

40 ft.

1. act

Miss Charlotte M. Mew

9 Gordon Street

Gordon Square

Gordon W.C.

The China Bowe

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Plg in the Act

by

Charlotte M. Mew

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The China Bowe

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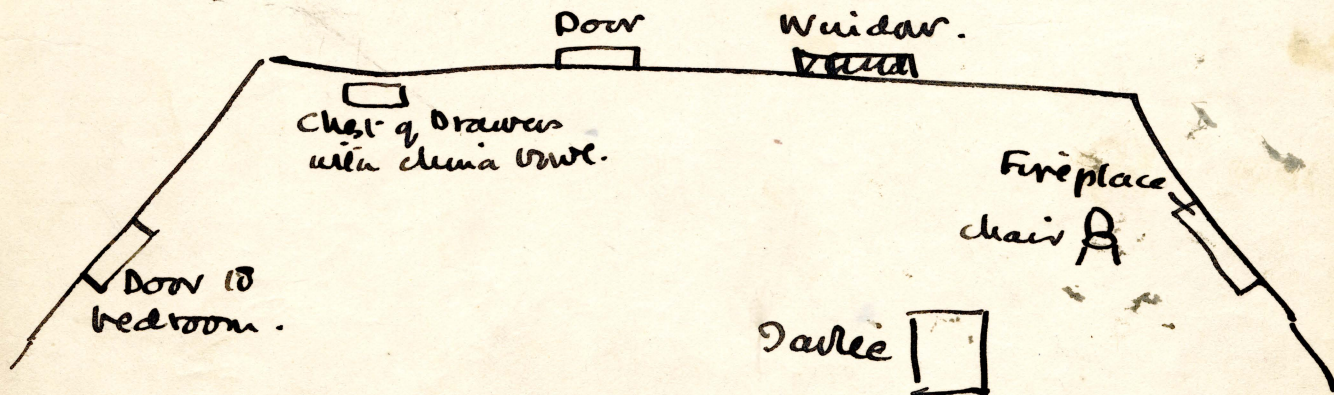
Play in 1 Act
by Charles M. New

Characters

2

David Parris
Rachel (his mother)
Susannah (his wife)
Miss Maxwell.

2



The China Bowl

1

Scene. Living room of a fisherman's cottage in Cornwall. Door ^{centre} back opening on to beach. Window ^{centre} left next door. Door right, opening into bedroom. Fire place. r.

Over the mantel piece hangs an antique looking glass. Beside fire place ~~is~~ ^{an old} carved oak chair, in which Rachel is sitting.

A chest of drawers beside centre door in which ~~is~~ placed a large family Bible, is the china bowl. Table opposite fire place.

Rachel is discovered seated by the fire mending a net. David is standing by the window cutting fish for bait. He is

Tall & handsome, about 40. Rachel is small & slight, ~~with~~ ^{over} thin grey hair - ~~over~~ 70 (but not feeble)

Rachel. Be any boats gone out today?

David. What be thinking upon, Mother. 'Tis blowing half a gale, - ~~the~~ boats ⁱⁿ ~~are~~ ^{put} out ~~today~~ such a day.

Rachel (getting up & going to window)

~~sure enough~~. 'Tis dirty, ~~weather~~ sure,

David. And yesterday 'twas comely weather & the gulls coming back down the coast.

Rachel. The sea be cruel hungry all times.

David. Yes. Even when it do look so smiling.

Rachel. Wasn't a sea like this then look your father. Was a quiet night, but no stars shining, I mind it well, & about half after nine a breeze sprung up & a most sudden & it fell. We was sitting there when ood Ate came shouting in & ~~o~~ called ~~us~~ ^{us} all; & then ~~it was~~ we saw it, a ~~girl~~ close in shore, a ~~girl ship~~ out 'pon the rocks, a girl ship like a city twas, with all her lights; for like a shining lighted city, then. (she claps her hands together) it was gone!

David. ~~And when the~~ ^{And when the} life boat was ^{set} out, ^{was} ~~the~~ ^{most} ~~late~~ ^{too} late? ~~careless in Kereve~~

Rachel. ~~And father was in~~ ^{one could see} ~~and~~ ^{over} ~~and~~ ^{for} ~~and~~ ^{it} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~dark~~ ^{dark} as Doon, they heard ^{seemingly} ~~em~~ ^{em} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~could~~ ^{could} ~~find~~ ^{find} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~father~~ ^{father} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~man~~ ^{man} in, & ~~there~~ ^{there} was a little maid, not more'n seven, standing 'pon the deck & waving ~~waving~~ ^{waving} her little arms; & a girl wave washed he over to him, & he caught her, & lost her, & caught her again, & then the two ~~two~~ ^{two} went down together.

David. ~~And was washed in together~~ ^{And was washed in together} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~all~~ ^{all} ~~land~~ ^{land} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~together~~ ^{together}

Rachel. And they was all laid out, ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~and~~ ^{and} the ladies in their jewels & watches and good chains, ~~up~~ ^{up} in the church. ~~then~~ ^{then} ~~there~~ ^{there} with the men. ~~oed~~ ^{oed} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~remember~~ ^{remember}

David. ~~oed~~ ^{oed} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~do~~ ^{do} ~~tell~~ ^{tell} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~it~~ ^{it}.

Rachel. He ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~left~~ ^{left} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~saw~~ ^{saw} ~~it~~ ^{it} & he been bird-witted ever since.

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Panda. He heard the cry & her as she went down.

Rachel. Wait ^{now} never go no further than the cross ^{she}

David: Yes, I heard him say he hears the voice in the road at night.

Rachel. And my two boys - Mar were a gale
up channel - in you in the dug no left.
me David, the last of all my children
& the Rev.

Darò. Darò ^{est} sir Minicis a thèy thèy; Morhè.

