

and interesting women. You may regret marrying someone like Rose, who is a poor orphan and used to a simple life. If you change your mind, you will break her heart."

"I would never regret it," exclaimed Harry, hurt by the idea. "I will talk to her. I am sure she feels the same way I do." And so Harry went to Rose, and asked to speak with her.

"I think you know what I am going to say," he began. "You know how I feel when I am around you, even though I have not put it into words." Rose knew. A tear fell from her eye.

"I came here because of a terrible fear, the worst I have ever known," Harry continued. "It was the fear of losing the woman whom I have loved my whole life. You were dying, and all my hopes and dreams were dying with you. And then, like a miracle, you began to get better. As your health returned, the world became beautiful to me again. Rose, dear Rose, I love you! I have loved you ever since we were children."

"You have always been kind and good to me," said Rose, filled with emotion. "Please hear my answer, and don't think I am ungrateful."

"Your answer is that I may try to deserve you, isn't it, Rose?"

Harry said eagerly.

"My answer is that you must forget me," Rose said. "I cannot marry you, because there is a scandal connected with my family."

"But Rose," said Harry, "A scandal doesn't matter to me! I love you!"

"It does matter," said Rose, "because people gossip. Everybody says you will soon be elected to Parliament. Many people will support you, but others will be jealous and try to disgrace you. If I marry you, they will learn of my past and use it against you."

"I don't understand," said Harry. So Rose told him her story.

"My mother died shortly after I was born. I had one sister, who was much older than me. When I was five years old, and my sister was about nineteen, she met a man who was living in the country. He was quiet and didn't have many friends, but my sister got along well with him. Soon, they fell in love. They planned to marry, but then my sister's fiancé had to go abroad suddenly. There he died

