

# DARK VICTORY

A Dramatic Reading

by

George Brewer, Jr. and Bertram Bloch



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Dr. Frederick Steele, a noted young brain specialist, is closing his New York office and is going back to practice in his beloved Vermont hills. On the day he is to leave he is persuaded by Dr. Parsons to take one more patient, the beautiful Judith Traherne, who has been seriously injured by a fall from a horse.

Dr. Steele, after telling her that he can promise "a complete surgical recovery," performs a very delicate operation on her brain.

For three months Dr. Steele stays to attend Judith and in spite of the great difference in their lives and their ideals, they become very fond of each other.

In the second act of the play Dr. Steele comes to make his final visit at Judith's luxurious home.

JUDITH: So you're off tomorrow?--How can I ever thank you?

STEELE: Don't let's talk of thanks. Let me say that I care so much that I'll come to you half way across the earth, whenever you call me.--Judith! I--I want--I must have your love, dear.

JUDITH: Oh,--I've wanted you to say that for so long--Dear God, thank you for letting me be--young--and alive!--Oh, Fred, I love this earth and all the good things on it.

STEELE: I'm going to help you find them, if I can.

JUDITH: That strange solemn note whenever you talk about my future.--What are you keeping from me?--All those carefully guarded phrases--"A complete surgical recovery"--and "I'll come to you half way across the earth--whenever you call me." Fred--You have no right to play God.--Fred, I'm asking for the truth--and I'm entitled to it.

STEELE: Judith, I'd hoped with all my soul this wouldn't happen, but it has;--so we'll face it.--As far as surgery can go you're cured. But there are some things surgery can't do.

JUDITH: Then that means another operati--? (She reads his face)--No?--You mean that--wouldn't do any good?--I see.--I'll have to face those headaches and that ghastly confusion all over again.--

STEELE: No, dear. You won't. I promise you that.

JUDITH: But--how will it happen?

STEELE: As quietly as going to sleep.

JUDITH: God's last small mercy!--I mustn't forget to thank Him for that when I see Him!--Will I have any warning?

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