IT, // SCORNFULLY- AND EXIT R.U.E. //

MAUD

IM SI GLAD OF THAT. // GOING TO REUBEN // REUBEN I SHOULD WANT TO DIE
IF YOU WERE ASHAMED OF ME.

REUBEN /C./

IM NOT ASHAMED OF YOU. I AM PROUD OF YOU AND ALWAYS ~~WILL~~ WILL BE.

MAUD

ARE YOU SURE REUBEN?

REUBEN

SURE OF IT? OF COURSE I AM. TRY TO FORGET IT MAUD. THEODORA IS
HIGH TEMPERED AND MEANS LESS THAN SHE SAYS.

MAUD

AND SHE WONT LET ME LOVE HER AS I WANT TO.

REUB

OH SHE WILL AFTER A TIME MAUD. // SITS ON SOFE - MAUD AT HIS FEET //
BUT NOW TELL ME WHAT HAS MY LITTLE WIFE DONE TO OFFEND HER SISTER
IN-;AW?

MAUD

I CANNOT THINK REUBEN UNLESS IT WAS BECAUSE I TALKED TO NATE HARPEN
AND ASKED HIM TO COME HERE.

REUB

PSHAW. I DONT WANDER AT HER ANGER. I DONT SUPPOSE YOU COULD HAVE
SHOCKED HER MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH AN ELECTRIC BATTERY.

MAUD

DID I DO WRONG. OH IM SO SORRY.

REUBEN

WELL MAUD SINCE WEVE GOT ON THIS SUBJECT WE MAY AS WELL DISCUSS IT
IF YOU DONT WISH TO VEX THEODORA OR MY MOTHER YOU MUST NOT THINK
OF HAVING THAT SORT OF PEOPLE HERE.

MAUD

I DIDNT MEAN ANY HARM AND NATE IS SUCH A GOOD HONEST FELLOW.

REUBEN

I UNDERSTAND THAT. SO FAR AS I AM PERSONELLY CONCERNED IT WOULD

I have just been thinking of you and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I always find time to think of my friends.

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----- NOT MATTER BUT MOTHER AND 18
THEODORAS FEELINGS MUST BE CONSIDERED, WHEN YOU ARE WISER YOU WILL
LEARN THAT THE STURBORNEST SENTIMENT IN THE WORLD TO COMBAT IS
PREJUDICE.

MAUD

OH IM SO HAPPY. I WONT HAVE NATE COME HERE IF YOU OBJECT. IM CONST
ANTLY MAKING MISTAKES. I DONT BELIEVE I EVER CAN BE A LADY BUT
ILL TRY INDEED I WILL. ILL DO THE BEST I CAN IF YOU WILL ONLY
BEAR WITH ME.

R-UBEN

NONSENSE, DONT BE SO FRIGHTENED YOU LITTLE GOOSE. YOU HAVE DONE
NOTHING THAT CANNOT BE REPAIRED.

MAUD

IM ALWAYS AFRAID OF MAKING MISTAKES.

REUBEN

THERE IS PART OF THE FAULT. YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE ASSURNACE. IF
YOU HAVE A TENTH PART OF THEODORAS SELF RELIANCE, WE WOULD NOT BE
IN DREAD OF MISTAKES.

MAUD

AH I SHALL NEVER BE LIKE THEODORA.

REUBEN

I SHOULD HOPE NOT. BUT LET US DISMISS THE SUBJECT. I AM WEARRIED,
HALF SICK WITH THE LAW MATTERS, WITHOUT ADDITION OF HOME TROUBLES.

MAUD

REUBEN WHY DONT EVERYBODY DO WHAT IS RIGHT? THEN THERE WOULD BE NO N
NEED OF LAW ANS COURTS AND PRISON~~ANS~~ES.

REUBEN

AND YOUR HUSBAND WOULD BE PLAIN MR WAYNE.

MAUD

DO YOU THINK THAT WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WITH ME?

REUBEN//RISING AND GOING L.//

WELL IT WOULD WITH ME.

MAUD

ARE YOU GOING REUBEN? I WISH I COULD BE WITH YOU MORE.

REUBEN

DONT COMPLAIN DEAR. I DEPRECIATE THE PRESS OF BUSINESS AS MUCHAS
YOU DO.

MAUD//X-S QUICKLY TO HIM//

OH I DONT COMPLAIN. I WILL BE CONTENT IF YOU WILL ONLY LOVE ME.

REUBEN//HALF VEXED//

DEAR ME. I WISH YOU WOULD GET OVER THAT POOLISH NOTION.

MAUD

DONT SCOLD REUBEN. I WONT SAY IT AGAIN. ONLY I WAS JUST A LITTLE
AFRAID THAT YOU MIGHT CARE FOR MISS MAYFORCE.//REUBEN ABOUT TO
SPEAK//. JUST A LITTLE YOU KNOW. SHE IS SO BEKUTIFUL.//REUBEN
LOOKS AT HER IN A CROSS MANNER AND EXETS L.I.E.//MAUD LOOKING AFTER
HIM//IM AFRAID HE DOES CARE FOR HER. HE DOESENT LOVE ME AS HE DID AT
FIRST. HE IS DISAPPOINTED INME- I CANT MAKE IT PLEASANT FOR HIM- HE
IS AFRAID OF THEODORAS ANGER. OH IF HE SHOULD LOVE HER AFTER ALL.
HOW HARD I HAVE TRIED TO FIGHT DOWN THAT FEAR// STARTS TO RUN OFF
L-C- RUNS AGAINST NATEWHO IS ENTERING.//

NATE

JIMINY ~~HOW~~ SUFFERIN COLUMBUS- WHAT ON ARTH ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MAUD

OH NATE

NATE // DOWN -L-//

HELLO- IS THAT YOU LITTLE WOMAN? I THOUGHT I RUN AGIN A LOCOMOTIVE.

I KNOW NOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE STRUCK BY LIGHTENING.

MAUD //ALARMED//

DONT TALK SO LOUD THEY MIGHT HEAR YOU.

NATE

WELL LET EM I AINT ASHAMED O' NOTHIN I SAY. YOUVE MARR ED YOURSELF INTO A TARNATION PRETTY PLACE HERE.

MAUD

I WISH YOU HADNT COME SO. I MEAN IM SORRY I DIDNT KNOW YOU WERE COMING.

NATE

YES IT MIGHT HAVE SAVED THE COLLISION. BUT YOU NEEDNT MIND ABOUT THAT BUMP. IT DIDNT HURT TO SPEAK OF.

MAUD

LETS GO INTO THE GROUNDS NATE. IT WILL BE PLEASANTER AND WE WILL BE MORE ALONE.