Reckel. I do think an 'em. I be getting an oed
woman now, close upon ~~20~~⁸⁰ year. I reckon
I think more an 'em things that no fane^d &
dare with; 'is the oed people's way.

David. I think of the children, that's my business.
It's pretty work to watch them, & playing
& thinking round the door.

Rachel. Times o' agen I do think o' Geneva; o' y' night ⁱⁿ aben ~~the~~ and be blowin' o' the sunnee I hear the larch click o' fancy her's come home.

Daria The wait came now. Mother. It is never late; not in 30 years since she went away.

Rachel But if he's dead, you're not the
man to judge he Davey?

David Nay.

Rachel (taking down sampler & reading from it,
- Jennifer Parri aged 13 - March: 1844. Look
at the figure, so clear as print, the little
house, marvellous like to a house, in it, &
Adam & Eve a' standing

all printed up beside it. Her done that in
the winter night sitting near of this same
fire. Was a wred maid even then; but
~~was running out to the door after~~
^{you} ~~there~~ was never a riotous lod, nor like
the others. A parcel o' limes they was very
^{plaguen} ~~plaguing~~. Father did like to hear 'em
racket; he did ^{said} ~~say~~ that racketing lod
~~do~~ make the craver men. But I doubt
it. ^{no, I doubt it.} I mind 'ee David when 'ee was a
lad, brave & quiet & different from
the ^{rest} ~~rest~~.

Dan'd I woud be fine & peaceful w're a
lad again.

Rachel. 'Wit be no peace for 'ee in this
house ~~for~~ ^{for} 'ee I be all of it. poor
lad! ~~Susannah~~ ^{And} Susannah ^{woud} be fine
& pleased to see me ~~carried out up~~
~~up along~~ ^{up along} for the last time. - yonder.

Dan'd. Don't 'ee ~~say~~ ^{say} that mother.

Rachel. You do know it. Farly fear-me
~~clean~~ ^{lived} together, you & me Dan, & I
dare everything for you & for me,
^{and} ~~but~~ now her wait so much as let
me mend a shirt of ~~your~~ ^{your} gown,
or darn a sock ~~for~~, or set a pan
on the fire for 'ee.

Dan'd. Is it save 'ee ~~the~~ Traile Mother.

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Rachel. It is to make a mock of us, a grey old woman
eating ^{her} bread & sitting ^{lasy} with folded hands
that was always fair to do for 'ee. It is to treat
us Pavy. It is so to as he could her wove & send me
so as I couldn't see them & deafen me so as I couldn't
hear 'ee & slip ~~by~~ my heart so as it couldn't beat for
'ee. Her want to have 'ee for herself alone.

Dand. Don't so bad as that. And time pass surely; may
be when the little are come her'll be different.
I do hope it. Love be a powerful strange thing, &
strong as death, so the Book do say.

Rachel. And feeling, that be cruel as the grave. It
leaved fear for myself, ~~and~~ ^{and} go —

Dand. No, mother, this be fair have so well as mine;
most all good things in it be for in. It is the house
that Father brought 'ee here, where all on us
was born. As far life you haven't looked out a
sea from no other window than this ~~there~~ ^{new} hear
nor gone out & in by no other door. Therefore
be right home to 'ee elsewhere.

Rachel. Not with all ^{to} you Pavy - you in all that's left.
(He crosses the room & slides curtains down at
her beside the fire. She drops the net & takes
his hand -) you've always been wove and
good to me.

Dand And you to me.

~~My dear mother, I have been thinking of you
for a long time & hope you are well. I have
been very busy but I will write to you soon.~~
Dand's dear. I have been thinking of you
for a long time & hope you are well. I have
been very busy but I will write to you soon.

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David goes. Susannah lays a cloth on the table
 puts a kettle & puts a fire. Rachel came in
~~and her hand was with a pitcher.~~

David says to me.

Rachel & me.
 He says - I for so long have been and
 in peace in the fire. In such the way a voice
 (the words are from a strange person) said to
 Rachel. He says to me. For in the way of life.

As long as I am in the world.
 He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.
 He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.
 He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.
 He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.

David. He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.
 I am in the world. I am in the world. I am in the world.
 He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.
 He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.

David. He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.
 He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.
 He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.
 He says to me. I am in the world. I am in the world.

(Enter Susannah, a lău, red hair'd very hard.
 - Same woman of 23, a beautiful primitive rather
 savage creature. She is carrying a parcel which
 she put down on the table & proceed to un-
 pack.)

Daria. What have 'ee got there.

Susannah. A picture.

Daria. A prett' one?

Susannah. Yes, sure. ^{dis my portrait} That's just a sex & mine.

— Hence for the frame. If John Mitchell
 down to the shop wanted me to give &
 shining for it, but I ~~would~~ wouldn't.
 I'll ~~keep~~ ^{keep} my & shining you can have
 the picture I ~~said~~ ^{said}, so he stood at
 I stood at, for three weeks & more
 but the day is now, at the price I
 said.

Daria. What did he say?

Susannah. He said "If 'ee had waited another
 week 'ee could have had it for nothing,
 and ~~for nothing~~ because I could've
 have put it up with a face & like
 that there staring at me another
 Sunday." ^{Happen} ~~ee~~ ^{far} were look in
 the glass? I asked her. Why for?
 she said, because if 'ee do I said
 I reckon ~~ee~~ ^{far} could put up with
 anything.

David Hers' as God made her, now save? 7
Susannah. ~~Some~~ ^{the} ~~to~~ ^{spits} ~~for~~ ^{the} ~~load~~ ^{load}!
(She hands the picture, a portrait of herself
to David / what do 'ee think of it?)

David Is a terrible fine frame.

Susannah. You'd agree to take the face in it.
Is what the ^{calls} a study. This Max.
when done it for a picture her call
Dalilah, though her do say there were
never a Dalilah painted with this
skin and hair.

