"FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S SAKE"

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In the maelstrom of the frenzied finance of Wall Street, Frederick Searles, at sixty, finds himself dashed against the rocks of bankruptcy. Even the home in which he and his family live groans beneath the weight of mortgages.

To the defeated financier and his wife whose horizon is bounded by the dollar sign, there is but one way out of their difficulty -- to sell their daughter to the highest bidder in that approved modern fashion, the marriage market. Needa, the older of their two daughters, flower-like in her beauty, has reached the marriageable age, and to the calculating eye of the mother is eminently fit for the auction block.

That Needa loves a man who is steadily climbing to success that he may soon be able to claim the girl he loves as his wife, is to the mother an irritating matter to be dismissed promptly and with finality. For just such an emergency, as Mrs. Searles considered it, she had carefully prepared to cope. Into her daughter's mind she had instilled a sense of obligation to her parents; of unquestioning conformity to their desires.

The highest bidder comes. John Davis Warren looms a power in Wall Street. Surfeited with the pleasures that money could buy, and finding the life he had been leading beginning to pall upon him, Warren sees Needa's beauty with a quickening of the pulses. With the confidence that wealth inspires, he bids for the girl's hand.

Coerced by her parents, Needa passively agrees to the marriage and resigns her hope of happiness with Hugh Stanton, the man she loves.

Needa and Mr. Warren are married and leave immediately on Mr. Warren's yacht for a honeymoon cruise. On that same day Hugh Stanton

sails to take up the work of salvaging some ships that have been torpedoed.

Days pass, grey and loveless and foreboding. Stung by his wife's cold passivity and by his utter failure to awaken in her any spark of love, Warren, driven to brutality by drink, forces his way into Needa's stateroom.

Just then Hugh Stanton, wrecked at sea and who for three days had been floating in a life-boat, almost lifeless, is taken aboard the yacht. He hears Needa's cry for help and recognizing the voice, makes a desperate effort to go to her aid.

The next day, and the one following, Needa and Hugh spend quiet, happy hours together, thinking not of the past nor of the cheerlessness of the future, but merely living in the pensive contentment of the present, in the pleasure of seeing and talking with each other again. For Needa, the future holds forth nothing but the duty she owes to the man she has married.

Back in New York, Warren endeavors to break his relations with the woman he had known before his marriage. He tells her he expects to become a father. The woman, suppressing her anger and jealousy, smilingly insinuates that he may not be the father of the expected child. Hugh Stanton, she informs him, is Needa's lover. They were together on the yacht and so --. She smiles as she sees her subtle poison take effect.

Nearly crazed with suspicion, Warren accuses his wife of infidelity and brutally strikes her. The sight of Hugh Stanton leaving the house as he was returning had strengthened his suppicions and made him brutal. In the days that follow Needa wavers between life and death. Her child is born - dead. With little left to live for, her recovery is slow.

She leaves her husband and refusing to return to the parents who had sold her, seeks work by which she can support herself. It is to Hugh Stanton to whom she goes for advice. He only link with her family is her sister Ethel whom she had saved from a marriage as fatal as her own.

All Mr. Warren's attempts at a reconciliation prove futile. Returning to the woman he has discarded, he threatens her for having poisoned his mind against his wife, as a result of which he has lost her. He wants to break all relations with the woman and offers her money. She tells him she loves him but he is obdurate to her pleadings. In passionate rage, she shoots and kills him.

Free once more, to Needa and Hugh comes the happiness that the avarice of the misguided parents had denied them.

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