

cold logic in the vorid had no power to him the image she carried in her mind.

Thanks to the ironies of city existence and

city geography. Mark and Stella were often within an ace of meeting -on the street or in the same restaurant where he happened to drop in for a meal on days when she had decided, in despair, to eat somewhere else. Twenty minutes' walk would have brought her to his door, yet the days passed and she did not see him. But she had seen him once and her life centered, now, on that memory. And on that chance encounter-if it could have been called that-on that glimpse which occupied, at most, no more than a few seconds. Stella built an incredible, secret edifice. How often does one not meet, among strangers, one familiar face? How often is one told that one has been seen and appraised

Be not disturbed at being misunderstood: be disturbed at not understanding. -CHINESE PROVERS.

all unknown to oneself? Coincidence? But she would have none of it. There was a reason for this meeting. Given the extraordinary resemblance, how could she doubt it? Perilous ideas roamed through her brain, through her dreams. Was it Alec after all, or one so like Alec that the separate identity became irrelevant? She believed that if she could only see him again, hear his voice, she would know beyond the shadow of doubt. What she did not, what she dared not, consider was the nature of that doubt-doubt itself. that chill mainstay of a mind unreconciled.

 $T_{HE}$  maid was out and the telephone rang, but Stella ignored it. She was dressing for a Landowska recital at Town Hall and dreaded an interruption of her afternoon and an invasion of her solitary frame of mind. Judging from the persistence of the summons, she guessed it must be Miriam Sparrow calling up to talk at length about her visit to the country, to reproach Stella for not having accompanied her, and to make searching inquiries about her friend's activities during the past few days. Stella felt profoundly averse to such conversation, and to the whole idea of companionship. For the first time since Alec's disappearance she was conscious of a completeness in her life, as if it had acquired boundaries and a perspective. She no longer felt lonely, nor were her thoughts easily communicable. If she could not have silence she would have music, and share with strangers the inexpressible experience of her own heart.

The telephone stopped ringing, but when Stella reached the door it started again with increased stridency, as if it had paused to get its breath. The sound pursued her all the way downstairs into the street, an insentient voice bidding her return to her discarded world

"Taxi!" she cried in panic, and waved her white glove at a cab which ground to a halt on the other side of the street. Breathless, she climbed in and gave the driver her destination.

The sound of the telephone bell seemed imprisoned in her ears. She no longer thought of Miriam impatiently waiting for her to lift the receiver. She thought of the sound as something materializing out of empty air, recalling her to the dull core of sense beneath the senselessness of life. Let it ring, let it scream its reminders through the empty rooms, into the street-she would not answer. She pictured it perched on the little table beside her bed, above the drawer





## TOASTED CHEESE SANDWIN

1 cup grated American cheese: I Colman's (dry) Mustard; 6 slice bread (14" thick) toasted on one Mix cheese with mustard, spre-ly on untoasted side of bread. Pr

broller at moderate heat until cheese is melted and begins to

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