



A CHANCE MEETING AT THE RECEPTION.

Lord Gaston Verner is a handsome, but unscrupulous member of society. He has...

CHAPTER IV. Out of the day and night...

It is late when Rhoda Verner enters Lady Baring's drawing room. The room beyond that again has been flung wide, and one of the amateur concertos so dear to the soul of the Baring is in full swing. Lady Baring is in her room, and Rhoda is in the drawing room...

CHAPTER V. War, war is still the cry—war even to the knife.

"Oh, how unhappy she looks!" says Brenda, turning to Gerald Kenrick. "Very," says she. "How unattractive you are! One would think you didn't care a button about her."

brother, Gerald Kenrick, who perhaps has a tendency toward gloom—gloom fostered by it not indeed born of Miss Bowen's little malignant turns and twists and all-round unsatisfactory conduct toward him...

CHAPTER VI. Queen, when the clasp is my covetous. When I am dead, and when you are gray. You, from the grass of the grave is we...



RHODA YIELDED AND LORD WYVIS KISSED HER HAND.

"Evidently yes," says she, indignantly. "What a temper you have, Gerald! Would you defend Sir Gaston? Actually I think you would. Well, 'Birds of a feather'—we all know the index of the mind. If so, proving of that dreadful man; I declare the more I hear about the man the more hateful I think him."

have stammered over it more hopefully, more shamefacedly. She feels this herself, and the knowledge renders her even more cruelly nervous than she would otherwise have been.

"That I love you!" she says, with a look of horror on the thought that he loves her. "Let that pass!" says he, out to the very soul by her shrinking from him.

"I would beg you in turn," says she suddenly, "to take no interest at all in any of my doings. I wish you to look at me as if I were a stranger."

"I have a life," says he, with an odd sort of smile. "I have not occurred to you, but yet, I assure you, I have a life—of some sort. What of it?"

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