

THE JUDGEMENT

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The judgement by Mary R. H. King

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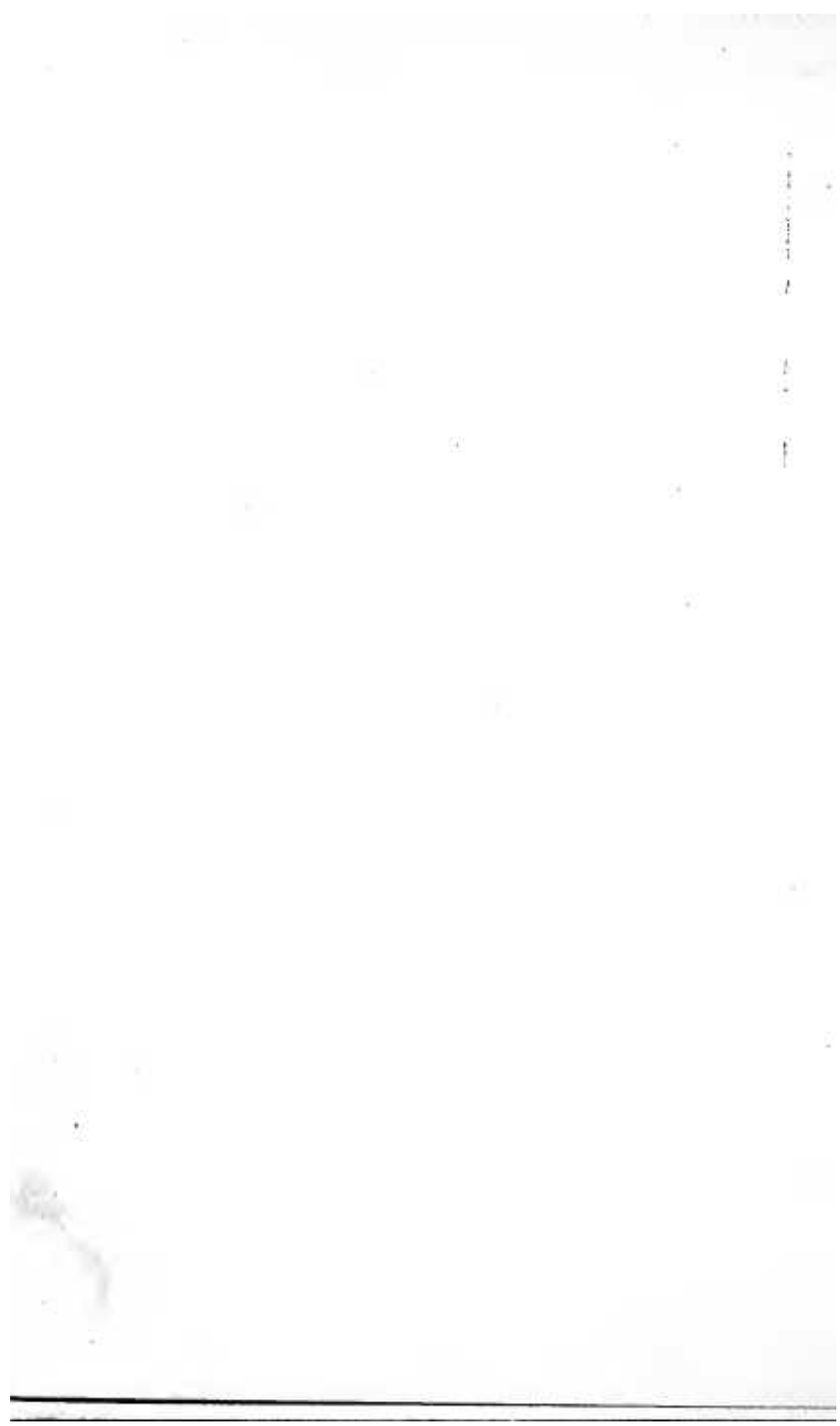
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By MARY R. H. KING AND
SUSAN P. H. MATLOCK

TO "SISTER"

*Truest friend, kindest critic, staunch supporter,
co-weaver of my story, I dedicate*

"THE JUDGMENT."

2136576



THE JUDGMENT

CHAPTER I

JOSEPH HOWARD loved his wife, so unselfishly that her self-centered disposition had not embittered or estranged his love. Years had accustomed him to her selfish demands until it had grown into a habit to expect of her no sacrifice. He had unconsciously fostered this trait until she carelessly demanded of others sacrifices such as she herself would never have dreamed of making.

In her fashionable set, pretty young Mrs. Howard was a well-known favorite of the social world. Pampered before her marriage, she knew no reason for giving to irksome domestic duties the time she lavished upon social pleasures.

Though at twenty she was a wife, no demand of motherhood came to disturb her gay serenity for five years. The child, Eleanor, was like her father, determined, truthful and magnanimous; like him also in her eager impetuosity. From him she inherited her tall, straight form, her slender patrician hands and feet, her large brown eyes that glowed with tender love or burned and blazed with indignation. Her head