

**A SLAVE TO DUTY  
& OTHER WOMEN**

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A Slave to Duty & Other Women by Octave Thanet

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**OCTAVE THANET**

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**SLAVE TO DUTY**  
&  
**OTHER WOMEN**

BY  
**OCTAVE THANET**



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## A Slave to Duty

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**F**RANK MALLORY was fond of his mother-in-law. He was as delighted as a boy when he could get away from the pressure of a great business and spend a few days in the little New England village where Mrs. Wilder had lived ever since the captain's death. In fact, Mrs. Wilder was born in Jeffries. She was born a Jeffries, one of the good old family from which the town was named; and she had never left the town for any long interval, except during the five years of her married life. She married a naval officer, who made her very happy and left her with two little girls and his pension.

She went back to Jeffries, and somehow managed to buy a house out of the pension, and by taking a few boarders among the boys attending the famous Jeffries Academy.

That was how Frank had met and loved

## A SLAVE TO DUTY

Nora, his wife. That was how the other son-in-law—but they never talked of the other son-in-law.

After Frank's wonderful prosperity in business Nora had prevailed on her mother at odd times to accept certain stocks and bonds and other personal estate, which had been so wisely invested that Mrs. Wilder was very comfortable, and quite able, as she told Frank, often—oh, quite able to care for Wait! She would not build a new house. She enlarged and beautified the old walls, but she would not have new.

To-day, as Frank leaned back in the old leather chair, he could see some of the same furniture that he had known in the days when he had courted Nora; and Wait had comforted his boyish jealousies. Its presence did not embarrass the new furniture, for it was old and of no pretense, and rather gave notice that its owners had been gentle-folks in another century. Nora herself, handsomer in her dark, vivacious beauty than when she was his sweetheart, sat on the piano-stool, throwing her words and her flashing smile over her shoulder at her