NATE

WHATS WRONG WITH YE-? FEARS LIKE YE WAS SORRY I ACCEPTED YOUR INVITATION.

MAUD

OH NATE DONT BLAME ME. I WANTED YOU TO COME BUT-

NATE

THE OTHER GAL DIDNT EH? I SEEN SHE WAS ON PINS AND NEEDLES WHILE YOU WAS TALKIN TO ME. THATS THE REASON I DIDNT GET INTO THE BUGGY SHES A STUNNIN GAL IN SUNDAT CLOTHES. BUT THEN EYES ON HERN PIN INTO A FELLER LIKE A COUPLE OF DAMNIN NEELES. DOES SHE MISTREAT YOU LITTLE WOMAN?

MAUD //HESITATINGLY//

OH NO. BUT SHE DONT LOVE ME AS MUCH AS I WANT TO BE LOVED.

NATE

THATS WHAT I THOUGHT TODAY. BUT THE JUDGE MAKES IT UP TO YOU.

MAUD

REUBEN IS VERY KEED AND TRIES TO OVER LOOK MY IMPERFECTIONS.

NATE

OVER LOOK YOUR IMPERFECTIONS. I DIDNT KNOW YOU HAD ANY.

MAUD

OH YES I HAVE NATE. IM ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING TO DISPLEASE THEODORA

NATE

THEODORA BE HANGED

MAUD

NATE;

NATE

PROUD STUCK UP CRITTER. WHAT RIGHT HAS SHE TO BE DISPLEASED WITH YOU? WHY DONT YOU PITCH IN AND SHOW HER THAT YOU ARE THE BOSS HERE?

MAUD //ALARMED//

HUSH NATE SOME ONE WILL HEAR YOU.

NATE

WELL LET EM HEAR. I MUST LET OFF STEAM OR BUST. I KNOW WHATS THE MATTER. THEYRE ASHAMED OF YOU HERE.

MAUD

DONT SAY THAT NATE DONT. ITS WHAT IM AFRAID OF. ITS WHAT THEODORA SAYS. SHE SAYS REUBEN IS ASHAMED OF ME. BUT HE IS SO GOOD HE WONT ADMIT IT. OH NATE YOU DONT KNOW HOW WRETCHED IT MAKES ME. IF I DIDNT KNOW IT WOULD BREAK MY HEART TO PART FROM HIM I WOULD GO AWAY. //SINKS INTO CHAIR R.//

NATE

LOOK HERE LITTLE WOMAN WHEN I GIVE YOU UP TO JUDGE WAYNE I DIDNT CALCULATE I WOULD EVER HEAR HE WAS UNKIND TO YOU.

MAUD

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I always find time to think of my friends. I hope you are all the same. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I always find time to think of my friends. I hope you are all the same. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I always find time to think of my friends. I hope you are all the same.

NO NO I DIDNT SAY HE WAS UNKIND. INDEED HE IS VERY GOOD TO ME. ONLY SOME TIMES HE IS OUT OF SORTS AND IS WORRIED ABOUT THINGS. AND THEODORA SAYS HE DOESNT LIKE ME, TO HAVE MY FRIENDS COME HERE. BECAUSE IT ANNOYS HIS MOTHER AND SISTER AND IM AFRAID-

NATE

THEY'D BE A RUMPUS IF THEY CAME FOUND ME HERE. IN THEIR FINE PARLOR WELL ILL WEND MY WEARY WAY TO A MORE CONGENIAL CLIME BEFORE THEY DISCOVER ME. //GOING UP C.// BUT LOOK HERE LITTLE WOMAN IF YOU EVER GET INTO A DIFFICULTY THAT YOU CANT GET OUT BY YOURSELF. JUST CALL ON NATE THE NEXT. HESTER AND ME HAVE GOT ONE BIG HEART ATWEEN US. AND WEVE GOT A COMFORTABLE HOME IN THE CITY. I DONT EXPECT YOU'LL EVER WANT TO MAKE USE OF IT BUT IF YOU DO ITS THAR FOR YOU.

MAUD

HOW GOOD YOU ARE NATE.

NATE

WELL I DONT THINK ID BE GOOD TO EVERYBODY. I HATE LIKE THUNDER TO GIVE A STANDING INVITATION TO THAT SISTER-IN-LAW OF YOURS. //LOOKS OFF C.D.// HELLO SHE IS COMING NOW. WITH ANOTHER STUCK UP FEMALE. ITS THE WHAT WAS IN THE BUGGY WITH YOU. BY JIMMINY KING THATS THE SAME ONE THAT WANTED TO CUT YOU OUT WITH THE JUDGE. IS SHE HERE TRYING THE SAME GAME ?

MAUD

OH NATE DONT SAY THAT DONT EVEN THINK OF IT.

NATE

BY JIMMINY KING IF I THOUGHT-

MAUD

GO NATE GO. THE MUST NOT SEE YOU.

NATE

ID RATHER LIKE THE FUN OF A COMBAT WITH THEM TWO HIGH FLYERS. BUT NOW'LL I GET OUT WITHOUT THEM SEEING ME?

MAUD

THIS WAY. YOU SEE THAT DOOR AT THE END OF THE HALL?

NATE

YES.

MAUD

THAT DOOR LEADS INTO THE ORCHARD.

NATE

ALL RIGHT. IF THEY SEE ME TELL EM IM A TRAMP. /MAUD AND NATE EXIT R.3. AS THEO AND WALTER ENTER C.//

THEO

I TELL YOU WALTER REUBEN FEELS IT KEENLY. HE REALIZES THAT HE HAS MADE A MISTAKE HE IS TOO PROUD THOUGH TO LET THE WORLD SEE IT. BUT I KNOW THAT HE WOULD GIVE HALF HIS WEALTH TO WIPE OUT THIS HATEFUL MARRIAGE, THAT HAS WRECKED HIS FUTURE PROSPECTS. /MAUD APPEARS IN GREAT GRIEF//

WAL

AND THIS POOR GIRL BLINDLY BELIEVES THAT HER HUSBAND STILL LOVES HER?

THEO

YES THE POOR GIRL IS IGNORANT OF THE TRUTH BUT SAD AS IT IS FOR HER IT IS MORE SO FOR REUBEN. THINK OF HIM DRAGGING ON THROUGH LIFE WITH BLIGHTED HOPES, CHAINED TO A WOMAN HE CANNOT LOVE AND FETTERED BY A TIE HE CANNOT BREAK. YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO WHERE HIS HEART IS. AND WHY HE SHUTS HIMSELF UP IN HIS LIBRARY //MAUD UTTERS AN EXCLAMATION OF GRIEF// RISES// MAUD-YOU THERE?

