

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters. Mrs. Isabel Weyland, a widow, is threatened with the debtors prison. Her chief creditor, Mrs. Brymer, suggests a way out of the difficulty, marriage with an imprisoned debtor, who, for a pairry sum, will assume Mrs. Weyland's debts also. He proves to be a young lawyer, Macnamara, who, through no fault of his own, has fallen into dire straits. Mrs. Weyland, in pity, pays his small debt, sets him free and agrees to marry a negro condemned to die in three days. She then retires in overty the country life, but later falls stress to a large fortune and becomes a social queen in London. Here she meets Macnamara, now a flourishing barrister, who pledges himself to her service and is most attentive to her, to the anger of her brother-in-law, Lord Stratherrick. Mrs. Weyland takes as secretary Allice Fulton, daughter of a former creditor. Stratherrick learns of her marriage to the negro through Miss Fulton's father, a worthless specimen. He then calls upon his sister-in-law and attempts blackmail, proposing that she pay £500 to him to keep the former creditor quiet. The negro returns to London, having escaped both the gallows and penal servitude in the colonies. He blackmails Mrs. Weyland, who calls Macnamara to her ald. Mrs. Isabel Weyland, a widow, is threat-ned with the debtors prison. Her chief

## CHAPTER XVI-CONTINUED. Only a Housebreaker.

"Things very important to us. He was shy at first, but what established his con-fidence was an Irish jig. I danced a jig in the Hiberulan manner, with plenty of shouting and the brandishing of the shillelagh My black friend's suspicions, if he had any, were lulled by that dance. Never had he heard of a Bow street runner or constable or turnkey or thief taker in the whole of his experience who talked broad Irish and danced an Irish jig. Therefore, I say, he returned confidence for confidence." 'His confidence. What was it?"

"It is worth your freedom, madam. Nothing less. For he gave me to understandconfessed that, having been sent to the plantations, he has escaped and has re-turned to England. Therefore his life is forfeit. Do you understand. I can go to Bow street tomorrow and cause his arrest without appearing as a witness at all. He will then be executed with the greatest certainty. There will be no more mercy for him. Added to his escape, according to his own account, but he may be lying-'tis a boastful villain-he has murdered two or three overseers of the plantations where he worked. The news has not yet reached this country, but it will certainly come over before or after his execution. He will be hanged to a certainty-first, for breaking his sentence of transportation and next for the murder of the overseers."

"Oh!" Isabel clapped her hands and sat upright. "Oliver, you are wonderful! have always said that you would bring luck to the house."

"You deserve, madam, that I should bring luck to your house. I ought to bring the best kind of luck in return for goodness without parallel." She sighed, thinking of certain words she

had overheard between the young man and "I must finish my story," he said. "For there is another way. The man had a

woman with him-the woman who, I understand, came here with a message from him this morning. You saw her-" "A wretched creature; all rags and dirt."

"She is all rags and dirt. In that respect she matches the man. Unless she was all rags and dirt she could not be his companion; nor could she sit in that tavern. madam, unless that woman lied, which I do not believe, she is the wife of the adventurous negro; she has been married to him these five years. In that case observe that you were not married to the man at all. The ceremony meant nothing except bigamy on his part. I say that I am not certain. The woman may have lied, he prepared to wait. He sat expectant, but I doubt it. If she tells the truth do you not see another way to freedom?" "It is dreadful," she replied, "to desire

the death of any man, especially of so great a sinner. But yet-yet-my friend, I cannot give up even that wretch to certain death. It would be on my conscience for the rest of my life."

'You shall not have anything to do with his death, madam. If necessary, I will myself undertake the job. A workmanlike job I will make of it, too. But we must consider ourselves first. And perhaps it is not desirable to hang him offhand. He would perhaps become a popular criminal. The or a chair. He would walk, and as he was mob loves a big and strong man. Then already well advanced in drink when Oliver there would be a last dying speech and left him, he would not walk fast. confession, with a ballad about the cruel lady and the gallant black. Perhaps it served suddenly that the negro was in the

would be better to avoid this possible room. He had opened the door and entered "What would you do, then?" "I have thought of a plan, but it is not light of the room his eyes were like two easy. I am not quite certain whether it balls of fire and his white teeth gleamed.

