

## Dwight/Lulu

L: I wanted you to write him so I could tell the truth. You said I mustn't tell the truth till I had the proofs.

D: Tell whom?

L: Tell everybody. I want them to know.

D: Then you care nothing for our feelings in this matter?

L: Your feelings?

D: How this will reflect on us- it's nothing to you that we have a brother who's a bigamist?

L: But it's me- it's me.

D: You! You're completely out of it. You've nothing more to say about it whatever. Just let it be as it is... drop it. That's all I suggest.

L: I want people to know the truth.

D: What about my pride? Do you think I want everybody to know that my brother did a thing like that?

L: You can't help that.

D: But I want you to help it. I want you to promise me that you won't shame us like this before all our friends.

L: You want me to promise what?

D: I want you- I ask you to promise me that you will keep this with us- a family secret.

L: No! No! I won't do it! I won't do it! I won't do it!

D: You refuse to do this small thing for us?

L: Can't you understand anything? I've lived here all my life- on your money. I've not been strong enough to work they say- well, but I've been strong enough to be a hired girl in your house- and I've been glad to pay for my keep... But there wasn't a thing about it I liked. Nothing about being here that I liked... Well, then I got a little something, same as other folks. I thought I was married and I went off on the train and he bought me things and I saw different towns. And then it was all a mistake. I didn't have any of it. I came back here and went into your kitchen again- I don't know why I came back. I suppose it's because I'm

most thirty-four and new things ain't so easy any more- but what have I got or what'll I ever have? And now you want to put on to me having folks look at me and think he run off and left me and having them all wonder. I can't stand it. I can't stand it. I can't...

D: You'd rather they'd know he fooled you when he had another wife?

L: Yes. Because he wanted me. How do I know- maybe he wanted me only just because he was lonesome, the way I was. I don't care why. And I won't have folks think he went and left me.

D: That is wicked vanity.

L: That's the truth. Well, why can't they know the truth?

D: And bring disgrace on us all?

L: It's me- It's me-

D: You- you- you- you're always thinking of yourself.

L: Who else thinks of me? And who do you think of- who do you think of Dwight? I'll tell you that, because I know you better than any one else in the world knows you- better than Ina. And I know that you'd sacrifice Ina, Di, mother, Monona, Ninian- everybody, just to your own idea of who you are. You're one of the men who can smother a whole family and not even know you're doing it.

D: You listen to me. It's Ninian I'm thinking about.

L: Ninian...

D: Yes, yes... Ninian!... Of course if you don't care what happens to him, it doesn't matter.

L: What do you mean?

D: If you don't love him any more...

L: You know I love him. I'll always love him.

D: That's likely. A woman doesn't send the man she loves to prison.

L: I send him to prison! Why, he's brought me the only happiness I've ever had...

D: But prison is just where he'll go and you'll be the one to send him there.

L: Oh! That couldn't be... That couldn't be...

D: Don't you realize that bigamy is a crime? If you tell this thing he'll go to prison... nothing can save him.

L: I never thought of that...

D: It's time you did think. Now will you promise to keep this with us, a family secret?

L: Yes. I promise.

D: You will?...

L: Yes... I will.

D: A...h. You'll be happy some day to think you've done this for us, Lulu.

L: I s'pose so...