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“ONE NEVER KNOWS.” BY F. C. PHILIPS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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BY

F. C. PHILIPS,

AUTHOR OF “AS IN A LOOKING GLASS,” ETC.

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BERNHARD TAUCHNITZ

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CHAPTER I

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VIOLET DALLAS had piqued his interest, amused him; the thought of the few minutes they had spent together recurred to him after the curtain had fallen, when he drove with his wife and the Travers' to the latter's house to supper.

Joyce was tired, the strain of the evening had been severe, and, truth to tell, the invitation was just one of those mistaken kindnesses which it is so hard to appreciate as they deserve. She would much rather have gone straight home; but if she was distraite everybody was quite ready to make allowances for it under the circumstances, and she was, in fact, permitted to leave at an earlier hour than the Travers' supper-parties usually broke up.

Naturally the congratulations and gush that reigned were nine-tenths false. No one could sincerely felicitate the husband and wife on her appearance in pantomime, however cleverly she might have acquitted herself; yet the compliments seemed to have the genuine ring, and Lord Sidney felt the crisis had been gaily passed over.

"He ought to be proud of you," declared Captain Long in a low voice. "I daren't tell you how charming you were!"

"You are very good," Joyce responded; "I have to thank you for your flowers."

"Were they all right? I hoped you would wear some,—you were very unkind!"

"They were beautiful; it isn't the custom to wear real flowers on the stage."

"I'm profoundly glad you've gone back to it; I rejoice! I mean to go to the theatre every night."

She smiled a little nervously. Without ever having said anything to which she could openly take exception, there was a persistence in his address that annoyed her.

"I don't envy you then," she replied; "I should be very sorry to go there—in front—every