Would your plan save his life? Would lowed the light to lie like a triangle on it leave him free to come here again?" the ceiling. Oliver, at the table, was in-The crowning terror in the lady's mind visible. He rose when he saw the dim outwas that he might come again.

can be carried through."

line of the man's figure and lifted one of "Breathe freely, madam. Whatever hapthe pistols. pens, he shall not trouble you. It is, how-The negro stood irresolute; he did not at ever, as well to remember that there is an- first make out the figure of Oliver; he other way possible besides the rough-and- looked about him; the woman whom he ready method of laying an information at came to see appeared not to be in the room Bow street. Believe me, dear madam, the but there was the light of the candles thing is as good as done."

only bring it to a close without a scandal."

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(Copyrighted, 1901, by Dodd, Mead & Co.) nearly midnight. Let your servants go to killed. If you are arrested it will not be

know you again?" "He is sure to come. He told me that | The man made no reply. he meant to come. I have a sword with suspects nothing, and he is certain not you. Do you understand all this?" to recognize me."

room at the back of the drawing room, stand what was invention on the part of she listened. For a long time she waited all this?"

you for saving my good name? bed. Do you go to your own room. I will as a burglar, but as an escaped convict, sit up here and receive him if he comes." You will not be tried for breaking your "Do you think he will come? Do you conditions, but you will be hanged at once, think he suspects? Do you think he will without hope of reprieve. Do you understand?"

me, as you see"-it is not common for a shall stay here all night as well. I have a dozen sallors sitting idly about, happy lawyer to wear a sword, but he was thus my pistols and will use them if you in having nothing to do. They were begirt-"and a brace of pistols. I may threaten. In the morning the people of mostly silent and ill at ease in consequence have to use them, in which case it will the household will come. Even if you of the evening's debauch. Among them, be only one housebreaker the less. But escape them we know where to find you. however, was the woman called Doll, who I think he will listen to reason, and If you were to murder me you would not was occupied with the cooking of a couple recognize the pistols. As for the rest, he escape. There is no escape possible for of red herrings for her man. There is no

Isabel obeyed. She went to her own stand what was meant. He did not under- ard of small ale.



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN THEN BY OTHER WOMEN?" and listened. Presently she heard voicesthey were not loud voices. Chiefly she dered overseers in Virginia."

she unlocked the door and came out.

Accordingly Oliver placed the two candles

on a table behind a screen; they afforded

watchful; the clock of St. James' church

hard by struck 12 and then the quarters-

and then 1. The square had been faintly

lit at nightfall by half a dozen glimmering

oil lamps; these were supposed to last all

night, but they went out, one after the

other; the watchman walked his rounds

bellowing the time; there was no other

sound of life or footsteps or voice in the

square. He was prepared to wait all night;

for he knew that the man would come. But

it is a long way from Wapping to St.

James' square, and Mr. Truxo would not

most certainly take either a hackney coach

About half-past 1 in the morning he ob

the room without making the least noise,

a thing in itself terrifying. In the twi-

The screen concealed the candles, but al-

are wanted elsewhere."

"What do you mean?"

heard one voice, and it was Oliver's. Then "I will murder you, too, by-" there was silence. When she was quite sure that there was but one person left you before you get the chance. I know

Left alone, Oliver prepared for possibiliyou are married to this lady." ties. These were manifold. The man might "So I was. In Newgate." "Yes. But I know that you were married become flerce; he might recognize the Irish refugee; he might refuse to obey, in which already." case it would be necessary to shoot him.

"Who are you? Who are you?"

in the great room; he placed himself behind Fly, or I fire! Fly, I say"—he raised his than that for a brave man like you." pistol-"or I fire and settle this business he loosened his sword in the scabbard and at once."

"I want money."

"I know more. I know about the mur-

"No, you will not, because I shall shoot more still. I know what you pretend-that

a dim light on the ceiling of a single corner burgiar. I have caught you in the act. rant sent, because I'll go. I'd do more

"Then I must pull the bell which awakens course with a gentleman."



