

EQUAL PARTNERS

By HOWARD FIELDING

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"I was so afraid," Elsie said, and she looked so much as if she had been through a storm.

Kendall glanced somewhat uneasily at Brenda as she repeated this singular message.

"I received from Mrs. Simmons," said Elsie, "a telegram sent to her from your mother—

"Do you mean that you didn't receive it?" exclaimed Brenda.

"It didn't come," she said.

"I don't speak of it," said Kendall, "and as to the message which I will take to Mr. Alden from Miss Miller, while of course I attach no sinister meaning to it, I shall take pains to forget it immediately."

"I cannot know what it is that she wishes him to put out of his mind," said Brenda. "Perhaps his love for her."

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"You are quite right," replied Mr. Maclane. "But my first move will be in Alden's direction. I must know where he stands, or there will be no safety for you in any line of action. If he is guilty, we must not appear as his accomplices after the fact."

"That is monstrous," insisted Brenda. "Do not consider it."

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