David. (taking it slowly or in carefully, all his
movements are slow & ponderous).
Is like 'ee & is it like 'ee. The face
to you're no no look behind behind
it be mighty strange. I suppose to mediv
be properly a picture, if it's too
similar to life.

Susannah. ~~Susannah~~ Swimming to me - is similar to life.

David Could it be call it ~~something else~~ ^{something else};
~~Susannah~~ ~~plain~~, Dalilah paint a
fair a pleasur' name to go by.

Susannah. And alas.

David Her weren't a pleasur' name.

Susannah. I thought her was. Happen this
Max when it all change it,
to mediv but the picture

David. (mudg) May so ween find another place
Susannah. (in mudg ^{to} put it there. Is the
place I've settled for it. Mrs. Marwar
~~did say~~ ^{said} this were the only legit ^{to} share
it up & there I mean for it to go.

David. (still mudg her turning) (in ^{not} her wishful
to ^{cross} 'ee Susannah, but (taking ^{wishful}
^{up} the sample) this piece of work has
been ~~so~~ there upon ~~up~~ ~~for~~ ~~for~~ fear
a matter of eight upon fifty fear &
us would ~~miss~~ miss it if two
shifted: it must bide.

Susannah (her eyes flashing) Is a prett thing
to be so set on. Should have thought
'ee wanted nothing ^{to} mind to & be
that done it. I see 'ee straggle & never
could ~~be~~ bide it about the place. Be you so
set upon calling everyone to mind
^{for} ~~this~~ sister & her shame?

David. ~~Now~~ Was but a due's when Tüene
adone, & if God do please hers' her
a due'd again.

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Dana. And we'll look like that ~~there~~ in the
~~the~~ picture.

Susannah. ~~Is~~ ^{there} sure, but bigger & more upstanding
~~than~~ ^{than} a man in it.

(She crosses the room & takes down ^{Jeweler's} Jeweler's
sample from its nail ^{places it on table} looking rather
doubtful at Dana.) ~~Now~~ I be going
to fix this hear. ^{Give} ~~He~~ ^{one} in to me.

Susannah And why " To
David Because Mother'll look to see if
where it have always been.

Susannah (turning upon him suddenly, her face
alight.) Be this my house or herin?

David (wincing, passing a hand clumsily
across his eyes as if to shut out
the disturbing vision & her & the flinders
flinches before he at last says
turning -) & or be mine / or be master
in it.

Susannah ~~passing~~ / who be mistress?

Rachel goes towards the table where the
sample has been placed, takes it &
looking at it, moves with it towards
the bedroom door.

o Sunday Sabbath school prizes for the 10
individual, is ^{for up} their have first class o
final & walked ^{we} the other road to take
cast it.

Rachel. (getting up.) And if 'ee do. Turle throw
it eef back again ^{ee} sure; may be to
~~the~~ ^{some day} someday to strike a chord of faith
with eye so bright & clear as dawn
& the same shining hair.

Susannah. Like enough, if there's ~~any~~ eye blood
in the poor babe. It want be mine.

David. What's took 'ee Susannah?

Susannah. P ~~rea~~ (Teaching air for the picture ^{which} in
David holds) go it to me.

David. You in ^{not} ^{to} ^{hang} ^{it} ^{hang} in there.

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David (to Rachel) you can ^{bring} it back.

Rachel. (quietly & unresistingly) I would sooner
take it ^{away}. (she goes in ⁱⁿ to the
bedroom closing the door behind her.

Susannah & David face each other, David
stare, Susannah at first defiant to
him suddenly melting she goes towards
him, touches his arm & looks down at
him with dangerous sweetness.)

Susannah. ~~the~~ why did ~~it~~ ^{we} ~~use~~ ^{use} David, if ~~it~~
means to make me ^{only} half a wife.
There was ~~last~~ & many that would have
have had ^{me} & turned their ~~kin~~ ^{kin} to doors
for ~~us~~ ^{us}.

David I do know it.

Susannah. (sitting at the arm of his chair, &
caressingly) will ~~it~~ ^{it} give me the
place that's mine, or will ~~it~~ ^{it} put
another woman in it?

David. I have done that.

David Clean off.

Susannah. Do ^{you} think ^{you} have ^{got} ~~for~~ me?

David I be main born to doubt it.

Susannah. What ~~would~~ ^{you} have felt ^{like} if I ^{had} said No?

David 'Most like a boat with a split ^{Keel} ~~Keel~~, tossing out yander in the dark. I ~~would~~ ^{have} ~~been~~ ^{seen} the end of daylight, swimming ashore.

Susannah. You was ~~leaving~~ ^{settling} ~~sett~~ ^{as we}

David I ~~was~~ ^{was} most ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ leaving ~~sett~~ ^{settling} upon his eyes when he is like to lose it.

Susannah. It's bad work ~~when~~ ^{when} it do come ^{to} ~~at~~ that.

David It's bad work sure, when a man be past his prime & his mind is ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~all~~ ^{all} the young lads clamouring at be, 'writ' ^{er} ~~er~~ have me?' & me with all my mouth-speech gone.

Susannah. You never had ~~much~~ ^{much} of it to lose

David. I never wanted it afore.

Susannah. And now you can use it ~~just~~ ^{just} to land ~~aga~~ ^{aga} against ^{me} ~~me~~.

David I never dare ~~that~~ ^{that}.

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Susannah. Now ^{when} ~~when~~ you hurled me a ^{for} dare
the same minute ^{over} ~~at~~ the picture there?

David. You hurled me.

(Susannah crosses the room to a cup-
board & takes a cloth out; & spread
it on the table & then stands looking
at him.)

Susannah. I got a device, David.

