
**Mrs. Raven's Temptation, by the Author of 'dr. Hardy's
Marriage'.**

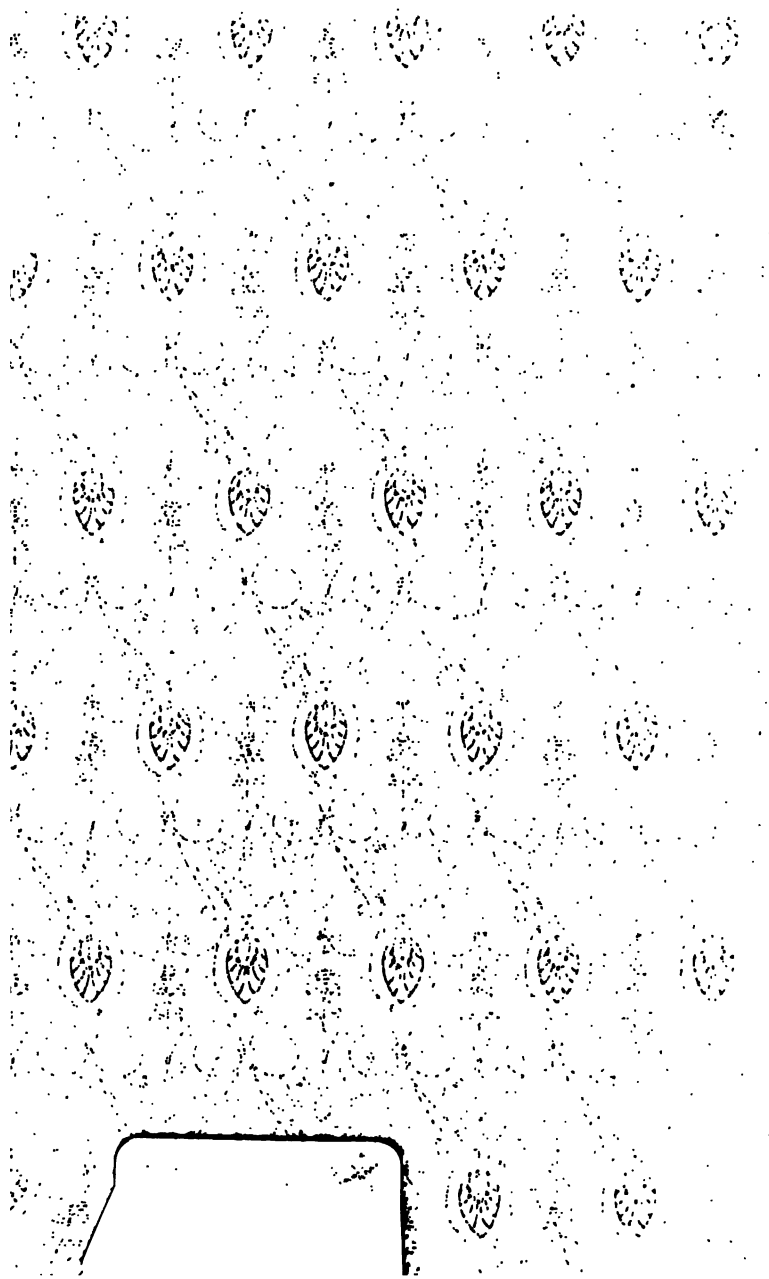
Mayo Isabella Fyvie

Title: Mrs. Raven's Temptation, by the Author of 'dr. Hardy's Marriage'.

Author: Mayo Isabella Fyvie

This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.









600064386X

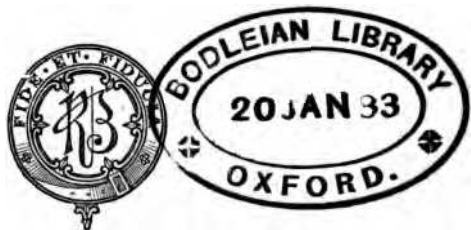
2017-01-11 10:00:00

MRS. RAVEN'S TEMPTATION.