MAUD//CONTROLLING HER EMOTION//

I BEG PARDON FOR THE INTRUSION //WEEPS//

COULD SHE HAVE HEARD?

THEO//ASIDE TO WAL//

I THINK NOT. HUSH.//NOISE OUTSIDE--MRS MULLER ENTERS C REENTR//

MRS MULLER

NEVER MIND ILL FIND HER.//ENTERS// WHARS MY GAL. WHARS MY MAUD-
WJERE IS SHE? MY MAUD.

MAUD

MOTHER //FALLS ON MRS MULLERS NECK AND WEEPS//

MRS M-

COME COME MY GAL. BRIGHTENUP. IT WILL NEVER FOR THE GRAND JUDGES
WIFE TO BE CRYING OVER HER OLD MOTHER. MY EYES GIRL. WHAT A FINE
HOUSE YOUVE GOT. AND TO THINK MY MAUD IS MISSUS OF IT ALL. NO NEED
TO DARN YOUR OLD STOCKINGS NOW *my* GAL?

THEO//TO WAL//

THIS IS UNBEARABLE.

WAL//TO THEO//

DONT WIND ME. I RATHER ENJOY IT.

MAUD

THEODORA THIS IS MY MOTHER.

THEO

I SHOULD JUDGE SO BY HER APPEARANCE.

MRS M-

WEEK XXXX KXKE CKE XEN SHOULD YOU? WELL THATS KIND OF YOU. I
NEVER HEARD AFORE THAT I LOOKED A BIT LIKE MAUD. EVERYBODY SAYS
SHE IS THE DEAD IMAGE OF HER FATHER, SO YOURE MY GALD SISTER-IN-LAW
THEN YOU ARE A KIND OF A SORT OF A DARTER OF NINE. WELL MY HEARTS
BIG ENOUGH FOR BOTH ON YE.//ABOUT TO EMBRACE THEO RISES QUICKLY//

THEO//SCORNFULLY//

THANK YOU MADAM YOU HAD BETTER RESERVE THE PLACE IN YOUR HEART
FOR THOSE OF YOUR FRIENDS WHOSE EDUCATION WILL FIT THEM TO APPREC-
IATE IT.

MRS M-

JES' SO //TURNS AWAY//

MAUD//IN A LOW ANGRY VOICE//

THEODORA YOU HAVE SAID MANY UNKIND THINGS TO ME AND I HAVE BORNE
THEM IN SILENCE, BUT BEWARE HOW YOU SNEER AT MY MOTHER OR YOU WILL
FIND I CAN TURN.

MRS M//COMING L.//

WHATS THE MATTER MAUD? YOU DONT SEEM HALF GLAD TO SEE ME.

MAUD

YES I AM MOTHER. VERY GLAD, COME TO MY ROOM AND TAKE OFF YOUR
THINGS// GOING L//

THEO//TO MAUD//

MAUD//MAUD COMES TO HER// YOU ARE SURELY NOT GOING TO ASK YOUR
MOTHER TO STAY NOW. THE HOUSE WILL BE FULL OF GUESTS TODAY. AND SHE
WILL SHAME US ALL. HAVE SOME REGARD FOR REUBENS POSITION. IF YOU
HAVE NONE FOR MY FEELINGS.

MAUD

YOU WOULD HAVE ME SEND MY MOTHER AWAY?

THEO

YOU MUST.

MAUD// WITH SPIRIT//

I WILL NOT DO SO.

THEO MRS M-

WHY GAL WHATS THE MATTER? AM I IN THE WAY?

MAUD

NO NO MOTHER. YOU REMIAN HERE AND TALK TO THEODORA, WHILE I GO AND
ARRANGE YOUR ROOM FOR YOU. ILL SOON RETURN //EXIT L.//

MRS MULLER YOU ARE A SENSIBLE WOMAN AND WILL COMPREHEND HOW INAPPROPRIATE IT WILL BE FOR MAUD THROUGH MISTAKEN AFFECTION, TO ATTEMPT TO FORCE YOU INTO SOCIETY, IN WHICH YOU ARE UNACCUSTOMED, AND WHICH WOULD BE WHOLLY UNCONGENIAL TO YOUR ~~WIFE'S~~ TASTE.

MRS M-

I DONT QUI TE UNDERSTAND YOU MISS THEODORA. I DIDNT COME HERE FOR ANY OF YOUR GRAND COMPANY. I CAME HERE TO SEE MY GAL. // THEO DISGUSTED // WELL MRS JUDGE WAYNE IF YOU LIKE THAT BETTER, BUT MY GAL FOR ALL THAT.

THEO

OF COURSE YOU WOULDNT LIKE TO MAKE MAUD UNHAPPY, OR TO BE THE CAUSE OF A QUARREL, BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE.

MRS M

SARTIN NOT.

THEO

THEN TAKE MY ADVISE AND DEFER YOUR VISIT TO MAUD, OUR HOUSE IS FILLED WITH GUESTS. WHOM FOR POLITICAL REASONS REUBEN IS ANXIOUS TO PLEASE HE HAS ASKED MAUD TO DEVOTE HERSELF ENTIRELY TO THEIR ENTERTAINMENT. IF YOU REMIAN HER DESIRE TO BE WITH YOU WILL CAUSE HER TO NEGLECT HER HUSBANDS BUSINESS, YOU UNDERSTAND?

MRS M

JES 'SO WHY DIDNT YOU GIVE ME A HINT?

THEO // ASIDE //

I THOUGHT I DID.

MRS M-

OH I CAN SEE THROUGH A MILSTONE IF THERES A HOLE IN IT.

MAUD // ENTERS FROM L. //

ARE YOU GOING MOTHER?

MRS M

YES MAUD . I HAVE EHANGED MY MIND, I-

MAUD

MOTHER I BEG YOU WILL REMAIN.

MRS M

NO NO GAL I KNOW HOW THINGS ARE HERE, POLOTICS AND ALL THAT I AM PROUD OF YOUR AFFECTION FOR ME BUT I SHALL BE ~~W~~FOUNDER TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE A GOOD TRUE WIFE, AND TO BE THAT YOU MUST ~~BE~~ OBEY YOUR HUSBAND.

MAUD

MOTHER YOU DONT SUPPOSE REUBEN WOULD FORBID-?

MRS M

SARTIN NOT BUT I OUGHTENT STO COME TODAY ANY HOW I LEFT WHOLE PILES OF CHORES AND DANLS GONE TO MILL AND IF HE COMES HOME AND FINDS THINGS TOPSY TURVY, JES 'AS LIKE AS NOT HE 'LL SARS ME RIGHT OUT OF MY BOOTS . SO GOOD BYE // KISSES HER GOES TO THEO // IM OBLIGED TO YOU MISS THEODORY FOR BEIN GOOD TO MAUD. SHE 'LL SOON LARN TO BE AS GOOD AS ANY OF YE IF YOU JIST SHOW HER A LITTLE. WELL GOOD BYE BUT I SAY YOU DEDNT INTERDUCE ME TO THAT GENT THERE.

