Alice Gerstenberg

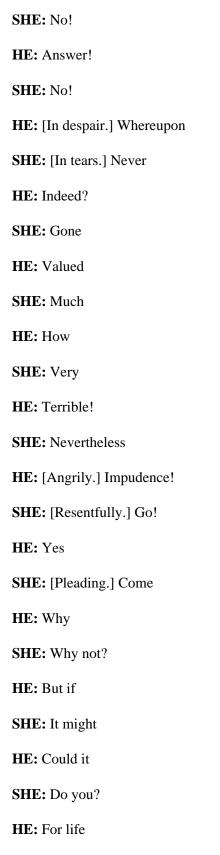
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This page copyright © 2002 Blackmask Online. http://www.blackmask.com CHARACTERS $_{\mathrm{HE}}$ SHE PLACE A stage. [Two characters, HE and SHE, are dressed absurdly in the most vivid colors suggestive of the riot of cubist pictures. Their faces are painted in cubes ans squares, etc., in colors, crimson, purple, green, etc... The scene is before the curtain of a stage. If it parts in the center the characters make a whirlwind entrance that way and use the curtain as a background to silhouette them. The characters whirl in.] **HE:** [Flirtatiously.] Well? **SHE:** [Flirtatiously.] Well? **HE:** Who? SHE: Guess. **HE:** Impossible! **SHE:** Try. **HE:** Then? **SHE:** Answer! **HE:** What? SHE: Truth. **HE:** Again? **SHE:** Stop!

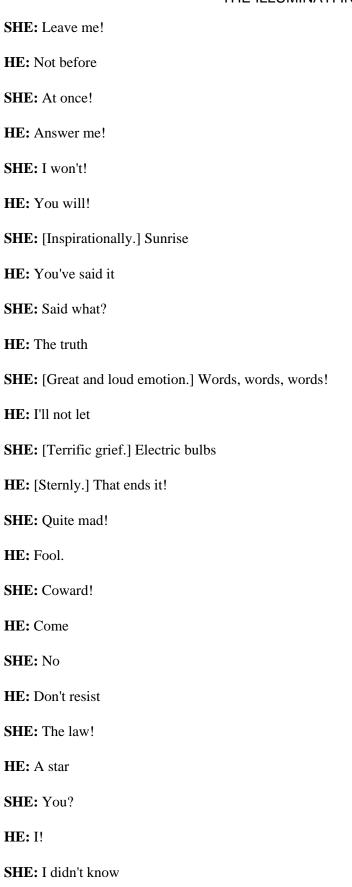
HE: Here?



SHE: No.

HE: There?

SHE: Forever **HE:** Although I **SHE:** Whereas you **HE:** Because she **SHE:** You care **HE:** Whether you SHE: Or I **HE:** Either one **SHE:** [In horror.] Moreover **HE:** [In doubt.] was it so? **SHE:** You doubt? **HE:** Proof? **SHE:** There it is [Points out front.] **HE:** Where is it? **SHE:** Are words nothing? **HE:** Everything! **SHE:** [Dramatically.] Enough! **HE:** Quite but **SHE:** But what? **HE:** Where is it? SHE: Look! **HE:** [In agony.] I cannot SHE: You will not **HE:** Curses **SHE:** How dare you? **HE:** I denounce



HE: Of course not

SHE: I don't believe it! **HE:** Imprisoned! SHE: You wouldn't **HE:** [Flings her across stage.] Inevitable! SHE: I implore you. **HE:** Without doubt **SHE:** Forgive **HE:** Too late **SHE:** Love? **HE:** Love? **SHE:** Love, love, love! **HE:** [Rapturously.] Love! She: [Cautiously.] The ring **HE:** They're coming **SHE:** Hide me **HE:** You must pay **SHE:** The letter? **HE:** Which one? **SHE:** His to you **HE:** Ah that! **SHE:** Out with it **HE:** You read it? **SHE:** Never! **HE:** Give it to me SHE: No

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HE: Command!

SHE: Now your answer **HE:** Revenge! **SHE:** You dare **HE:** My promise **SHE:** [Passionately.] On your knees **HE:** Vampire **SHE:** You beg HE: No **SHE:** Yes HE: No! SHE: Yes! **HE:** [Struggling with her.] No! SHE: [Struggling with him.] Yes! HE: No! SHE: Yes! HE: No! **SHE:** [Looking wildly for something to overpower him.] Crimson, blue **HE:** [Feeling his ears hurt by the mention of the colors.] Oh! **SHE:** [Pouncing upon other colors.] Violet! Purple! **HE:** [Getting weaker and weaker.] Hush! **SHE:** [Raging.] Orange, yellow! **HE:** [Finding it unbearable.] Stop! Stop! **SHE:** [Climax yell.] MAGENTA! **HE:** [Overcome.] Oh, my head! [They both disappear wildly behind the curtains.]

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CURTAIN