

The Silver Cord

ROBERT: Hester how could you

HESTER: I don't know but I don't care if I did

ROBERT: It doesn't make things any easier for me

HESTER: Oh Rob dear I am sorry

ROBERT: You've got Mother all ruffled and upset now we'll have to smooth her down really it was too bad of you

HESTER: I know I lost my temper you understand don't you

ROBERT: I understand that you're a guest in Mother's house

HESTER: Is that all you understand oh Rob

ROBERT: I'm sorry Hester but for this moment I'm thinking of Mother

HESTER: See I'll apologize

ROBERT: That's up to you

HESTER: I suppose she'll never forgive me isn't this enough

ROBERT: This

HESTER: The scene I made

ROBERT: What do you mean

HESTER: I don't know some mothers like the girls their sons marry

ROBERT: Doesn't that depend on the girls

HESTER: Not entirely

ROBERT: You mustn't be unjust to Mother

HESTER: Rob I'm a little tired of hearing about your Mother oh I didn't mean to say that I didn't mean it a bit I'm sorry Rob now I'm apologizing to you don't you hear me

ROBERT: Yes I hear you what then

HESTER: Oh what difference does it make I'm not marrying your Mother I'm marrying you and I love you Rob I love you

ROBERT: Yes my dear

HESTER: I'll never be bad again

ROBERT: I'm willing to take your word for it

HESTER: You'd better be oh you are angry with me Rob

ROBERT: No I'm not

HESTER: You're a queer one

ROBERT: Think so how

HESTER: As a lover I've never seen another like you

ROBERT: Haven't you tell me something Hester

HESTER: What

ROBERT: Have you had many

HESTER: Many what

ROBERT: Lovers

HESTER: Oh Robert what a thing to say to a lady

ROBERT: You know what I mean

HESTER: I'm not quite sure I want to answer

ROBERT: I'm not asking for their names

HESTER: Oh I shouldn't mind that the truth is I don't know

ROBERT: You must

HESTER: I don't really I used to think oh quite often that one of my young men was coming to the point but

ROBERT: Yes

HESTER: But none of them ever did

ROBERT: That surprises me why not

HESTER: I don't think it was entirely lack of allure Rob

ROBERT: Of course it wasn't

HESTER: I think it was because I always laughed

ROBERT: You didn't laugh at me

HESTER: You looked foolish enough now that I think of it

ROBERT: Yes I dare say so I was the only one

HESTER: Say the only one I didn't laugh at please you make me sound so undesirable

ROBERT: I didn't mean to tell me Hester

HESTER: Anything

ROBERT: Have you thought what it will mean to be my wife

HESTER: A very pleasant life

ROBERT: For you

HESTER: I certainly hope so

ROBERT: I don't know that I quite share your enthusiasm for children

HESTER: You will

ROBERT: They don't exactly help your career you know

HESTER: Have you got a career

ROBERT: I fully intend to have one

HESTER: I'm glad to hear it

ROBERT: I've got just as much talent as Dave has

HESTER: What kind of talent

ROBERT: I haven't decided I can draw pretty well I'm not a bad musician I might decide to compose I might even write I've often thought of it and children you see

HESTER: I don't know much about careers but Lincoln had children and adored 'em and if you can do half as well as he did

ROBERT: Then my preferences aren't to be considered

HESTER: You just leave things to me if we're poor I'll cook and scrub floors I'll bring up our children I'll take care of you whether we live in New York or Kamschatka this business is up to me Rob don't let it worry you

ROBERT: I only wanted to make sure you understood my point of view

HESTER: If I don't I shall so let's cut this short hallo

ROBERT: What is this

HESTER: There goes your mother down the road

ROBERT: So it is what can she be doing

HESTER: She's fetching her darling David in out of the cold I knew she would

ROBERT: Hester would you mind not speaking that way of Mother

HESTER: Can't she leave them alone for a minute

ROBERT: She's the worrying kind

HESTER: Oh rot

ROBERT: Evidently you're bent on making things as difficult as possible for me

HESTER: I'm sorry you feel that

ROBERT: Hester

HESTER: Yes

ROBERT: Have you thought any more about our honeymoon

HESTER: Didn't we decide to go abroad

HESTER: If you really want to be free if you really want that Rob it's all right it's perfectly all right I'll set you free don't worry only you've got to say so you've got to answer me Rob do you want to be rid of me I guess that's answer enough here's your ring

ROBERT: Hester don't do anything we'll be sorry for afterwards don't please I can't take it

HESTER: I shall have an easier time of it if you keep away from me I want to save my face if I can

ROBERT: Hester please

HESTER: All right if you won't go I will

ROBERT: I'm sorry of course I'll go

HESTER: And take your ring with you

ROBERT: For God's sake Hester