THEO // ANNOYED //

MY COUSIN, MR WALT WAYNE.

MRS M

HOW DO YOU DO? WELL YOU ARE A SORT OF A RELATION TOO IF EVER YOU EVER GIT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD JEST DROP IN. -GOOD BYE GOOD DAY. I SAY MAUDY. THEY ARE AS HIGH STRUNG AS A GRAND FORTY PIANNER. // EXIT L.C. MAUD UP C. LOOKING AFTER HER //

THEO

THANK HEAVEN THAT SCENE IS OVER, IS IT NOT SHOCKING?



I LIKE IT IT IS A NOVELTY. //RISING// I THINK I WILL GO AND WALK UNTIL DINNER. ARE YOU COMING?

THEO //RISING//

I WILL JOIN YOU SOON. //EXIT WAL R.D.E.//

MAUD //COMING DOWN//

THEODORA I-I-I-

THEO //TURNING TO MAUD//

I KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD SAY MAUD. YOU OVERHEARD MY WORDS TO WALTER ABOUT YOU AND REUBEN, IT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE. IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN OF YOUR PRESERVER IT WOULD HAVE SEVED ME THIS HUMILIATION AND YOU THIS TORTURE,

MAUD

YES IT IS TORTURE, A TERRIBLE AGONY.

MAUD

DONT YOU THINK MAUD I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO WANTONLY HURT YOUR FEELINGS.

MAUD

OR I CONT. I DONT.

THEO

I SPOKE HARSHLY TO YOUR MOTHER BUT INDEED I HAVE BEEN SORRY FOR IT EVER SINCE. AND WAITED NOW TO ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS.

MAUD

OH THEODORA IT IS NOT THAT THAT MAKES ME MISERABLE. IF I ONLY HAD A TRUE FRIEND TO WHOM I COULD GO WITH MY SORROW. TELL ME IS IT TRUE WHAT YOU SAID TO WALTER. ?DOES HE LOVE HER? //THEO TURNS AWAY//

THEO

DONT ASK ME MAUD IT IS TOO PAINFUL.

MAUD

OH TELL ME TELL ME THE TRUTH.

THEO

I WILL ONLY MAKE YOU MORE WRETCHED. YOU KNOW THEY WERE ONCE BETROTHED AND WOULD HAVE MARRIED BUT FOR-

MAUD

BUT FOR ME.

THEO

DONT ASK ME ANY MORE I CANNOT BEAR IT //GOING R.--ASIDE// IF THAT DOES NOT CURE HER BABY LOVE I AM MISTAKEN. //EXIT R.I.E.//

MAUD

IT IS TRUE AFTER ALL. HE DOES LOVE HER. HE HATES ME. HE DESPISES ME BECAUSE I CANNOT LEARN TO BE A LADY. HE WOULD GIVE HALF OF HIS FORTUNE TO BE RID OF ME. HE WOULD BE GLAD IF I WERE TO DIE. AND SO I WILL. I WILL BE DEAD TO HIM FROM THIS DAY. FOR I WILL GO AWAY FOREVER WHERE HE WILL NEVER HEAR OF ME AGAIN. //SITS L. OF TABLE// HOW CAN I GIVE HIM UP WHEN I LOVE HIM SO MUCH. WHY DID HE MAKE ME HIS WIFE? WHY DID HE NOT LEAVE ME AS HE FOUND ME A SIMPLEHEARTED COUNTRY GIRL TO PLOW ON THROUGH LIFE WITH AT LEAST CONTENT. THEN I NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE WRETCHED THING THAT I AM TODAY. BUT WHERE AM I TO GO? NOT HOME TO FATHER. NO, I MUST GO FAR FAR AWAY WHERE HE CAN NEVER FIND ME. LET ME THINK. //SUDDENLY// I WILL GO TO NATE AND HESTER IN THE GREAT CITY. NATE SAID IF I EVER NEEDED A FRIEND OR A HOME TO COME TO HIM. KIND NATE HE LITTLE DREAMED HOW SOON I WOULD TEST HIS FRIENDSHIP; LET ME SEE- LET ME THINK FIRST- I MUST WRITE A LETTER TO REUBEN. I CAN DROP IT IN POST OFFICE AT THE CORNER AS I GO TO THE STATION. -OH HOW CAN I GO-HOW CAN I LEAVE HIM? OH REUBEN REUBEN. //HEAD SINKS ON ARM ON TABLE REUBEN ENTERS L.I.E.//

REUBEN

It is to be noted that the first of these is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The second is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The third is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The fourth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The fifth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The sixth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The seventh is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The eighth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The ninth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The tenth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The eleventh is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The twelfth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The thirteenth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The fourteenth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The fifteenth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The sixteenth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The seventeenth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The eighteenth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The nineteenth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The twentieth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The twenty-first is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The twenty-second is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The twenty-third is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

The twenty-fourth is the most important, and the most difficult to handle.

I AM COMPLETELY WORN OUT. IF I DONT GET AN HOURS SLEEP I SHALL END UP WITH ONE OF MY SICK HEADACHES, BUT THANK HEAVEN THIS WORK IS DONE. JUDGE BRANDON OUGHT TO HAVE WRITTEN THIS DECISION. MY ASSOCIATES PUTS TOO MUCH OF THE HARD WORK UPON ME. I WONDER IF I COULD GET A LITTLE SLEEP ON THIS SOFA. /// IS ABOUT TO LIE DOWN-HEARS MAUD SOBBING-//ASIDE// WHY MAUDS CRYING AGAIN. SHE IS WEEPING OVER MY ROW WITH THEODORA, SENSITIVE LITTLE CREATURE.//ALOUD// I WOULDNT CRY ANY MORE MAUD IT IS A SMALL THING TO MAKE YOURSELF UNHAPPY ABOUT.

MAUD//SOBBING//

I-I-I- IVE DONE CRYING. I DIDNT MEAN YOU TO S-S-SEE ME.

REUBEN//ASIDE//

IT TAKES VERY LITTLE TO OPEN THE FLOOD GATES OF A WOMANS TEARS, I WONDER IF SHE KNOWS I SAT UP TILL NEARLY DAYLIGHT WRITING OUT A DECISION IN A TEDIOUS RAILROAD CASE.//TO MAUD// AND ARE YOU GRIEVING ABOUT THAT LITTLE AFFAIR WITH THEODORA?

