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**The History Of Tom Jones, A Foundling**

In Four Volumes

**Fielding, Henry**

**London, 1750**

Chap. X. A short Chapter, which concludes the Book.

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## C H A P. X.

*A short Chapter, which concludes the Book.*

**T**HE long Absence of the Uncle and Nephew had occasioned some Disquiet in the Minds of all whom they had left behind them; and the more, as during the preceding Dialogue, the Uncle had more than once elevated his Voice, so as to be heard down Stairs; which, tho' they could not distinguish what he said, had caused some evil foreboding in *Nancy* and her Mother, and indeed even in *Jones* himself.

When the good Company therefore again assembled, there was a visible Alteration in all their Faces; and the good Humour which, at their last Meeting, universally shone forth in every Countenance, was now changed into a much less agreeable Aspect. It was a Change indeed common enough to the Weather in this Climate, from Sunshine to Clouds, from *June* to *December*.

This Alteration was not however greatly remarked by any present; for as they were all now endeavouring to conceal their own Thoughts, and to act a Part, they became all too busily engaged in the Scene to be Spectators of it. Thus neither the Uncle nor Nephew saw any Symptoms of Suspicion in the Mother or Daughter; nor did the Mother or Daughter remark the over-acted Complaisance of the old Man, nor the counterfeit Satisfaction which grinned in the Features of the young one.

Something like this, I believe, frequently happens, where the whole Attention of two Friends being engaged in the Part which each is to act,

in order to impose on the other, neither sees nor suspects the Art practis'd against himself; and thus the Thrust of both (to borrow no improper Metaphor on the Occasion) alike takes Place.

From the same Reason it is no unusual Thing for both Parties to be over-reach'd in a Bargain, though the one must be always the greater Loser; as was he who sold a blind Horse, and received a bad Note in Payment.

Our Company in about half an Hour broke up, and the Uncle carried off his Nephew; but not before the latter had assur'd Miss *Nancy*, in a Whisper, that he would attend her early in the Morning, and fulfil all his Engagements.

*Jones*, who was the least concern'd in this Scene, saw the most. He did indeed suspect the very Fact; for besides observing the great Alteration in the Behaviour of the Uncle, the Distance he assum'd, and his overstrained Civility to Miss *Nancy*; the carrying off a Bridegroom from his Bride at that Time of Night, was so extraordinary a Proceeding, that it could be accounted for, only by imagining that young *Nightingale* had revealed the whole Truth, which the apparent Openness of his Temper, and his being fluster'd with Liquor, made too probable.

While he was reasoning with himself, whether he should acquaint these poor People with his Suspicion, the Maid of the House inform'd him, that a Gentlewoman desired to speak with him.

— He went immediately out, and taking the Candle from the Maid, usher'd his Visitant up Stairs, who, in the Person of Mrs. *Honour*, acquaint'd him with such dreadful News concerning his *Sophia*, that he immediately lost all Con-

sideration



consideration for every other Person ; and his whole Stock of Compassion was entirely swallowed up in Reflections on his own Misery, and on that of his unfortunate Angel.

What this dreadful Matter was, the Reader will be informed, after we have first related the many preceding Steps which produced it, and those will be the Subject of the following Book.

T H E