

Ela

Excerpt 2

ELA (*To LORD FANCOURT who starts to leave*) Oh, don't go--please.

LORD FANCOURT I was going into the house.

ELA It has turned quite chilly.

LORD FANCOURT Can I get you a wrap of any kind?

ELA No, thank you, My aunt worries because I've been ill, you know.

LORD FANCOURT Oh, but I didn't know.

ELA Oh, I'm all right now, of course, if I take care.

LORD FANCOURT Yes, you must take great care.

ELA Auntie, I fancy, is more particular than usual this evening--- For, you know--years ago, she and Sir Francis were--sweethearts.

LORD FANCOURT Were they?

ELA But he went away, without telling her he was ever so fond of her. Auntie says he was shy, and he went away without knowing that she was ever and ever so fond of him. But the noblest man I ever knew was shy, and oh, so kind! He got to know how papa had become so ill, and so poor, and lost a large sum of money to him at cards, auntie thinks, on purpose. But I've got all the money and if ever I meet that man, I mean to give it back.

LORD FANCOURT Oh, no, you must never think of doing that. It would be like accusing him of a sort of cheating, you know.

ELA Oh, but I should feel it my duty-

LORD FANCOURT It's too late now.

ELA But he went away before I had time to tell him how much I . . . I, loved him for-for his kindness to my poor father. You don't mind my telling you all this, do you? I don't know why, but I like to talk to you. I like you and I do so long to see him again.