David. We all got devices. I seen a many
o' an ^{says} ~~says~~, & I telled back at us, in my
time. I seen 'em standing beside
quiet men, on dark nights at a sea.
I seen 'em in 'most every ^{woman} ~~prey~~ eye,
but that be natural. The woman was
the first to make friends with the.

Susannah. I was a the ~~any~~ anyway.

David. There be nothing for ^{to} ~~to~~ show that the
serpent weren't a female serpent.

Susannah. If he had a been, he'd have give
the apple to Adam & ^{not} ~~not~~ to Eve.

David. I shud right to make game o' the ~~two~~
things, but if we got ^a ~~a~~ devices we'd argue
to ~~to~~ ^{be} ~~be~~ quieten o' him ^{then} ~~then~~ Adam, ^{not} ~~not~~
love 'em ^{to} ~~to~~ so prancing round like
the show horses at a fair.

Susannah. You coud ~~be~~ build o' cast our minds
- if ee'd a mind ^{to} ~~to~~ you in the lord
God o' us to me. If I did know

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Māi 'ēe laroed we fiv r last o put noone
afre me a beside me, or was the only
woman in the ward ~~at~~ ^{for} ēe.

David. You're young, my dear, you got no
patience; tisn't over long to wait.

Susannah. I've no patience with your patience.
You're sit patient like a stupid bird
on the chimney piece, waiting for someone
to take 'ee down & dust 'ee, & never
moving till the day of Doom.

David. If 'ee'd knowned trouble & loss, like Mother,
Susannah (passionately) in trouble enough to love 'ee
as best I love 'ee. (recovering herself) And I
could have had more than one hand.
I never loved 'ee afore, but I
could have had the curatie, up to
Gorran.

David. Poor silly calf.

Susannah. So be it, but 'ee'd have made a lady
of me, & put the wedding in the Parish
Magazine & all; & 'ee wad have
no one else.

David. As 'ee see that came there's a maid
that will have be.

Susannah. But I loved ēe David. I love 'ee
more than the dying Christ & all the
Gods there be. I love the marks of your
fist wet boots on the stairs, & the nets

when you be trying in & your shadder on the
wall. And Times when you in out of night & the
wind be raving & the waves breaking, Thunderous
in to shore, my heart stops beating or get up
out of bed & go to the windy & call out to
'ee over the black water

David. I've heard 'ee sure.

Susannah. No David, you in one of the ^{doubt} that wait
hear nothing, nor see nothing, not the
Judgement when the sleeping dead do see
& hear. Men be like that. But I've
stood there by the winds till I were
mazed & froze, & all the world did
melt away like as if there was no one
in it but you & me, & there was no
more boat & no more house & no ~~more~~
more lights & no voice & no faces, they
saw face so white & strange as their ^{own}
the black rocks ragging ~~water~~ ⁱⁿ night. In
I've thought I've lost 'ee.

David. Poor man. ~~He~~ Why didn't 'ee mind they
word as the stone of the girl grave up
yonder in the Church yard. "He came
to draw me out of many waters"?

Susannah. But He drewed them & dead & drowned.
They was all ~~drowned~~ ^{dead} swollen men & women,
dressed ^{ss} up so fine in silks & jewels
& laughing & laughing as they went down.
And that were a quiet night.

showed

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David. ~~She~~ Shave have ~~was~~ had the little
Healing poultice. Wait down himself in
nothing deeper than cups & tea.

Susannah. (going over to behind his chair & kissing
the top of his head.) Shaved I?
(He gets up & kisses her) Will 'ee give
me the place that's mine?

David. What do 'ee want? To fix the picture?

Susannah. Yes, & what ^{else} whatever ^{else} I have a
mind ^{To} ⁱⁿ ^{ai} the house you've brought
me to.

David. Do what 'ee please, my dear, and
don't 'ee think of the worst things
no more. It's late for we are
sweethearting ^{this day was} ^{thick} more than four
months wed.

Susannah. If I can put up with it —
(she pushes him away, smiling) There,
go on & cleanse thyself, I be going
to set the tea

David goes out. Susannah
fills & puts the kettle on the fire. Rachel
enters from bedroom with a shawl and a late
a jug from the cupboard.
Susannah. (in distress) Where be going?
Rachel. To fetch some milk.
Susannah. I've got enough.
Rachel. This want some more if you go out tonight.
Susannah. They want go out.
Rachel. Of the wind drops. And you'll
Susannah. It want drop. Work is to it. And you'll
sleep through it.
Rachel. I can awake so many nights, I do sleep now.
And David's home.

from the room with a picture & crosses toward
door. ^{dialogue R. J. R. to} For all the fuss that's made of ^{at sleep now at 18}
Susannah. ~~to look~~ David - you'd think he was

different from other men. But at the
root ^{root} they're all the same.
Rachel I always thought him different: ~~(poorly)~~
~~than father & father Susannah~~ Why
did 'ee choose him then, when 'ee might
^{have} had a younger lad, if all do
seem ~~to be~~ the same to 'ee.

Susannah. I suppose in a score of fishes same
be bigger & better than the rest.

Rachel. Sure enough: he is a better man, he
were a better lad, None of the other
lads was like him.

Susannah. (sharp) He might ^{so} were he a
saint in a painted windy to hear
'ee talk, but he be just a man, as
at the root they're all ~~the same~~ the same.
~~like a sheep - a simple & a easy~~
~~set. & I must as say.~~

Rachel. Not to me Susannah. He be my

Susannah ^{Sah} ^{Sah} And he be my husband.

Rachel. Is the Lord's ^{will} an' that every woman's
^{son} son will come to be another woman's care,
 an' once he have a' given her a son, ever
 the thought's ^{can't} ~~cannot~~ fall him away.

Susannah (bitter), And a wife be different?

Rachel If so be as you have a ^{son} son Susannah
 maybe you'll come to see it.

