

Annie

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Daldry. Is not this
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they electrocuted
week? Marvelous.
You may meet Mr.

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heart. You see,
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me there again,
places the vibrator

ldry?

MRS. DALDRY. My feet are very hot – dancing on hot coals
– and down – down there – cold and hot to the touch
– my heart is racing –

She has a quiet paroxysm.

DR. GIVINGS. That's all right, Mrs. Daldry, there there. You
just lie there and stay quiet for a while. I am going to
go wash my hands.

He moves to the wash basin.

She sits up.

MRS. DALDRY. (to Annie) Can you please hand me my hat.

ANNIE. Of course. You don't need to be ashamed. This
instrument has quite the same effect on all of our
patients. Sometimes they laugh and weep all at the
same time. They often call for God.

*Mrs. Daldry stands wearing her hat and her sheet
wrapped around her. Her sheet falls off as she puts on
her hat and she is left only wearing her bloomers and
her veil.*

MRS. DALDRY. Oh dear.

ANNIE. It is quite all right Mrs. Daldry.

Annie puts the sheet back on her.

MRS. DALDRY. I am suddenly drowsy.

ANNIE. Yes, most of our patients become drowsy after the
treatment.

MRS. DALDRY. Might I lie down again?

ANNIE. Please do.

MRS. DALDRY. You are a midwife?

ANNIE. Yes.

MRS. DALDRY. And you assist Dr. Givings with births and all
manner of things?

ANNIE. Yes.

MRS. DALDRY. How did you come to be a midwife?

ANNIE. I was thirty-three and unmarried, and hadn't the
patience for teaching young children.

MRS. DALDRY. You have assisted women in their confinements?

ANNIE. Yes.

MRS. DALDRY. So you have seen every form of torture.

ANNIE. I have seen women in a great deal of pain, yes.

MRS. DALDRY. Hold my hand and I will fall asleep.

ANNIE. Of course.

Annie holds Mrs. Daldry's hand and strokes her hair.

Mrs. Daldry falls asleep.

Throughout the next bit, she drowzes, and then wakes and gets dressed with the help of Annie.

In the other room,

Mr. Daldry and Mrs. Givings return from their walk on the grounds.

They are laughing and drenched.

Mrs. Givings shakes out her umbrella.

MRS. GIVINGS. I must be a very inconsistent person! I like to be wet and then I like to be dry and then I like to be wet again!

MR. DALDRY. You are very healthy and robust. I could barely keep up with you.

MRS. GIVINGS. I love to walk – I never had enough exercise as a child so now I walk walk walk no one can keep up with me not even Dr. Givings – that is how he fell in love with me, he said he was determined to keep up with me – he only saw the back of my head before we married because I was always one step ahead. He said he had to marry me to see my face.

Dr. Givings enters.

MRS. GIVINGS. Didn't you darling?

DR. GIVINGS. What's that?

MRS. GIVINGS. Have to marry me in order to see my face?

DR. GIVINGS. I see you have met my wife.

MR. DALDRY. Indeed.

DR. GIVINGS. We had a very successful session. You should find Mrs. Daldry much relaxed.