

# Richard Carew

## the son

**M**y name is Richard Carew. I am 21 years old and the son of Sir Archibald and Lady Agatha Carew.

I was born at the London house, and brought up by nannies and governesses until I was ten years old, when I was sent to boarding school.

I hated it at school; the other boys were horrid to me, and bullied me all the time. The masters were even worse. Boys would be publicly flogged for doing nothing at all.

Mama insisted that I was sent to a new school. It was better at Rugby, where the headmaster, Mr Thomas Arnold, had made many changes. He arranged that we took part in team sports, worked hard and 'played the game'.

It wasn't as bad as my first school, but I liked it better at home, where the servants made a fuss of me, and Cook gave me lots of treats.

I saw Mama, too, in the evenings before I went to bed. She would sit me by her side for half an hour and talk to me and stroke my hair. I was not allowed to touch Mama then, because she would be dressed in her most beautiful dress ready for the theatre, or dinner, or a ball, and be wearing diamonds round her neck and in her hair.

When I left school, my father wanted me to go to university, but I wasn't quite clever enough for that. And it all seemed too much like hard work. Then he wanted me to help him run his business.

But when I travelled with him to the North to look at his factories, it looked awful. All those disgusting, dirty people working at those dreadful machines. Ugh. It was so noisy, and I couldn't stand the smell.

Now Father gives me an allowance of £500 a year and, though he doesn't know it, Mama does as well.

But the money doesn't go very far when you want to cut a dash as a young man about town. My tailor, and my bookmaker, are constantly sending me bills, and even my friends are demanding cash to pay for my gambling debts.

Life is very hard, and I don't know what to do. I am afraid they may come and haul me off to prison for not paying my debts – and Father will not be happy. He may even cut me off.

