

[At the aviary the next day]

MAY

It's wonderful to wake every morning with lilies-of-the-valley in my room. It's Like being with you.

ARCHER

They came late yesterday, I know. Somehow the time got away from me.

MAY

Still, you always remember.

ARCHER

I sent some roses to your cousin Ellen, too. Was that right?

MAY

Very right. She didn't mention it at lunch today, though. She said she'd gotten wonderful orchids from Mr. Beaufort and a whole hamper of carnations from Cousin Henry van der Luyden. She was so very delighted. Don't people send flowers in Europe?

[Later in the aviary]

MAY

Well, I know you do consider it a long time.

ARCHER

Very long.

MAY

But the Chivers were engaged for a year and a half. Larry Lefferts and Gertrudewere engaged for two. I'm sure Mama expects something customary.

ARCHER

Ever since you were little your parents let you have your way. You're almost twenty-two. Just tell your mother what you want.

MAY

But that's why it would be so difficult. I couldn't refuse her the very last thing she'd ever ask of me as a little girl.

ARCHER

Can't you and I just strike out for ourselves, May?

MAY

(laughing lightly)  
Shall we elope?

ARCHER

If you would.

MAY

You do love me, Newland. I'm so happy.

ARCHER

Why not be happier?

MAY

I couldn't be happier, dearest. Did I tell you I showed Ellen the ring you chose? She thinks it's the most beautiful setting she ever saw. She said there was nothing like it in the rue de la Paix. I do love you, Newland. Everything you do is so special.