OLIVER RAISED HIS PISTOL. "TAKE ONE SINGLE STEP AND I WILL SHOOT

the servants. You will have no money to-The man hesitated for a minute. "I will

"Stop. You are liable to be hanged. are my servants. The house is my house. Perhaps-I don't say-I may help you to Who else knows it? He was a good sort What are you doing in my house? Go out escape the gallows for this turn. Now, of a gentleman, too. He gave me a warnthen, listen. It is dangerous for you to be ing. Keep snug, he said, 'Keep snug unless Oliver raised his pistol. "Take one sin- seen in any street of London. Keep where you want to be hanged." That is what he gle step and I will shoot you. Then I will you are, lie snug. Have you anyone you said. I don't want to be hanged-no more ring the bell and call up the servants and can trust as messenger? You sent a do you. What's your name? I've forgottell them to drag out the body of the bur- woman this morning, a woman in rags, a ten your name." woman not to be allowed in a decent house -have you no better messenger?"

"There's an Irishman-a man from Dub- they don't know me, ye see, friend; they speaker and his voice showed no sign of lin. He's in trouble, too, but he would do know you; so the gentleman said you run an arrant for me if I asked him."

better directly about calling up the serv- "I've got no money." ants. Because, Mr. Adolphus Truxo, you "Tell your messenger that. But keep someone may be listening." enug. If you stir abroad you will be seen His friend, the sympathetic Irishman, and recognized. Keep snug. You deserve opened the door and looked out cautiously.

"Did the gentleman know what had happened?"

'He did. He knew everything-how he learned it I know not. He knew everything. If he knew it how did he know it?

"We're in the same boat. If they catch me they'll stretch me, same as you, only steak, "it's a lovely creature over there. were to lie snug, did he? Then he won't "Send your Irishman, then, and he shall lay information-why, it's twenty pounds the pistol and watching him as one watches tell you what you are to do. Send him to the informer in the case of a runsway—an antagonist in a duel. "You will think in the morning about 10 or so." what it is for a murder, I don't know." "Hush! Be quiet-don't talk so loud,

"I mean that if you move I shall fire. If nothing but hanging. I tell you this for "There's no one. You're quite safe here I ring this bell you will be arrested or your own good. Go!" unless the landlord or one of the pot boys

The man disappeared as he had come. In the morning one of the servants observed that a window at the back was She said that she had shut it and Isabel crept out, hearing no more voices.

"Oh!" she cried. "Have you persuaded "He will give you no more trouble. nadam. Rest quite easy. As we agreed, it will perhaps be better not to have the man hanged. I would rather send him back to Africa, where there is the certainty that a powerful man with a taste for house-

breaking and murder will very speedily meet with such an end as should satisfy all

his friends. But indeed, you will hear no more of him." Isabel heaved a deep sigh. "Oh, you make me bappy again; you have seen me in my deepest humiliations. After many days my sins have found me out. What shall I do-what can I do in gratitude to

## CHAPTER XVII.

Femina Furens. In the morning the Irish refugee again presented himself at the White Dog. The "Stay here all night if you please. I parlor of the tavern was occupied by half better breakfast, after a skinful of rum "Who are you?" The negro did under- and water, than a red herring and a tank-

The Irishman addressed the woman in and there, with door locked and bolted, this surprising person. "How do you know honeyed tones. "Sure," he said, "it's scorehin' and burnin' your pretty face ye are with them red herrins. Let go the griddle, now, and I'll frizzle them for ye. So-that's right." He took the instrument out of her hands. There is no woman, not even if she resembles Doll and belongs to her class, but is mollified by being complimented on her looks and relieved of the work. "I' faith," he went on, "a better cook than myself ye niver find in all Dobblin. And where's the good man this morning? Lying snug?" He whispered, looking round the room. "He can't be too snug. The news of his return is spread abroad. I've heard 'em talking about it, and they are on the job looking for him. Let him lie snug."

"For how long? He can't stay upstairs in his bedroom all his life."

"He can't, my pretty. You're a woman; you're good lookin'. He can't lie in his room all his life. That's a wise thing to say. Now, I bet that he depends upon your advice, doesn't he?"

"On my advice? Why, he's the most masterful man for his color that you ever saw. It's his own advice, and if you say a word to the contrary he up with his fist. Not that I complain-they're all alike, ready with a word and a blow; not one of the women has got a properer man as myself."

"You're right, Doll. There isn't as properer man in London. Well, you must take care of him."