Susannah. ^{see} I see fine that the ^{be} ~~can't~~ ^{two} ~~two~~
 (deliberately but) women in a man's house ^{and} in his
 (deliberately but) life & he to shift ~~see~~ see saw ~~for~~
 up & down, first with one other the ~~other~~ the
 other, without the he trouble for
 them all. ^{come} ~~soon~~ or later he'll have
 to choose between the two.

Rachel. (gentle) I don't seem for to put it
 that way.

Susannah. Is the way I put it.

jug jug

(Rachel takes up the picture
 & goes out. Susannah takes up the
 portrait from a chair, looks at it, then
 goes to the glass over the mantel piece, looks at
 herself & arranges her hair, & finally hangs
 the picture in the place of the sampler. Enter
 this Maxwell, a well dressed woman, about
 30, with a good deal of manner. She shakes
 hands affably with Susannah, ~~sees the portrait~~
~~& goes towards it, regarding it critically.~~

Mimi M. You're looking charming.
 Susannah. I can't help that.

20 NM

Mais M. ^{seems picture} So far is hung in there! The very place
 for it - how nice of you to put my
 poor little sketch in the place of ~~honour~~
 honour! Did I suggest it? Then it was
 because I thought you ought to have the
 place of honour. Really it looks rather well.

Susannah. Paria say ~~in~~^{the} ~~let's me~~ ~~to~~ ~~live~~ ~~me~~.
He But he say ~~himself~~ ~~be~~ ~~proper~~ ~~a~~
believe it ~~two~~ ~~to~~ ~~suicide~~ ~~a~~ ~~life~~.

Thurs H. There's something in that. There's the artist's
temperament & cause.

Susannah. What's ^{the} that. The part of the picture
that isn't like.

Miss M. Oh! well - it's just what I see & other
 people don't. But you know I'm coming
 down in the spring with the big picture
 on purpose for you to see: & that's
 going to be an ^{real} ~~regular~~ success, you know.
 Everyone who has ^{unworse} seen the sketch is
 asking me who ^{Dalilah} ~~John~~ is. But I keep
 it a secret. A Tregarven Tregarven
 would be besieged by people - ^{two} ~~very~~ good
 fires are going on in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
 Knickerbocker. Uniquely don't ~~care~~
 can't wait to take you away as an, &
 then what would your husband say?

Miss Maxwell - you're looking charming.

Susanah I can't keep that -

Miss Maxwell (seeing the portrait -)

He's
Susannah. He's out to the festing meet- 21.
days. And he's longer out a girl sleepy
child. He wouldn't notice ~~nothing~~ nothing.
The men do see what the women want 'em
to do.

Miss M. I wish they did.

Susannah. Don't they ^{to} London?

Miss M. Not always.

Susannah. When you don't take the proper way with
them.

Miss M. We take all sorts of ways.

Susannah. There ^{isn't} ~~isn't~~ but one. If they're very
plagued a kiss will always finish 'em.

Miss M. But you know a great many ^{many} ~~many~~ London
women as you call them, have given up
kissing.

Susannah. What's ~~loving~~ ^{wrong} wrong with it?

Miss M. ~~Just~~ ^{They} they don't believe it's the right way.
~~for a woman to do~~

Susannah. Have they found another?

Miss M. ~~They~~ ^{they} they are ^{they} ~~they~~ looking for it.

Susannah. May so we go home.

~~o get lui to get it~~ belong
 Mini M. ^{oh!} ~~1 gun gun up, gun belong~~ ^{to} ~~a~~ ^{to} me Park & yes!
 But you wait desert me, gun would sir w
 anyone else?

Suawati. Why for not?

Oh! M. well, you know it would spoil my picture,
 & then I discovered you, didn't I?

Sus aurdh. I were discovered again last night.

What? No? Who?

Susannah. (rapid) A female-looking gentleman with long hair & a round green hat & a yellow skin & a flower on his forehead & a man's strabbling legs & a maid's ribbon round his neck & a white umbrella.

Min H. Teddy Barclay! But he cant wait for,
he likes ugly women.

Susanmah. He didn't say so, & if he do he can
leave his hide & his to his Regar & the
Regar & the ~~there~~ ^{there} vicar's wife, so ~~then~~
So like a mule in a maiden's ~~hand~~ ^{down}
Have he seed ~~up~~ ^{or} post mistress or vicar wife - so like
feel a bulging eye to uprise as
a mule cut a maiden's veil -
a page in ~~happiness~~ as a

Miss K. What did he say?

Susaiwala Mas' Telling.

~~Then then~~ You didn't say anything about my picture.

Then M. Daul sir & him, there's a dear, & he'd make a verbed fright of you. He always does.

q. to do, can have post-milnēss with the
belged an eye & turned in ~~feet~~ feet, or
vicar's wife, so like a mule in a
maiden's hat.

Susannah. That's what he said ~~it~~ ^{for}.

Miss M. How nice of him! And so he's caught
you? Teddy!

Susannah. I couldn't sit w a popu'ja, like he, no
more than I could sit w a boggart in a
~~turnip field~~ ^{turnip} field. I couldn't
keep a straight face afore him; ~~it~~ ^{if}
a man's to stand staring at me or
me at him for hours together, he's ~~bound~~ ^{got}
to be a proper man.

Miss M. Why didn't you tell him so?

Susannah. I did.

(During this ^{scene} Miss Maxwell has
been undisturbedly examining the things
in the room, particularly the arm chair
sticking plan. She now comes to the
china bowl. & inspects it carefully.)

Miss M. Po you know, the very first time I entered
the room, & what a charming room it is!
I said to myself, I positively must have
that delicious bowl, or shall be really
broken hearted & I can't. I shall indeed.

Susannah. I ~~don't~~ ^{don't} see ~~nothing~~ ^{nothing} in the old bowl.