MAUD

I-I-I-AM GRIEVING BE-BE-BECAUSE-

REUBEN

BECAUSE YOU ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO GIVE IMPORTANCE TO THE ~~HEAVY~~ ^{hasty} UTTERANCE OF AN ANGRY, ~~WOMAN~~ AND PREJUDICED WOMAN.

MAUD

I DONT CARE SO MUCH FOR WHAT SHE SAID IN ANGER AS-

REUBEN

MAUD COME HERE.//SHE GETS UP AND STARTS TO GO BUT STOPS// COME. //SHE GETS TO CENTER AND STOPS AGAIN//COME MY DARLING.//SHE COMES AND SINKS AT HIS FEET SOBBING//.ARE YOU NOT A LITTLE GOOSE TO MIND IT SO? YOU BELIEVE WHAT THAT FOOLISH THING THEODORA SAID. OF COURSE I LOVE YOU BUT I DONT LIKE TO SEE YOU IN TEARS SO OFTEN. WHEN YOUVE NOTHING TO CRY FOR.

MAUD

OH YOU DONT KNOW REUBEN, YOU DONT KNOW

REUBEN

YES I DO. I KNOW THAT YOUR MAGNIFYING GLASS IS A POWERFUL ONE. AND MAKES YOUR NICE, ELEPHANTS. IF YOU CANNOT BEAR TO HEAR THAT EVERY ONE DOES NOT THINK YOU PERFECTION I DONT KNOW WHAT IS TO BE DONE.

MAUD

I DONT CARE IF OTHERS DO FIND FAULT WITH ME. I WOULDNT CARE IF THE WHOLE WORLD WAS AGAINST ME. IF I WAS ONLY SURE THAT YOU LOVED ME. AND WOULD NOT BE ASHAMED OF ME.

REUBEN //ANNOYED//

NOW DONT YOU SEE HOW SILLY THAT SPEECH IS? HOW COULD YOU EXPECT ME TO CARE FOR YOU IF THE WHOLE WORLD WAS AGAINST YOU? AND YOU CARED NOTHING FOR ITS OPINION.

MAUD

BUT REUBEN YOU DIDNT UNDERSTAND ME. I MEANT²-

REUBEN

I KNOW I KNOW. NEVER MIND AN EXPLANATION NOW. IM VERY TIRED AND SLEEPY. ILL ^{lie} ~~lay~~ DOWN HERE TILL DINNER.

MAUD

LET ME GET THE COLOGNE AND BATHE YOUR EYES?

REUBEN

NO NO NEVER MIND. ILL BE ASLEEP IN HALF A MINUTE. YOU WOULD ONLY KEEP ME AWAKE.//LIES DOWN AND COVERS FACE WITH HANDKERCHIEF-MAUD GOES AND SITS AT TABLE R. GETS UP AND GOES UP TO CENTER DOOR. AS IF GOING OUT- DURING BUSINESS MAUD IS SOBBING-REUBEN RISES AFTER LOOKING AFTER HER. MAUD COMES DOWN R.//YOU ARE WEEPING AGAIN

11

I am writing you this letter to tell you that I am well and hope you are the same. I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are happy and healthy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to write to you more often.

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FORGIVE ME REUBEN, I COULDN'T HELP IT.

REUBEN

FORGIVE NONSENSE. THERE IS NOTHING TO FORGIVE//X-S TO HER// WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?//X-S BACK WEARILY TO SOFA//

MAUD//GOES TO HIM QUICKLY//

OH REUBEN YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MY HEART ACHES, YOU DON'T LOVE HER DO YOU? YOU DON'T LOVE HER-

REUBEN

MAUD THERE OUGHT TO BE AN END TO THIS NONSENSE ABOUT ELEEN IF I AM TO BE ANNOYED IN THIS WAY ABOUT EVERY LADY VISITOR WE HAVE, THE SOONER WE RETURN TO RASHTON PLACE THE BETTER, FOR MY PEACE OF MIND. COME NOW STOP WORRYING AND LET ME HAVE A REST, YOU WON'T LOOK FIT TO BE SEEN AT DINNER.//LIES ON SOFA-DOES NOT COVER FACE//

MAUD

HE DOES NOT CARE FOR MY TEARS, HE IS ONLY AFRAID I WON'T LOOK FIT TO BE SEEN BY HIS GRAND FRIENDS. BUT I MUST NOT CRY ANY MORE IT WILL UNFIT ME FOR WHAT I AM TO DO.//SITS AT R. TABLE// THERE IS BUT ONE WAY BEFORE ME. I MUST GO. I WILL WRITE THE LETTER AND THEN CHANGE MY DRESS. I WILL TAKE NOTHING WITH ME BUT THE CLOTHES I BROUGHT FROM MY FATHERS HOUSE. I COULDN'T WEAR THESE AFTER THIS BITTER DAY. WHAT SHALL I SAY. HOW AM I TO WRITE THE WORDS THAT ARE TO PART US FOREVER?//WRITES//. DEAR REUBEN, MAY I SAY MY HUSBAND, ONCE MORE OBEY ONCE AND I WILL NEVER WOUND YOU BY THE TITLE AGAIN. I KNOW THAT YOU DO NOT LOVE ME. THAT YOU ARE ASHAMED OF ME. I AM GOING AWAY FOREVER DO NOT TRY TO FIND ME IT BETTER YOU SHOULD NOT. GOOD BYE DARLING DEATH ITSELF CANNOT BE HARDER THAN SAYING GOOD BYE TO YOU. KNOWING IT IS FOREVER, -I CANNOT WRITE ANY MORE THOUGH IT IS NOT ONE HUNDREDTH PART OF WHAT I WANT TO SAY-//FOLDS LETTER//PETS IT IN ENVELOPE AND DIRECTS IT// SOME ONE MAY COME OR REUBEN MAY AWAKE. I MUST NOT BE STOPPED NOW.//X-S TO REUBEN// SLEEP ON REUBEN AND GOD BLESS YOU OH I MUST GO AWAY AND NEVER SEE HIS FACE OR LISTEN TO HIS VOICE AGAIN. WOULD HE WAKE IF I SHOULD KISS HIS HAND. NO. I DARE NOT RISK IT.//COMES IN FRONT OF SOFA-KISSES HAND GOOD BYE// GOOD BYE REUBEN//TAKES A SMALL FLOWER FROM BOSOM OF DRESS//WHEN THIS LITTLE FLOWER SHALL HAVE WITHERED AND DIED-SHE WHO PLACED IT THERE//PLACES IT ON HIS COAT// SHALL HAVE PASSED FROM YOUR MEMORY FOREVER, AND WHEN WE MEET IN HEAVEN I PRAY GOD THAT YOU MAY KNOW AND LOVE ME THERE. FOR ALL THAT I HAVE SUFFERED HERE, GOOD BYE MY DARLING. OH REUBEN-REUBEN//GRADUALLY GOING C.D.//

P I C T U R E

C U R T A I N

N.B.

