EDWARD. Do you think we'll be killed in our beds?
HARRY. Not very likely.
EDWARD. I can't sleep at night. Can you?
HARRY. I'm not used to sleeping in a house.
EDWARD. If I'm awake at night can I come and see you? I won't wake you up. I'll only come if you're awake.
HARRY. You should try to sleep.
EDWARD. I don't mind being awake because I make up adventures. Once we were on a raft going down to the rapids. We've lost the paddles because we used them to fight off the crocodiles. A crocodile comes at me and I stab it again and again and the blood is everywhere and it tips up the raft and it has you by the leg and it's biting your leg right off and I take my knife and stab it in the throat and rip open its stomach and it lets go of you but it bites my hand but it's dead. And I drag you onto the river bank and I'm almost fainting with pain and we lie there in each other's arms.
HARRY. Have I lost my leg?
EDWARD. I forgot about the leg by then.
HARRY. Hadn't we better look for the others?
EDWARD. Wait, I've got something for you. It was in mama's box but she never wears it. (EDWARD gives HARRY beads) You don't have to wear it either but you might like to look at it.
HARRY. It's beautiful. But you'll have to put it back.
EDWARD. I wanted to give it to you.
HARRY. You did. It can go back in the box. You still gave it to me. Come on now, we have to find the others.
EDWARD. Harry, I love you.

HARRY. Yes I know, I love you too.
EDWARD. You know what we did when you were here before? I want to do it again. I think about it all the time. I try to do it to myself but it's not as good. Don't you want to any more?
HARRY. I do, but it's a sin and a crime and it's also wrong.
EDWARD. But we'll do it anyway won't we?
HARRY. Yes of course.
EDWARD. I wish the others would all be killed.
HARRY. Take it out now and let me see it.
HARRY. No.
EDWARD. Is it big now?
HARRY. Yes.
EDWARD. Let me touch it.
HARRY. No.
EDWARD. Just hold me.
HARRY. When you can't sleep.
EDWARD. We'd better find the others then. Come on.
HARRY. Ready or not, here we come. (THEY go out with whoops and shouts. BETTY and ELLEN come)
BETTY. Ellen, I don't want to play any more.
ELLEN. Nor do I, Betty.
BETTY. Come and sit here with me. Oh, Ellen, what will become of me?
ELLEN. Betty, are you crying? Are you laughing?
BETTY. Tell me what you think of Harry Bagley.
ELLEN. He's a very fine man.
BETTY. No, Ellen, what you really think.
ELLEN. I think you think he's very handsome.
BETTY. And don't you think he is? Oh Ellen, you're so good and I'm so wicked.
CLIVE. Well this is all very gloomy and solemn. Can we have the shutters open? The heat of the day has gone, we could have some light, I think. And cool drinks in the gazebo, Joshua. Have some lemonade yourself. It is most refreshing.

(Sunlight floods in as the shutters are opened. EDWARD comes)

EDWARD. Papa, papa, Ellen tried to lock me in the nursery. Mama is going to tell you of me. I'd rather tell you myself. I was playing with Vicky's doll again and I know it's very bad of me. And I said I didn't want to be like you and I said I hated you. And it's not true and I'm sorry, and please beat me and forgive me.

CLIVE. Well there's a brave boy to own up. You should always respect me and love me, Edward. Through our father we love our Queen and our God, do you understand? It is a thing men understand.

EDWARD. Yes papa.

CLIVE. Then I forgive you and shake you by the hand. You spend too much time with the women. You may spend more time with me and Uncle Harry, little man.

EDWARD. I don't like women. I don't like dolls. I love you, Papa, and I love you, Uncle Harry.

CLIVE. There's a fine fellow. Let us go out onto the gazebo.

(THEY ALL start to go. EDWARD takes HARRY'S hand and goes with him. CLIVE draws BETTY back.)

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BETTY. Poor Clive.

CLIVE. It was my duty to have them flogged. For you and Edward and Victoria, to keep you safe.

BETTY. It is terrible to feel betrayed.

CLIVE. I sometimes feel this whole continent is my enemy. I am pitching my whole mind and will and reason and spirit against it to tame it, and it will break over me and swallow me up.

BETTY. Clive, Clive, I am here. I have faith in you.

CLIVE. Yes, I can show you my moments of weakness, Betty, because you are my wife and because I trust you. I trust you, Betty, and it would break my heart if you did not deserve that trust. Harry Bagley is my friend. It would break my heart if he did not deserve my trust.

BETTY. I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Forgive me. It is not Harry's fault, it is all mine. There is something so wicked in me Clive.

CLIVE. I have never thought of you having the weakness of your sex, only the good qualities.

BETTY. I am bad, bad, bad.

CLIVE. You are thoughtless, Betty, that's all. Women can be treacherous and evil. They are darker and more dangerous than men. The family protects us from that, you protect me from that. You are not that sort of woman. You are not unfaithful to me, Betty. I can't believe you are. It would hurt me so much to cast you off. That would be my duty.

BETTY. No, no, no.