Miss M. No? But of course you are going to say
it's a family treasure or something dreadful
of that sort, & that you can't possibly part
with it. ~~that's~~

Susannah. How much wiser to say live with.

Miss M. Ah! I don't know, I dare say ^{it's} ~~it's~~ ^{not} ~~not~~ really
valuable, only I've taken such a fancy

To it, sir is, iur it, daw gan think, rather 29
useless, or a little bit in the way? I would give
ten shillings for it.

Susannah Ten shillings.

Miss M. And that would buy you a lovely hat.

Susannah. Don't too much money in this place for
hat or any sort of jewelry, with a
leasy old woman to have & keep.

Miss M. Oh! aw gan agut. I have pretty things,
gan are such a beautiful person - aren't gan?

Susannah. I showed in my hat with it.

Miss M. No?

Susannah. I been cooped up here ~~like a crab in a pot~~ ^{to the parrot} ~~like a crab in a pot~~ ^{so that} ~~ever since I were born~~ ^{do} & I want to
see the world.

Miss M. That costs a good deal.

Susannah. ~~13/5~~ ^{thirteen shillings} there and back.

Miss M. ?

Susannah. To Plymouth. A terrible ~~giddy~~ ^{hazy} place
in it, so the do say. Dand been there
once but he ^{came} back all mazed.
A terrible giddy place in it so the
do say, 6 or 7 people looking in a
shop windows all at once, time &
to cars running ^{about} the streets
& ~~shadows~~ & all.
(circles)

Mei M. q. como gan ^{to 30} agut wj. Plymouth, &
y ^{for} ~~gan~~ let me ^{have} the bone —

Susannah. How much did you say for it?

Mei M. Ten shillings

Susannah. I wanted it & I ^{he} sure David wanted
part ~~part~~ ^{part} with it under Mary's wings

Mei M. That's a good deal ~~that's a good deal~~
~~It's much more than I would~~ ^{shall we}
~~say 15?~~ ^{say 15?} ~~say 15?~~ ^{say 15?}

Susannah. Say 20.

~~Mei M. Then~~

Mei M. Then it's a bargain - (she takes out the
hump & ~~the~~ put down the hanging article
late.) There - (she goes over to the
looking glass) That's rather a pretty
glass (to).

Susannah. So folks say; old Steve & ^{to} Gorran
have got the mother of it.

Mei M. You don't know if he ^{sell} wants to sell
it? ^{wants}

Susannah. I don't know that he do; but a gentle
man ~~in a fur coat~~ was called
down last summer & took a cancer
for it & offered ^{to} give him a
good black & good ^{me} ^{him} the size
& new for it; he had it then ~~in~~

(To Susannah.)
Rachel! ~~slow~~ (sternly) What're doing with that ²⁷
~~hand~~ bowl?

~~Susannah~~ ~~Susannah~~ Susannah has just parted
this M. (sincerely) with it - to me; I admire it so
much -; ~~perhaps, I was a little ungrateful~~
~~ungrateful, but I hope you are not~~
~~displeased. I hope you don't mind -~~

Rachel (to Susannah) What's the meaning of it?
Susannah (sullenly) you did hear; I've parted
with it & that's true.

(The two women face each other, Rachel
amazed ~~amazed~~, a terrible sense of helplessness
creeping over her, trying to straighten
her bent ~~body~~ body. Susannah defiant.
~~And then~~

Rachel. (slowly & distinctly) Or wasn't you in
to part with.

(Susannah ^{laughs harshly} laughs harshly. Rachel
turns ^{towards} this Maxwell, with ^{quieter} ~~quiet~~
dignity) The bowl be mine,

and my dead husband brought it back with me from
foreign lands the fear that it was used. I was used
to children my fair child, the one that died almost
so soon as he seen the light. To have a sword
thrust upon the dark night upon a sickly fear; the
I would so soon part with my ^{my} dear hand. What
have I got to say?

Susannah: First, not she, as have a' got the saying;
and I say the word is the price of it
his price there.

Rachel Was it enough for it to live & steal it
my son ~~and~~ from me, but you must make
away with a bit of a keepsake, that was
were mine afore ever you was born?

Miss M. This is ~~the~~ is very distressing -; I am afraid
I'm afraid - I see - naturally I didn't
know - but of course if this is so, Susannah
will release me -

Susannah. I don't. (To Rachel.) And I have David's
~~word~~ ^{word} for it. He ~~gave~~ ^{gives} me leave
to do whatever I'd a mind to in the
house that's his & mine - (To Miss M.)
~~Call you~~ ^{Call you} man - no I'll
take it all to him - ~~that's~~
~~isn't~~ ~~over~~ ~~pleasant~~ ~~for~~ ~~it~~ ~~has~~ - (Miss
Maxwell goes out, Susannah follows
and is gone)

Miss M. But really Susannah - &

Susannah. Isn't over pleasant for it here, I'll
sell it in, if you'll wait outside
step

(Miss Maxwells goes out. Susannah ~~turns~~ 29
*face Rachel as David enters. He leaves from
me to the other, ^{sees} the hanging on the table, &
turns to Susannah -

Parà. Pur ìr down. (she hesitates hesitates un-
ficially but ^{the more} ~~it~~ down as the lark.)
What's the meaning of ìr?

susannah. (sullen) - ~~It's soed. I've soed it.~~
you can see.

David. Take that damned money & her that it
belongs to, & give back to Mother the
things that's her'n.

(Susannah does not move)
 "Take it - I say -" (Rachel came forward
 & put a shaking hand upon his arm. He
 removed it gently.)

Susannah (savage), let your Mother take in. It is
her work to make trouble in this house
to set 'em again me. Let her take in or
let 'er bide, I say.