FROM TIME MAUD COMMENCES LETTER VERY PLAINTIVE MUSIC. PP. AND MAUD WEEPS AND SOBS TILL CURTAIN. SHOWING ALL THE EMOTION POSSIBLE.

A C T T H I R D

.....

PLAIN CHAMBER IN THREE -BOXED. OPEN WINDOW R. FLOWER POTS IN WINDOW. DOOR L. TO OPEN UP. DOORS L.2 AND L.3 TO OPEN OFF. -TABLE AND TWO CHAIRS R. WORK BASKET ON TABLE AND TWO CHAIRS L. WHITE TABLE CLOTH AND SET WITH DISHES .

HESTER // DISC. AT L. OF TABLE //

NATE MUST HAVE STOPPED TO GOSSIP SOMEWHERE OR HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE THIS. HES AN AWFUL GABBLER HE IS. IT ISNT SAFE TO SEND HIM ON AN ERRAND IF YOU WANT IT DONE IN REASONABLE TIME. // ENTER NATE DOOR R. WITH LARGE BASKET. SETS IT ON TABLE AND GOES TO WINDOW R. //

NATE

THATS YOUR GREENS HESTER .BILE EM UP TENDER WE MAY HAVE A VISITOR TO DINNER.

HESTER

WHAT KIND O GOINS ON DO YOU CALL THAT? YOU HAVENT BEEN BIT BY A MAD DOG HAVE YOU?

NATE

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A LECTRIC SHOT. HITCH HOLD OF THE TABLE CAUSE YOU'LL NEED IT.

HESTER

YOU DONT SAY SO.

NATE

I DO TOO. TH EYRE HERE IN THE CITY .

HESTER

WELL NOW IM RIGHT GLAD TO HEAR IT. WHO 'S HERE?

NATE

CROSS CORNERS. THE JUDGE AND THE OLD MAN BOTH-IVE SEEN EM BOTH.

HESTER

REUBEN WAYNE IN NEW YORK? THEN HES COME HIMSELF INSTEAD OF ANSWERING HER LETTER.

NATE

I DONT BELIEVE IT A GOL DARNED BIT. ITS JUST WHAT I EXPECTED. THAT THERE PERSONEL IN THE HERALD SAYING AS HOW HE WAS DYING TO HEAR OF NEWS OF HIS WIFE WAS ALL A SHAM.

HESTER

POOR MAUD. SHES WAITING SO ANXIOUSLY FOR THE ANSWER TO HER LETTER

NATE

SHE WONT NEVER GET NO ANSWER.

HESTER

WHY DO YOU THINKS ITS ALL A SHAM-?

NATE

IVE SEEN THE JUDGE AND HAD A CONFAB WITH HIM. HES PRETENDING THAT HES SEARCHING FOR MAUD. HIM AND MR *Truman* ANOTHER ONE OF THE HIGHFLYERS. I THOUGHT AT FIRST THEY MEANT BUSINESS CAUSE THE JUDGE DIDNT LOOK RIGHT PERT AND I WAS MIGHTY NIGH TELLIN ON HIM WHERE SHE WAS BUT I THOUGHT ID JUST KINDER DRAW HIM OUT. AND I AXED HIM HOW IT WAS, DID SHE JUST GIT UP AND GIT AND WALK OFF WITHOUT ANY MUST CAUSE AND PROVOCATION, WELL SIR HE STRAIGHTENED UP JUST LIKE A RAM ROD .HE SAID AS HOW HE THOUGHT IT WAS NONE OF MY BUSINESS, AND I DIDNT KNOW NOTHIN ABOUT HIS WIFES WHEREABOUTS AND HE DIDNT PROPOSE TO SCUSS HIS TROUBLES IN THE PUBLIC STREETS AND THEN HE WALKED OFF ITS MY OPINION AS HOW HE DIDNT WANT TO FIND HER. HES GOT HER LETTER AND PRETENDED HE AINT.

THE FIRST PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
REIGN OF CHARLES THE FIRST
BY JOHN BURNET
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
M.D.C.LXXV

THE SECOND PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE
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HESTER

POOR MAUD IT WILL BREAK HER HEART.

NATE

SHE AINT TO KNOW NOTHIN ABOUT IT IM DEAD CERTAIN HE KNOWS WHERE SHE IS AND IF HE WANTS HER HE 'LL COME AND GIT HER, BY JUMMINY KING IF HE WASNT MAIDS HUSBAND ID LICH HIM.

HESTER

TWASNT HIM YOU WAS MAKIN THE GYMNASICS TO OUTER THE WINDOW?

NATE

NO TWANT HIM. TWAS DANL MULLER. I RECKON HES A GENUINE CUTTER.

HESTER

MR MULLER IN THE CITY? WHY ITS RAINING CROSS CORNER FOLKS TODAY.

NATE

I SEED HIM A FOLLOWIN OF ME. I RECKON HE WASNT SARTIN IT WAS ME.

MR MULLER // ENTERS D F. //

I BEG PARDON I-WHAT NATE-HESTER?

NATE/R/

DANL MULLER GIVE ME YOUR FIST. WHERE DID YOU DROP FROM?

MULLER

IVE B EN IN THE CITY BUT A SHORT TIME.

NATE

YES WE ARE ROUGH AND HEARTY AS EVER, HOW ARE YOU?

MULLER

WELL NATE IM NOT FEELING AS WELL AS I WOULD WISH. AND I DONT THINK I EVER WILL UNTIL I FIND MY MAUD.

NATE

YOU DONT LOOK AS IF YOU FELT FIRST RATE.

MULLER

NO NATE NO. IVE BEEN LOOKING FOR HER MY PRIDE, MY JOY. BUT SHES GONE. GONE.

NATE

HAL I THINK IT ABOUT TIME YOU WAS A FINDIN SUTHIN.

MULLER

YOU HAVENT SEEN HER NATE? YOU- YOU DONT KNOW WHERE SHE IS DO YOU?

NATE

ILL BET TWO CENTS I DO.

MULLER

TELL ME TELL ME. WHERE IS SHE? WHERE IS SHE?

NATE

LOOK HERE DANL MULLER FIRST AND FOREMOST I WANT TO KNOW JUST HOW THE CAT JUMPS. I DONT SAY I HAIN'T SEEN NO GAL WHAT HER NAME IS MAUD, AND I DONT SAY I HAVE NEITHER.