"He'll lie snug in here p'raps if you tell him. He thinks a lot of you already." "There's other things to take care about, Doll. Not that I should speak; I know nothing-but when a man is so well set up -such a fine figure of a man, as one may say, with such white teeth and such flery eyes, there's other women finds him out land." as well as you." "What do you mean? My man won't so

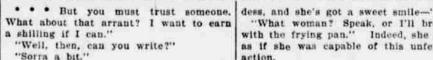
much as look at any other woman." "These herrin's are done, Doll. I'll take them up to his room. Fetch me half a quite a common thing for a black of low loaf, a lump of butter and a jug of beer." station to marry a gentlewoman. "What do you mean, then, about other

mean? Only what every woman must expect-even a fine figure of a woman like Does Doll know it?" yourself. Well, keep him snug, keep him snug. Where's his room?"

by your talk about other women?" The Irishman nodded mysteriously and

half-dressed, sitting on the truckle bed, which formed all the furniture of the room. "The top of the marnin' to ye," said Oliver, cheerily. "Here's your red herrin" "Never mind who I am. Now, I have had and your beer. I took them from Doll. enough of you. Go. You are a common And now, do ye want a message or an er-

The man took a long pull at the small ale and sighed heavily. "Last night," he said, "after you went away, I had dis-



"No more can I: we must do without, read numbers?" "If I can't, somebody in the square can,

sure." "No. 15, then. Find the house. Ask to see Mrs. Weyland. Don't forget the name -Weyland." "I'll remember-Weyland-Mrs. Wey-

"She's a young woman and a fine woman-as fine a woman as ever you see. I married her once, about three years ago." He made the announcement as if it was

"Did you, now?" asked the Irishman, with admiration. "Married her, did you? Married her. To be sure, you look like a man who would have more wives than one.

"What does it matter if she does know "It's upstairs—what do you mean, then, A man may have as many wives as he it? I married Doll a year or two before. likes, I hope."

carried the food upstairs. The man was Dobblin, not to speak of a mighty fine girl waiting for me in Tipperary."

"The way of it was this: I married the woman when I was under sentence of death in Newgate; she gave me my fill of rum in She gave him full play to the emotion of morning after and I never thought to get off. But there was too many of us and they sent me to Virginia."

"So you told me last night." "My lady was such a beautiful creature. with cheeks like an apple and eyes like melting-melting candles-I would not disappoint her and so I never sent her word that I wasn't hanged after all. Why should I? Besides, I thought that perhaps I should never get away. Well, you ask to see Mrs. Weyland. There's footmen at the door-they'll be for refusing you ad-

mission. Say it's about a poor man-say

it's an act of charity; say that you'll sit

there on the doorstep; say that you'll fight the best man of the lot, then they'll let give information. I'd say, 'did you want a word of this talk. What he'd do to you you go in." What am I to say when I am in?" "You're just to tell madam that you come from me; that I saw the gentleman with the pistols last night; that I'll follow his advice; that she's got nothing to fear from me, and that I won't get into the house any more, and that I'll lay snug until such time as the gentleman tells me

what to do." "I'll remember all that-anything more?" "Tell her that I've got no money, and that I'd be thankful for some. Otherwise shall be turned into the streets."

"That's all. And hark, ye my lad, I've only known you since last night. If so be you don't treat me square in the matter of this money, I-"

"Brother," the Irishman interrupted him with emotion, "we're in the same boat. Both of us keeping out of the way. You can trust me; I'll bring you back all the money get-never fear-never fear. I'll fight the best man of the lot. I'll fight any two. I'll sit on the doorstep, and I'll make the sweet young thing send you the money." not washed his face since the evening and that it still presented the stains and smudges of the work in which he had been last engaged. Nor had he washed his is such a fine figure of a man. And I'm his shoulders in a tangled mass-which cer- says, 'to think that he's remained unmar--otherwise a sprightly and cheerful working man.

He was gone about three hours-when he returned it was close upon noon and yet married." Doll was again occupied with the gridiron cooking a beefsteak for the dinner of her lord. The parlor was by this time quite That's how they're made. They underempty and deserted.

"Ye can tell him I've come back, Doll," Again he took the gridiron from her hands. 'For a tender steak there's no country like ould Ireland, be sure. Ye can run upstairs Doll and tell him I've brought the money. Ah Doll," he murmured while he turned the she'll give him up. Not, mind you, that A most lovely creature."

"Where? What lovely creature?" "Why-you were there yourself yesterday. Didn't you see her?" "What lovely creature? Speak, ye Irish

devil. What lovely creature?" Doll's temper was quickly roused; it was dangerous to converse with her, even upon lovely creatures.

unless the landlord or one of the pot boys woman-sho's dressed up as "ue as a god- the proof is that she fetched me a box o' you on your summer outing.

