

when hesitating common sense plucked him by the sleeve; he must consult his mother before taking this grave step. it was well that reason thus restrained him, for such a declaration might have brought miss joliffe to a swoon. as it was, she noticed the cloud lifting on his face, and was pleased to think that her conversation cheered him. a little company was no doubt good for him, and she sought in her mind for some further topic of interest. yes, of course, she had it. lord blandamer was here this afternoon. he came just like anyone else might have come, in such a very kind and condescending way to ask after me. he feared that dear mr sharnalls death might have been too severe a shock for us both, and, indeed, it has been a terrible blow. he was so considerate, and sat for nearly an hour for forty seven minutes i should say by the clock, and took tea with us in the kitchen as if he were one of the family. i never could have expected such condescension, and when he went away he left a most polite message for you, sir, to say that he was sorry that you were not in, but he hoped to call again before long. the cloud had returned to westrays face. if he had been the hero of a novel his brow would have been black as night; as it was he only looked rather sulky. i shall have to go to london to night, he said stiffly, without acknowledging miss joliffes remarks; i shall not be back to morrow, and may be away a few days. i will write to let you know when i shall be back. miss joliffe started as if she had received an electric shock. to london to night, she began this very night yes, westray said, with a dryness that rather not. on her behalf i summoned courage to remonstrate. if you please, sir, i said, fatima would rather not; and, if you please, dont tease us any more. the young lady added her entreaties, but they were not needed. the good natured little gentleman no sooner saw fatimas real distress than he lowered his pole, and sank upon his knees on the grass, with a face of genuine penitence. i am so sorry ive been tormenting you so he exclaimed. i forgot you were really frightened, and you see i knew it wasnt a ghost. i heard it, murmured fatima resolutely, with her eyes half shut. so did i, said the irishman, gaily; ive heard it dozens of times. its the owls. we both exclaimed. ah he said, comically, i see you dont believe me thats what comes of telling so many small fibs. but its true, i assure you. and the brown eyes did look particularly truthful. barn door owls do make a noise that is very like the snoring of an old man. and there are some young ones who live in the spout at the corner of the wall of your room. theyre snoring and scrambling in and out of that spout all night. it was quite true, ida, as we found, when fatima was at last persuaded to visit the corner where the rooms had been pulled down, and where, decorated with ivy, the old spout formed a home for the snoring owls. by the aid of the long pole he brought out a young one to our view a shy, soft, lovely, shadow tinted creature, ghostly enough to behold, who felt like an impalpable mass of fluff, utterly refused to be kissed, and went savagely blinking back into his spout at the earliest possible opportunity. his snoring alarmed us no more. and the noise really was that said ida. it really was, my dear. its a splendid story, said ida; you but in vain, the spaniards who were on board having had intelligence of their own danger one or two days before, while the pirates were cruising so near them; whereupon they fled to places more remote and unknown. the pirates found, in the ports of the island of taroga and tarogilla, several boats laden with very good merchandise; all which they took, and brought to panama, where they made an exact relation of all that had passed to captain morgan. the prisoners confirmed what the pirates said, adding, that they undoubtedly knew where the galleon might then be, but that it was very probable they had been relieved before now from other places. this stirred up captain morgan anew, to send forth all the boats in the port of panama to seek the said galleon till they could find her. these boats, being in all four, after eight days cruising to and fro, and searching several ports and creeks, lost all hopes of finding her: hereupon they returned to taroga and tarogilla; here they found a reasonable good ship newly come from payta, laden with cloth, soap, sugar, and biscuit, with, pieces of eight; this they instantly seized, without the least resistance; as also a boat which was not far off, on which they laded great part of the merchandises from the ship, with some slaves. with this purchase they returned to panama, somewhat better satisfied; yet, withal, much discontented that they could not meet with the