A Novel.

BY THE AUTHOR OF
"DR. HARDY'S MARRIAGE."

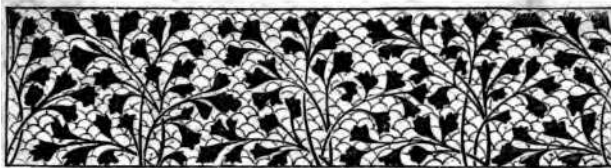
IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. III.



LONDON:
RICHARD BENTLEY AND SON,
Publishers in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen.
1882.

[All Rights Reserved.]

251



CONTENTS OF VOL. III.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. VOICES - - - - -	- 1
II. WHAT DID THE VICAR SEE? - - - - -	- 16
III. AN ANONYMOUS LETTER - - - - -	- 37
IV. A TELEGRAM FROM THE COURT - - - - -	- 61
V. A DARK CUPBOARD AND A CLUE - - - - -	- 78
VI. AN AGENT ABOUT THE COURT - - - - -	- 97
VII. NURSE HANNAH'S TRUNK - - - - -	- 118
VIII. THE STRANGER IN CHURCH - - - - -	- 143
IX. DUST ON THE CARPET - - - - -	- 163
X. A CLUE TRACED HOME - - - - -	- 174
XI. THE LAST OF POOR JAMES - - - - -	- 188
XII. THE VICAR TAKES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REPAIRS - - - - -	- 204
XIII. A LETTER FROM THE DEAD - - - - -	- 231
XIV. THE NAME ON THE BLOTTING-PAPER - - - - -	- 245
XV. IN THE FIRELIGHT - - - - -	- 275
XVI. THE WITNESSES - - - - -	- 299
XVII. THE NAMELESS DEAD - - - - -	- 347
CONCLUSION—THE HAPPY LIGHTS OF HOME - - - - -	- 357



MRS. RAVEN'S TEMPTATION.

CHAPTER I.

VOICES.

MRS. RAVEN felt rather surprised to see how glad Evelyn Agate appeared to be on returning to Ravenscourt. She had expected a little youthful disinclination to exchange a circle of bright young faces, and all the full and happy life of the minister's house, for the monotonous solitude of the Court.

Yet, truly, how beautiful it was! Mrs. Raven could not help saying so aloud, as the carriage drove slowly up the avenue.

The solemnity of late autumn slept upon the scene. The beauty might be that of decay, but it was rich and pathetic beauty.

It was at this time of year that Mrs. Raven had entered the Court as a bride. The trees were clad in crimson and amber, just as they had been that day. She would have liked to speak of it. She glanced at Evelyn. The girl sat beside her, with lips half parted in a smile. Evelyn had her own thoughts, and they were evidently pleasant enough; but they were not of the peaceful glory stretching around her: she did not seem to see it. Mrs. Raven sighed and relapsed into silence.

But Miss Evelyn Agate was quite on the alert when the carriage drew up at the hall-door. Her short return to the simplicities of such a house as the Connells' had made her more than ever sensitive to the charm of spacious and lofty chambers, of velvet carpets, and all the thousand "appliances" of wealth and luxury. She liked, too, to see the crowd

of servants : and she did not, for the moment, miss Leonard.

“The Squire has gone into the town to a committee meeting, madam,” explained Budd, the butler. “He said he could hardly be home before you got here, but he should not be long after you.”

“Very well,” said Mrs. Raven. “I suppose tea is ready for us. Charity, I shall need no help but yours. Mackay, you can attend to the trunks, and see if Miss Agate needs anything.”

The first question Mrs. Raven put to the old servant was about Leonard : as to whether he had been quite well during her short absence.

“Much as usual, madam,” answered Charity. “I must make bold to ask after Master Frank. I was living in hopes we should see him back with you to-day.”

“He is quite well—very well, indeed,” replied Mrs. Raven kindly. “He is going back to London for a little while, but I think we shall see him here very soon.”