

Mr Barrow: A hundred pounds. All expensive material. He spent money lavishly enough, that young man.

Miss M: Get to the point Mr Barrow. Captain Crewe is a man of fortune. The diamond mines alone –

Barrow: Diamond mines! There are none. Never were!

Miss M: WHAT! What do you mean?

Barrow: Diamond mines spell ruin oftener than they spell wealth. When a man is in the hands of a dear friend, and is not a business man himself, he had better steer clear of the friend's diamond mines. The late Captain Crewe –

Miss M: The *late* Captain Crewe! The *late*! You don't come to tell me that Captain Crewe is –

Barrow: He's dead ma'am. Died of jungle fever and business troubles combined. Captain Crewe is dead.

Miss M: What *were* his business troubles Mr Barrow? What *were* they?

Barrow: Ruin – lost every penny. Captain Crewe's friend put all his and Crewe's money into the mines. They came to nothing. He died delirious, raving about his little girl – and didn't leave a penny.

Miss M: Do you mean to tell mean that he left *nothing*? That the child is a beggar? That she is left on my hands a little pauper instead of an heiress?

Barrow: She is certainly left a beggar ma'am, and left on your hands as she has no relation in the world that we know of.

Miss M: It is monstrous. She is wearing expensive clothes giving a party at my expense. I have paid the bills for everything for today, for the presents, the pony and the maid. I've paid for them all. I was always so sure of his payments. What am I to do.? What am I to do?

She sinks into the chaise longue.

Barrow: The child is left a pauper. Nobody is responsible for her but you.

Miss M: I am NOT responsible for her. If you think she is going to be foisted upon me you are greatly mistaken. I have been robbed and cheated. I will turn her into the street.

Barrow: I wouldn't do that Madam. It wouldn't look well. – Pupil bundled out penniless and without friends. Better keep her and make use of her.

Miss M: I will get a good deal out of her before she grows older.

Barrow: I am sure you will ma'am. I am sure you will.