MULLER

YES SHES HERE LET ME GO TO HER.

NATE

HOLD ON NOW JUS FOR A MINUTE. NOW DANL SQUARE, IVE HEARN THAT YOUR GAL HAS GONE AND VAMOSSED THE RANCHE AND KICKED ON THE WHOLE BUSINESS. IVE SEEN THE JUDGE AND HAD A CONFAB WITH HIM INTO THE BARGAIN AND ITS MY OPINION HES ONLY PUTTIN ON. AND IF SO, YOU'RE ONLY PULLIN IN THE SAME BOAT ALONG OF HIM YOU CANT GET NO HELP FROM NATE HARPIN.

MULLER

NATE I KNOW NOTHING *about* JUDGE WAYNE NEITHER DO I WANT TO KNOW. I HAVE NOT COME FROM HIM. I HAVE COME TO TAKE MAUD HOME NOT TO HIS HOME WHERE THEY MAKE HER SO MISEABLE.

NATE

DANL MULLER GIVE US YOUR FIST. YOU'RE THE MAN IM LOOKING FOR. THARS A GAL NOT BAR FROM HERE THAT AWFUL HUNGRY FOR NEWS FROM SOME PLACE IN MASSECHUSETTS AND YOU CAN A CCOMODATE HER.

YES YES NATE, BUT WHERE IS SHE?

HESTER ~~XXXX~~ //GOING TO DOOR L.2.E.//

ILL BRING HER.

NATE

HOLD ON. IT MU STENT BE TOO SUDDENT YOU STOP OUT THERE IN THE HALL TILL I SEND FOR YOU. AND ILL GIVE YOU A SURPRISE THAT WILL MAKE YOUR HAIR GO CLEAR UP TO THE TOP OF YOUR HAT. AND TSAY THERE FOR A MONTH. //MULLER EXITS D.F.// WE MUST SORT OF PREPARE MAUD AND RUN NO RISKS OF CONIPTION-WHERE IS SHE?

MAUD//ENTERING L.3.E.//

HERE I AM IF YOU MEAN ME NATE.

NATE

SO YOU BE AND I DO MEAN YOU.

MAUD

HAVE YOU GOT THE LETTER? HAS IT COME?

NATE

NO.THERE AINT NO LETTER COME YET.

MAUD

OH NOW THATS TOO BAD. I THOUGHT SURE YOU HAD IT. WHAT IS THE REASON IT DOSENT COME NATE? ITS BEEN 4 DAYS SINCE I WROTE AND YOU SAID IT WOULD ONLY TAKE A DAY TO GO AND A DAY TO COME BACK. AND IM SURE REUBEN WOULD ANSWER AT ONCE.

NATE

I WOULDNT BE TOO SARTIN OF THAT MAUD. HE MIGHT WANT A DAY OR TWO TO THINK IT OVER, YOUR LETTER WOULD SORT ER KNOCK HIM INTO A HEAP YOU KNOW AT FIRST.

MAUD

THINK IT OVER?WHAT, AFTER THE PERSONEL IN THE PAPER WHICH AS GOOS AS ASKED ME TO COME HOME.

NATE

SO IT DID. SO IT DID. IF IT WAS GENUINE.

MAUD

YOU DONT THINK IT WASNT DO YOU NATE? OH NATE WHAT MAKES YOU TRY TO DISCOURAGE MY HOPES? IVE NOTICED IT FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS -BOTH YOU AND HESTER.

HESTER

LAWS. I RECKON ITS BECAUSE WE DONT LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU LEAVING US, AINT IT NATE?

NATE

I RECKON THATS ABOUT AS STRAIGHT AS I COULD PUT IT MEEMMY MTSELF.

MAUD

OH YOU ARE BOTH TRYING TO F OL ME. YOUVE GOT THE LETTER NATE. I KNOW YOU HAVE, //JOYFULLY// REUBEN HAS WRITTEN ME TO COME HOME. //CLAPP ING HANDS// IM GOING BACK TO REUBEN. GIVE ME THE LETTER NATE ITS MINE. YOUVE NO RIGHT TO KEEP IT FROM ME. IM READY TO GO AT ONCE. OH GIVE IT TO ME NATE. GIVE IT TO ME WONT YOU PLEASE?

NATE//ASIDE//

THUNDERATION IF SHE GOES ON LIKE THAT ILL CHOKE. //ALOUD// I TOLD WOE I HADENT NO LETTER NER I HAIINT. //X-ING L.C.//

MAUD//R.C.//IN GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT//

OH NATE

NATE

NOW DONT GO FLYIN OFF THE TRACK AFORE YOUVE RUN AGIN SUTHIN. I SAID AS HOW I HAD NO LETTER BUT I DIDNT SAY I HAD NB NEWS.

MAUD//EAGERLY//

I KNEW IT. FROM HOME?

NATE

OR ALL THE FOLKS IN CROSS CORNERS

11

THE FIRST PART OF THE BOOK IS A HISTORY OF THE

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THE TWELFTH PART OF THE BOOK IS A HISTORY OF THE

OF ALL THE FOLKS IN CROSS CORNERS. WHO WOULD YOU RATHER SEE?

MAUD

REUBEN.

NATE

YES OF COURSE, BUT OUTSIDE OF REUBEN.

MAUD

FATHER.

NATE

JES 'SO. THATS WHAT I THOUGHT. // GOES TO WINDOW LOOKS OUT AND RETURNS
L.C. // HESTER GETS THE GREENS A BILIN. // HESTER TAKES BAS KET AND
EXITS L.2.E. //

MAUD

IS IT FATHER NATE, YOU ARE NOT FOOLING ME AGAIN?

NATE

YES ITS YOUR FATHER.

MAUD

DEAR FATHER, // SUDDENLY // REUBEN HAS SENT HIM, THATS THE REASON I
HAVENT GOT THE LETTER. HE WANTED TO SURPRISE ME. HE COULDN'T COME
HIMSELF AND SO HE SENT FATHER TO BRING ME HOME. // RUNS TO WINDOW //
BUT WHERE IS HE NATE? I DONT SEE HIM. OH I KNOW. ILL RUN DOWN
STAIRS AND MEET HIM. // GOES D, F MEETS MULLER THEY EMBRACE // FATHER.

MULLER

MY CHILD.

MAUD

OH FATHER IM SO GLAD YOUVE COME. I WANT TO GO HOME SO ~~AND~~ ^{much} IVE BEEN
SO HUNGRY TO HEAR FROM YOU ALL. AND REUBEN, IS HE WELL? DID HE-
DID HE TAKE IT HARD WHEN I WENT AWAY?

