

POETRY.

FAMILY PRAYERS.

Somewhat or other,
I don't know how,
Everything seems so altered now;
And to-night, I'm thinking,
I don't know why—
But I'd give a great deal for an old-fashioned...

SELECT STORY.

SAVED BY HER LOVE.

MEANWHILE JANET TRAVELLED down on the other side of the globe, doing her work well, in spite of the aching heart she carried about with her, for she could only interpret Bertie's strange silence in one way—she believed that he had grown tired of her. She was too young and inexperienced to know that a man may be fascinated by a beautiful woman, while his first love still has the best of his heart...

me still? Haven't you grown tired of me during these long months of separation?
His face clouded as he remembered that brief, midsummer madness and his passionate despair when his idol vanished. But he knew, too, that in his heart of hearts he had always cared for Janet with a tenderness that would last his lifetime, and now that he was with her again, all the old fondness had revived.
'I have never ceased to love you, never ceased to think you the sweetest girl in the world,' he answered, gravely; 'but men are weaker and more fickle than women. An absent love, a memory, is not enough for us.'

Finally, one of them summoned courage to speak of the nocturnal signs to Bertie. No one dared mention it to their master, who had grown more gloomy and morose than ever since he left England. Of course the young man, affected to laugh their fears to scorn, although it was inexpressibly painful to him to be in the house where his sister-in-law had died and where everything seemed to remind him of her.
'Could it be, too, he wondered, that Alice's spirit was permitted to revisit the earth and watch over her motherless child? Only after that Bertie would often talk about the pretty lady who sat by his bed, and wonder why she never came in the daytime.
And the nurse would just kiss the little questioner and change the subject. Then she would rejoin her fellow servants and say solemnly—
'Mark my words, that child won't live. When they begin to talk like that they never do. He's taken for death, I can see it in his face.'

It was twelve o'clock when she left the inn. It was half-past one by her watch when she emerged from the forest into the high road, which she was to follow for a few minutes, and then branch off again into a narrow path of the forest which had been described to her.
She went on resolutely, by the light of the lantern, which now began to flicker ominously, for owing to her fatigue and her ignorance of the way, she had walked very, very slowly.
Fortunately it lasted until she had turned into the narrow path through the forest. Then it went out, and she groped along as best she could. The path for the moon had hidden behind thick clouds, and not a star was visible.
At last she came to the clearing in the forest where the house stood. There was a light still in one window on the ground floor, and something told her that it was Bertie's.
She drew near the window on tip-toe, there was a creaking sound, and, after several fruitless attempts, she managed to climb up on it. Her head was on a level with the sill, and she could see everything that passed in the room.
As the first glances, she turned dizzy with horror and nearly fell from her perch. But she collected herself, and returned to her vigil. The light illuminated Bertie's beautiful face as he lay asleep. Anis looked deathly pale, but the watcher who near death had been, and made her breathe a prayer of thanksgiving that she had not come too late.
Bending over him was the figure of a dark, shaggy man, who she knew was James Chalmer, the man who had taken the sleeping porter into the room for a moment or two. Then, seeing that he did not stir, he moved with stealthy steps across the room, to a table, where stood a small, silver-mounted jug and a glass three parts full of what looked like lemonade.
Here he paused and listened again; and finding that Bertie gave no sign of waking, he took a little packet from his pocket and dropped some of its contents (a white powder) into the glass. Then, with a glance of concentrated hatred at the sleeper, he crept noiselessly out of the room.
Janet waited until she was sure that he had finally left the room. She grasped the window-sill with both hands, and managed to raise herself so that she could see one knee on it. The window, as she had seen in Germany, was made of two large, long panes of glass, and the fastening was in the middle. She discovered that, for some fortunate accident, it had been left ajar. She pushed it open a little, and her eyes, knocking down, as she did so, a small vase of flowers that stood on the small sill.
Bertie moved and moaned a little, but still slept on.
In another moment, she had lowered herself lightly into the room, and stood on terra firma again. The first thing she did was to pour the drink that had been tampered with out of the window, and then refill the glass from the jug. Then she knelt down beside the bedside of the sleeping man, and offered up a passionate prayer for his darling's safety.
'How ill he looked, how changed!' her anxiety on his account had not been in vain. As she gazed upon his sleeping face, her eyes filled with tears, and a great fear chilled her heart.
The sound of footsteps in the passage alarmed her. She hurried back to her old perch, but the steps passed, and she breathed freely again. She watched for a time, until her aching limbs and heavy eyes warned that she must sleep; to strengthen her courage, she turned to her subtle enemy. There was a disused coach house at one end of the building. The door was standing open, so she crept in, and throwing herself down on a bundle of hay that lay in one corner, slept soundly until the sun was high.

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