

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

POE A

To live with *Neilson Poe!*

MARIA

He would become her guardian. I meant to speak with you, to ask for your advice--

POE A

What can I say? "Virginia! Do not go"? Do not go where there is comfort, and sufficiency?

MARIA

Eddy, there would be advantages I cannot give her here, she could acquire accomplishments and make her entrance in society. Her prospects would improve--

POE A

It's useless to disguise the truth--If Virginia goes with Neilson Poe, I'll never see or speak with her again!

MARIA

We must consider what's best for *her!*

POE A

My last my last my only hold on life is cruelly torn away - I've no desire to live and I *will not*. I love, you know I love Virginia desperately! I can't express in words the deep devotion I feel towards my dear little cousin - my own darling. I have no one to fly to now. I am living among strangers, and my wretchedness is more than I can bear...

MARIA

But Eddy, what of *her?*

POE A

The coldness of your tone wounds me to the soul! Do you think anyone could care for her more dearly than I?

MARIA

With Neilson Poe her comforts for the present time will be secured--

POE A

But what about her peace – her happiness? You both have tender hearts – and you will know my agony is more than I can bear.

MARIA

This is only for a while, until she comes of age!