NATE // ASIDE //

I GUESS ILL GO AND LOOK AFTER THE GREENS // EXIT L.2.E. //

MULLER

NO. JUDGE WAYNE IS NOT SO WELL AS HE WAS A FEW WEEKS AGO. AND I
HAVE HEARD HE DID TAKE IT HARD WHEN YOU WENT AWAY.

MAUD

IS MOTHER WELL?

MULLER

YES, MOTHER IS WELL.

MAUD

TELL ME WHAT I LONG TO HEAR, OF REUBEN, WHAT DID HE TELL YOU TO SAY
TO ME?

MULLER

MY CHILD I HAVE NOT SEEN JUDGE WAYNE NOR DID HE SEND ME TO YOU.

MAUD

NOT SEND YOU AND NO LATTER, WHY FATHER DID HE NOT RECIEVE MY ANS.
WER TO THE PERSONEL?

MULLER

IVE NO DOUBT BUT WHAT HE RECIEVED THE LETTER MY CHILD. BUT HE WILL
NOT ANSWER IT UNLESS HE WANTS YOU.

MAUD

UNLESS HE WANTS ME- WHY FATHER DO YOU THINK- OH IF I THOUGHT HE
DID NOT.

MULLER

COME COME MY CHILD I WOULDNT THINK ANY MORE ABOUT IT THAT IS FOR
THE PRESENT.

MAUD

I WOULD NEVER GO BACK TO HIM FATHER, MUCH AS I LONG TO ~~BE~~ WITH HIM.
UNLESS I WAS SURE, VERY SURE THAT HE WANTED ME. THE FUTURE ~~SEEMS~~
ALL DARK WITHOUT HIM. BUT I CAN NEVER FEEL WORSE THAN I DID ON
THE DAY THAT I CAME. TO NATE AND HESTER THEY HAVE BEEN SO KIND
~~TO ME~~

TO ME FATHER THEY ARE SUCH GOOD SOULS, AND IF I WASNT GOING BACK-
 //HESITATINGLY// IF I DONT GO BACK TO REUBEN I WOULD LIKE TO LIVE
 WITH THEM ALWAYS. DONT LOOK GRIEVED FATHER, I COULDNT GO BACK WITH
 YOU AND LIVE SO NEAR TO REUBEN. IT WOULD SHAME AND PAIN ME. NO, I
 COULDNT DO THAT FATHER.

MULLER

NO NO MY CHILD THAT WOULD NEVER DO. NEVER DO.

MAUD

NATE DOES NOT INTEND TO STAY HERE ALWAYS. HE IS GOING BACK TO HEM-
 LOCK FOREST. TO HIS OLD TRADE OF HUNTING AND TRAPPING. ALL THESE
 THINGS ARE SOLD EXCEPT HIS RIFLE. THEY ARE READY TO GO AT ANY TIME
 THEY ARE ONLY WAITING FOR ME. I PROMISED THEM THE DAY I WROTE TO
 REUBEN THAT I WOULD GO WITH THEM IF REUBEN DID NOT SAY 'COME HOME'
 IT WAS ALL A JOKE THEN FOR I WAS SO SURE REUBEN WOULD SAY 'COME' BUT
 IT IS FOUR DAYS NOW AND NO LETTER YET. I DONT KNOW WHAT TO THINK
 FATHER. I'M *afraid*-

NATE HESTER //ENTERS L.2.E.//

SAY FOLKS, THEM GREENS IS ALMOST *done* GONE.

MULLER /X-S TO NATE /

NATE GIVE ME YOUR HAND HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU FOR BEING SO GOOD
 TO MY MAUD?

NATE

PSHAW. TAINT NOTHIN TO BOAST ON.

MAUD /X-S TO NATE //

AH NATE HOW YEAN I EVER REPAY YOUR CARE AND LOVE?

NATE

I DONT WANT NO PAY. IF YOU'LL ONLY BRIGHTEN UP AND LOOK CHIRP THATS
 PAY ENOUGH FOR ME.

MAUD

BUT YOU ARE SACRIFICING TOO MUCH FOR ME. IT ISNT RIGHT TO KEEP YOU
 HERE WHEN YOU ARE SO ANXIOUS TO GET AWAY TO THE WOODS.

NATE

DONT YOU NEVER MIND THE WOODS. THEY'LL STAY THERE TILL KINGDOM COMES
 AND THE LONGER IM AWAY THE MORE GAMES IS ACCUMULATING.

MAUD

BUT I MUSTNT KEEP YOU HERE. IF THE LETTER DOESNT COME WHAT SHALL
 I DO? WHAT WOULD BE BEST? PERHAPS THE LETTER IS LOST. SHALL I WRITE
 AGAIN?

NATE //SCRATCHES HEAD//

NO I DONT THINK I WOULD JUST YET.

MAUD

YES NATE. LET ME WRITE ONCE MORE. AND IF AN ANSWER DOESNT COME IN
 FOUR DAYS THEN ILL GO WITH YOU. BUT CAN YOU WAIT THAT LONG?

NATE

WAIT? WHY MAUD ID BE WILLIN TO WAIT FOUR TIMES THAT LONG. IF IT
 WOULD MAKE YOU ANY HAPPIER. BUT IF I WERE YOURN I WOULDNT WRITE
 TILL AFTER DINNER.

MAUD

VERY WELL NATE. AND NOW YOU SHALL SEE NO MORE TEARS TODAY. IM GOING
 TO HELP HESTER WITH THE DINNER. AND BE JUST AS CHEERFUL AND MERRY
 AS IF I HADNT A CARE IN THE WORLD. FATHER HAS COME A LONG WAY TO
 SEE ME AND WE MUST ENTERTAIN HIM PROPERLY.

MULLER

NO MY CHILD I WOULD NOT WRITE TILL AFTER DINNER. AND THEN ONLY A
 FEW LINES SIMPLY ASKING IF YOUR LETTER WAS RECEIVED AND WHY IT
 WAS NOT ANSWERED. MR WAYNE WILL NOT THINK ANY THE LESS OF YOU AND
 THEN AGAIN YOU WOULD NOT BE SACRIFICING YOUR DIGNITY.

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
IN SENATE, JANUARY 11, 1871.
REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
ON THE LANDS BELONGING TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE LANDS BELONGING TO THE UNITED STATES
ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION
AND TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE.
THEY ARE THE SOURCE OF WEALTH AND
THEY ARE THE BASIS OF OUR CIVILIZATION.
THEY ARE THE HOME OF OUR ANCESTORS
AND THEY ARE THE HOME OF OUR FUTURE.
THEY ARE THE HOME OF OUR GODS
AND THEY ARE THE HOME OF OUR MANKIND.

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