

Chapter IX: “The Faun and Nymph”

The Marble Faun

The title of the chapter suggests creatures from another world. In their conversation with one another, Miriam and Donatello touch on the same idea. What effect does this have on their interaction?

She warns him about herself, “hinting at an intangible confession, such as persons with overburdened hearts often make to children or dumb animals, or to holes in the earth, where they think their secrets may be at once revealed and buried.” What secret might someone like Miriam be so troubled by?