David Do ^{as} as 1 brà 'eo.

slips forward
a linealms
bid 'ee?

Susannah No.

(Rachel tries to throw herself between
them but before she ^{can} do so Paria has
struck Susannah & ~~she~~ ^{who} slaps back &

slides herself against the wall. David is going
out, when she stops him with a gesture.

Susannah. ^(almost in a whisper) Stay there. You'd better take notice of
them, for they in the last words I've just
spoken to you. You've chosen no wrong
woman, David Parris, to serve as 'ee've a
served me this same minute. (she raises
her voice, & ends strongly.) Harkée - , never
will I mend or clean or do for 'ee again.
Never will I hold speech with 'ee or talk
~~that hard of you~~, look at 'ee, & talk
that hard of you, so as to be beside 'ee so
long as we do live. And mark 'ee, David
Parris, never shall the child ^{never} 'thats' be born
so long as I can keep it from him, hear
his father's name. I cast 'ee off.
You're patient, but I'll outlast 'ee, I'll
outlast 'ee; God judge between us David
Parris, I've a'done with 'ee.

(Rachel ~~shant be dropped off the ground~~
~~fallen back~~, she supports herself against
the mantel piece, shaking, a shrunken
form of fear. Susannah stands erect
& breathless ^{holding the door open} & David motionless with
bowed head.)

David (muttering) So be it, Susannah. so be it
be. (Susannah goes out. David
sits down dazed at the table, his head in
his hands.)

Rachel (dispassionately & straightening herself up) 3/
~~And~~ There be only one thing for us to do, ~~David~~
I must go ^{David} & her 'el come back.

David. Let a'be Mother.

Rachel. I'd aughtier have gone before. And I can
~~send~~ for myself ~~time for time~~. I vaint
~~send~~ done yet. Mother were doing a hale o
doing at 81.

David. Her turn come back.

Rachel. And Sarah yea 'el have me, sure.
Her've got a tidy little room, I want
looking ~~at~~ terrible bad, poor soul. Was
saying ^{after} ^{all} the other day —

David. I s'wain I want some looking after. When
a ^{sun} man take a striking woman —

Rachel. You're ^{roadling} ^{travelling} man. You vaint
the first that has been forced to share
you're master. ^{to 'ced}

David. Of a man can't master himself. He's
a brute I reckon out properly a
man.

Rachel. And ^{then} ~~when~~ that calls out for the
brute in him, what's the?

David. I be all in a fog.

Rachel (going to cupboard & taking out tea-pot)
Let it ^{all} ^{hide} a bit & have some tea.

David. I can't touch a ^{screed} o it.

Rachel. Then best go up along & tell Susannah
I be going to Sarah yea's lodging.

David. I ~~can~~ conduct.

(He gets up, hearing & moves
towards the door)

Rachel (anxiously) where he going then?

David. To take the boat out.

Rachel. (alarmed) you must, God, so be too
high for 'ee to fight it.

David. I must fight something.

Rachel. (putting a hand upon his arm)

Don't go, David, don't go.

David (shaking her off rather roughly)
Let a be. Mother, I must go.

(He goes out, Rachel
goes to window & looks out, then sits down
in chair, takes up the net & lets it fall & ~~Enter~~
~~Enter~~ ~~Miss~~ ~~Maxwell~~. & sits staring
before her. Enter Miss Maxwell. Rachel
gets up.

Miss M. I came back & t'en you have dreadful ^{sorry}
lain for all this - this, mis understanding.
I'm afraid it all came of breaking the
10th commandment -

Rachel. You've broke a man's heart, & turned
him from his home.

Miss M. Oh! no, I hope it's not as bad as that -

Rachel. He've struck her & she's ^{ve} left him.

Miss M. But she's come back.

Rachel. ~~Don't~~ ~~it~~. Susannah Davis a
woman to be struck.

Miss M. I thought he was such a nice quiet
man.

Rachel He never spoke a hard word or did a harsh ~~bad~~ act in all his days afore.

Miss M. And ever such a little thing. a piece of china! Surely —

Rachel. (pointing a little) The money's there, you can take it & the bowl too if you're a mind; I never want to look at it again.

(Miss M. takes up money, & is about to go, holding out her hand which Rachel ignores.) Afore I was married I were in service up to the great house; maybe you know it?

Miss M. Oh. yes. I know Lord Vivian.

Rachel. It were his father then. It is a grand place, marvellous like to a palace, tis, & crowded up with all sorts of ~~quite~~ fine things, books & maps, & drawings & maps & pictures scores & scores an' em all in good frames upon the walls. But all the years that I were there it never lookt me to want any of the things, I never wanted 'em. ~~you're different~~ there handsomer bowls than nor thes up to theer, a parcel of 'em. It happen you asked his Lordship to sell 'ee one of thes?

Miss M. That's different. ~~Lord Vivian's friend of mine.~~

Rachel. Yes, sure. ~~That be only a poor black room we're strangers, & this be only a poor black room with nothing in it to take your fancy but the old bowl, the only pretty thing we got to mind us of him that's gone & hard as our children.~~

Miss M. of course it is known in London and
elsewhere — 34

Rachel. Why should it be? To me this thing is
none so long since I have seen it all before
the days when we was young. To you this is
just another ornament to take to the
show-up in your fine house. You like old
ancient things?

Miss M. I suppose I do then

Rachel. Haven't you more of your own?

Miss M. China? Oh yes, rather a fine collection, but I'm
afraid that's the collector's vice, the more
^{one has} we have, the more ~~we~~ ^{one} wants,
but I suppose I can't expect you quite to see
our point of view.

Rachel. It's plain enough. We in poor folk & you in
rich folk. We're you in born to buy & we in
born to sell. And so bad seasons, when
times ~~is~~ ^{are} hard & bread scarce, & we
don't know nothing of the Valley of the
Sun come apoking & peering round,
out with a few shillings & cheer 'em
out of us.

