

Katherine Mansfield's
'The Unexpected Must Happen'
and its Relation to *Bliss*

A TRANSCRIPTION AND COMMENTARY
BY GARDNER MCFALL

*'The Unexpected Must Happen': A Transcription*¹

Guy Gaythorn knocked the ash from his cigar end into the fire behind his back, restored the comfort to his lips, tilted his head further back if that were possible, & ballancing² himself on his toes for half a second—proceeded—["]you are half witch, Judith, and half pussy cat—my dear—that subtle combination which is so essentially feminine[;] but if you were not so young, so completely childish—it is no use denying the fact, I should be seriously annoyed."

The lady upon the opposite side of the table ~~picked~~ plucked a feather from her fan & blew it across the polished surface where it lay like a tiny swan on a dark miniature lake:³ "Allow me to assure you, sir, that under the circumstances, I feel my action in this matter to be beyond reproach." She suddenly rose, stretched out her white arms and looked at him, half laughing, half angry—from under her long lashes—"Why on earth, because in a weak moment I became engaged to you—am I to regard you as the only Adam—Why the Garden of Eden, now a days, is simply stocked with them and they are like Penny-in-the-slot machines. Guy—they all fascinate me, and I want to find out about them all—So for heaven's sake, don't develop the middle aged, vulgar, jealous husband attitude, but leave me my adorable Maccowell—the boy needs a woman—his father's history you know—in peace."

The man made no reply for a moment. Then with a sudden movement, almost with fierceness he took his wife in his arms, kissed her passionately, then pushed her gently back into her seat. [~~"This evening Judith we spend quietly & happily together. I know you will obey me & in future remember that you belong to me[,] that your honor is my honor. We have argued quite long enough up⁴ & quite Often enough upon this—to me—painful subject, Judith. I will have no more of it. Let us now spend a quiet evening together."~~] She was surprised, satisfied, soothed with the spontaneous passion of the man—but a frightful fear had crept into her very blood. Why could he not leave her as he had intended, and meet his friends at the Admiralty Club—God! What would he say or do if the door were to open, as in a few moments it would open, and Cecil, eager—loving—excitable,