

**THE MOTHER AND THE
FATHER: DRAMATIC
PASSAGES**

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The Mother and the Father: Dramatic Passages by W. D. Howells

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W. D. HOWELLS

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PASSAGES**

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AND THE FATHER

DRAMATIC PASSAGES

BY
W. D. HOWELLS

ILLUSTRATED



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I
THE MOTHER

I

THE MOTHER

In the upper chamber of a village house a young mother lying in bed with her new-born baby on her arm. A nurse moving silently about the room, and putting the last touches of order to its disorder, opens the door softly, and goes out. THE MOTHER looks up at THE FATHER, who stands looking down on her.

THE MOTHER:

"Is the nurse gone now? And are we alone
At last?"

THE FATHER:

"Yes, dearest, she is gone; and I
Must leave you, too. You must be quiet, now."

THE MOTHER:

"Yes, now I will be quiet." *After a moment:* "Dear!"

THE FATHER, *turning at the door:*

"Yes, dear?"

THE MOTHER AND THE FATHER

THE MOTHER:

"See her, how cunningly she nestles down,
As naturally as if she had been used
To doing it for years. How old she looks! How wise!"

*THE MOTHER rubs her cheek softly against the baby's
head, and then draws back her face to look at it.*

*THE FATHER comes and stands beside the bed,
looking down on the child.*

"How much do you suppose she really knows?"

THE FATHER:

"If she has newly come from heaven, our home,
As Wordsworth says, then she knows everything
We have forgotten, but shall know again,
When we go back to heaven with her."

THE MOTHER:

"Yes."

She rubs her cheek on the baby's head again.

"Do you believe it?"

THE FATHER:

"Why, of course I do.

Why, what a—"

THE MOTHER:

"Nothing. Only, I was thinking
That earth was good enough for me, and wishing
That we might all go on forever here."

"I SEEM ALL ROLLED AND LAPPED IN ENDLESS PEACE"



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