

room, said it seemed so pointless for them to be waiting in that way. waiting is not pointless, said the businessman, its only pointless if you try and interfere yourself. i told you just now ive got five lawyers besides this one. you mite think i thought it myself at first you mite think i could leave the whole thing entirely up to them now. that would be entirely wrong. i can leave it up to them less than when i had just the one. maybe you dont understand that, do you no, said and to slow the businessman down, who had been speaking too fast, he laid his hand on the businessmans to reassure him, but id like just to ask you to speak a little more slowly, these are many very important things for me, and i cant follow exactly what youre saying. youre quite right to remind me of that, said the businessman, youre new to all this, a junior. your trial is six months old, isnt it yes, ive heard about it. such a new case but ive already thought all these things through countless times, to me theyre the most obvious things in the world. you must be glad your trial has already progressed so far, are you asked he did not wish to ask directly how the businessmans affairs stood, but received no clear answer anyway. yes, ive been working at my trial for five years now, said the businessman as his head sank, thats no small achievement. then he was silent for a while. listened to hear whether leni was on her way back. on the one hand he did not want her to come back too soon as he still had many questions to ask and did not want her to find him in this intimate discussion with the businessman, but on the other hand it irritated him that she stayed so long with the lawyer when was there, much longer than in your sleep. whom did you meet a demon of hell, answered hermas. and now the fiend pursues me into our cave, and torments me in a variety of shapes. drive it out then and pray, said the old man gravely. unclean spirits flee at the name of god. i have called upon him, sighed hermas, but in vain; i see women with ruddy lips and flowing hair, and white marble figures with rounded limbs and flashing eyes beckon to me again and again. then take the scourge, ordered the father, and so win peace. hermas once more obediently rose, and went out into the air with the scourge; the narrow limits of the cave did not admit of his swinging it with all the strength of his arms. very soon stephanus heard the whistle of the leathern thongs through the stillness of the night, their hard blows on the springy muscles of the man and his sons painful groaning. at each blow the old man shrank as if it had fallen on himself. at last he cried as loud as he was able enough that is enough. hermas came back into the cave, his father called him to his couch, and desired him to join with him in prayer. after the amen he stroked the lads abundant hair and said, since you went to alexandria, you have been quite another being. i would i had withstood bishop agapitus, and forbidden you the journey. soon, i know, my saviour will call me to himself, and no one will keep you here; then the tempter will come to you, and all the splendors of the great city, which after all only shine like rotten wood, like shining snakes and poisonous purple berries i do not care for them, interrupted hermas, the noisy place bewildered and frightened me. never, never will i tread the spot again. so you have always said, replied stephanus, and consult sir george farquhar in london. on coming back to cullerne from one of these visits on a saturday night, he found his meal laid in mr sharnalls room. i thought you would not mind our having supper together, mr sharnall said. i dont know how it is, i always feel gloomy just when the winter begins, and the dark sets in so soon. it is all right later on; i rather enjoy the long evenings and a good fire, when i can afford a good one, but at first it is a little gloomy. so come and have supper with me. there is a good fire to night, and a bit of driftwood that i got specially for your benefit. they talked of indifferent subjects during the meal, though once or twice it seemed to stray that the organist gave inconsequential replies, as though he were thinking of something else. this was no doubt the case, for, after they had settled before the fire, and the lambent blue flames of the driftwood had been properly admired, mr sharnall began with a hesitating cough: a rather curious thing happened this afternoon. when i got back here after evening service, who should i find waiting in my room but that blandamer fellow. there was no light and no fire, for i had thought if we lit the fire late we could afford a better one. he was sitting at one end of the window seat, damn him the expletive