## City of Pumber Dreams by Edwin Baird






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 His smilte vantshed. "No, you
shouldntit." he tinterupted.
"You must be ready to drop. Your
breakfast has been walting for an hour, for 1 expected you earlier, and
I know you're starving."
In her bsaoment rom - which,
houlthent though cheapsy furnished, was spot-
lessly clean-she bade him sit down
while she warmed over his breakfast
on the coal-oll stove when he hat on the coal-oll stove. When he had
finsthed the meal to the last drop and
crumb he sat back in hiss straghtit-back
chair and felt throulh his coat pock chair and felt through his coat pock-
ets. His quest finished. he stared
ruefuly at the most lump of tobaceo
in his palm. She sprang up, ran to a
ind In bis palm. She sprang up, ran to a
cupbonrd, and in a second was back
with a apackage of smokling tobace
and a book of cigarette papers.
si
He rolled and ughted a elgarette took a heavy Inhalation and sent the
smoke swriling cellingward. Then.
lowering his head, he looked steadily lowering his head, he looked steadily
from beneath his thek, jet-black brows
at the starry at the starry- eyed woman sitting op-
posite him. He felt no love for hher.
but a gratitude too dep for worl but a gratitude too deep for wor
tugged at his heart. He began to b
uncomfortable uncomfortable.
She walked to the strk with the
stack of dishes, deposited them stack of dishes, deposited hem and
returned to where he was standing.
"I-I told the landlady," she fal tered without looking at him, "that 1-
that you were my brother."
"No great harm in that. I hope. Be-
sides there is a sort of fanily resem-

## 

She became stlent. Her dark-
skinned hands relaxed; her shoulders
dron
drooped. After a few domb moments
she turned away and opened a door
leading into a dark hall.
"Would you
 votce sounded spirttess. "I'll show
you the way." He followed her down the subter
ranean passage to a narrow stairway
at the rev, up which they cllmbed
four tlights. His room was at the rear
of the top floor. There was the four tilghts. His room was at the rear
of the top floor. There was but one
wIndow, which gave upon an alley and
commanded commanded a fine vlew of a brick wall.
He ralsed it and leanting out found
the coratce of the house was less than the corntce of the house was less tha
six feet above the sill.
"I may need that some time."
remar Semarked the luyng of the roof tonight,
She had apparently forgotten he
depression, for she was oll tend depresslon, for she was all tenderne
now and. apologizing for the barenes
of hly abode, she left the room.
 stripeed to the skin, hung hls dant
garments out of the window th th
hope that a chance ray of suasthis hope that a chance ray of sunshine
might dilscover them and eurled up on
the bed, which was never 'ntended
till the bed, which was never 'ntended
for a man of his stature. In less than
three minutes he was slumbering three mi
soundly.

on


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