Miss M. Chear is an ugly word, that Parris.

Rachel. It's an ugly thing. Will it put your
hand on the Bible when it swears you
never cheated?

(A pause, then he walks to the window
& looks out -) It's the word that frights
'ee, not the meaning of it.

Miss M. Possibly

Rachel. Had you in not alone in that. I seen
many a gentleman shouting lies at

his top of his voice, till he was hoarse in
calling votes for Govern^rment. from ~~the~~ ^{they} poor sick
fishermen, & terrible upset. ~~then~~ ^{he} ~~then~~ ^{he} called
a liar. And many a woman playing the
harlot with pink rosy cheeks, lim. white
~~the~~ ^{the} minute ~~when~~ ^{when} give he ~~her~~ ^{her} better name.

Mr M. The word is more horrible than the thing.

Rachel. Is it?

This M. ^{is} not, but I don't know why.

Rachel. This is the name they go by that we
set ^{down} again ^{us} at the last.

Hui M. I wonder? But about politics for Kuan
 guo ~~was~~ wrong, these gentlemen are
 still working for guo. - The -

Rachel. Dar look to me like gentlemen, his
looks ~~more~~ ^{more} like cheap jack with long
tongue & large pockets, working for
their living, & soft places; & stirring
up everything for more & more
places. ^{which is} ~~but~~ a last is he to pay for
all as want's is to be
let alone.

Mrs M. Then Mr. Parri, ^{only} as I can ^{say} is
^{have} ^{some} ^{very}
that I in just ^{depressed} ^{nam} ^{is}
 have ^{caused} as this trunk is four
 home. four

Rachel. live the same man.

No, really, aren't you taking everything too
 seriously? I feel sure it will all come right.
 I've a lot to say.

~~Heinrich. Oh! No, doit d'espérer à la, de la vie.~~
~~(l'ont-ils ou, unidav) Oh! Théné;~~

Rachel. Wish'ed good day.

Miss M. (glancing through window) Oh! there's a
a boat ashore! (boat ashore!) 96

Rachel. A fishing boat?

Miss M. ~~It must be~~ ^{yes} but it can't be a Regatta
boat - ~~the men have gone~~ ^{now} ~~it must have drifted~~ ^{men have gone} ashore today: it must
have drifted, its breaking up there at the rocks
and, oh! it is afraid there's a man drowned.

Rachel. (repeating ~~re-mechanically~~ ^{dully}) There's a man
drowned.

Miss M. (nervously turning away) You'll let me stay
here a few minutes ^{still} ~~if~~ I - I'd rather
not see it. ~~Oh! the~~ ^{about} ~~shivered~~ ^{sleep} -

Rachel. There's a man drowned. ^{isn't it?}

Miss M. Oh! the sea's dreadful. ~~Oh~~ It gets so
frightful on my nerves sometimes, I
always sleep with a ~~light~~ ^{light} ~~by the~~
sea. ^{night-light}

(Enter Susannah, throwing the door open
violently & holding it back.)

Rachel. There's a man drowned.

Susannah. David.

Miss M. Oh! Susannah.

Susannah. It is no business of mine. They can
car' him have to his mother's, that
be the place for him, they can car'
him there I told em. ~~Oh! an~~ ^{Oh!} ~~bring~~
him along. They can car' him there.

Rachel (looking beyond Susannah at the door)
David!

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Susannah. ~~with~~ with slow distinctness, 'Yes, they in ^{Wilmington}
him along, but I didn't come to look at a dead staring
him along' man. I didn't come to ~~claim~~ claim him
though he be mine and fair'n. I comed
to have a last word with 'er Rachel
Parris, & to take a last look at the
woman who've a'killed her son.

(She advances a step ~~forward~~ & Rachel
shrinks shivering back.) Be appears a
the dead to rise to give me another
blow? ~~There is~~ There is more left to be
struck for 'er a speak for 'er. You've
alone with me. You'm forced to hear
what I be going to tell 'er, and tis words
to think on, Mark 'em Rachel Parris.
Parris do owe his death to 'er this ^{day}.
Twas easy work to part we, then were
soon done, but twere the finish of him.
Twasn't such easy work for he to bid
with 'er. He ^{couldn't} bid. You wa the
^{one} ~~one~~ that made a mile of him, for
for a ^{bit} of painted ^{cloak} ~~cloak~~. That were
the price of wife & child ~~to go~~, for Parris
& tis to pay it he lies there. Twa, I then
that ^{sent} him to his death, so I die
hear 'em tellin' as I caned along.
They're wrong. The Lord be witness
that were left ^{to} ~~to~~ thee

(she makes as if ^{suddenly} drag Rachel forward, 98.
but steps back ^{a foot} the concluding figure
or points through the gap down.)

Come out & look at him. May I take
this ^{my} full of glazing at the last & all this ^{the} four
sides, but never think that he cannot bear
to be. He knows so well as I what
su'd stand for him, & if he loved as
once love over them. I was over ahead of
look the light from his blue staring eyes
of his. I wore his big leg of him, turning
again he told me so, I wore his legs
from the darkness of his eyes. His
heart was gone from it before his
body, body & soul you had a lost him
& if to be as the dead do rise & then
be judgement, neither in this world
nor the next will he have part nor
lot with ~~the~~ you ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~

(Rachel utters a moaning cry & falls
to grope forward toward the door &
falls a-limbo at Susannah's feet.

Miss Maxwells crosses ~~over~~ & bends over
her.)

Miss M. She's dead Susannah.

Susannah. (looks down | ~~she~~ She's cheated
me. She's gone with him. ~~End~~
gone

(she slogs forward, kneels & throws her
arms across the table, with a cry of
despair.)

I loved him too, I loved him too.

==

Curtain

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