"What woman? Speak, or I'll brain ye with the frying pan," Indeed, she looked as if she was capable of this unfeminine action.

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"Why, Doll-I ought not to have spoken. Go to St. James sq. at the other end of I thought you knew. Very likely, now, the town; the house is No. 15. Can you there's nothing betwixt them. It's the woman who gives him money. You went for it yourself yesterday." "She-gives-him-money? I went for it?

What does she give him money for?" "How should I know? Hark ye, Doll. I've a liking for you, and I'll tell you what I think. There isn't a lady in the land who wouldn't take such a fine man as yours from you if she could. Not a lady, mind." "I know the house-I'll go there-I'll find

her-I'll murder her, sh-h!" she hissed in her wrath. "Come, Doll, I wouldn't do that. If you

do that you'll bring him to the gallows, and yourself as well. You and your fine man only where and when you were married. "I don't care if I do. I will go and give hanged. I know enough to get him hanged July."

better thing to do."

"What's that?" "Take him clear away from her, where he can't get at her and she can't find him. That's a better way. Keep him to yourself,

Doll."

jealousy, she tramped about the room, she swung her arms, she handled the knife with knives, is there? and no going to the house swore that she would stick it into the vital you'd only anger him the more, and no givparts of her rival, she pictured the immense effect of the example she would be a terrible thing for you, of all people in make of a woman who took another the world, to bring this man of yours-all woman's man, she would follow up the lesson by plunging the same knife into the give yourself, and had luck would follow ribs of her lord and master-

"Doll," said the Irishman "Long before you'd get the knife between his ribs you'd got to give him up." be on the ground with your arms and your legs and your backbone broke-and lucky if truth, there's nothing she will desire more your neck wasn't broke as well."

Adolphus Truxo, him as was sentenced to I know. As for me, I can keep out of his be hanged three years ago for housebreak- way, but I'd rather not, I'd like to run his ing and was sent to the plantation for life? arrants and to do for him-until I can get Because I know where he is, the villain! a job." And he murdered all the overseers in Virginny before he got away, and if you'll platter upstairs to the man lying snug. come with me I'll show you where he is." "No, Doll, you won't do that, you won't money?" have him hanged. You'll just take him away from her. Now, Doll, be reasonable and listen."

Doll paused in her mad tramp round the room. Her cheeks were purple, her eyes were flaming; she showed her teeth like a tigress; she clenched her fist and clawed the air; in a word, she was the jealous him. A word from me will have him woman entirely abandoned to rage and re- hanged. And tell him that he was not

"How you you know that she's taken him from you? This morning I saw her-The Irishman had a fine imagination, because he had not in reality been further west than Drury lane, where he had seen his friend, the actor, and had set certain little things about his disguise in better order. "I saw her, I say this morning. 'Tell me,' she says, 'how's Mr. Truxo. It's So he went off with a light footstep. He a fine man he is, and no mistake.' True might be an enemy of the laws, but his for you, my lady, I says. As to her face for my own trouble. Thank you." appearance and his conversation conveyed and figure if you'll believe me, Doll, she's confidence. It should be added that he had not to be compared with you. 'Is he in the The negro rattled the coins with the rap-White Dog still?' she asks. Madam, I says, he is, and likely to remain there. 'I would self and friends. "Be careful, mate; I

help him if I could,' she said, 'because he plenty of women would take pity on him-1 myself-no, I must not say so,' she says. So you see, Doll, she believes that he's not

"She must be a fool."

"She must-most of the women are fools, stand nawthin', being, as you said-you are the wise woman, Doll-mostly fools." "Have you got anything more to tell me

about her?" "This, Doll. If we can make her understand that your man is married already, there's anything to bring between them. These rich women have their fancies-same as the likes of you, Doll. She gets to know this fine man and she gives him money; she says that she's astonished that he's not married and she would take pity on him. the triangular tree along the Oxford road, Well, Doll, there you are! Once let me prove to her that you are his wife and hours and in his dreams.

"I told you that I am his wife."

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the ear enough to knock my head off. But we want better proof than that. Doll.

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"I can't give you my marriage lines." "No-and I don't want them. Tell me That will be quite enough for me

information, myself; I will have him church five years ago in the month of "That's easy. I was married in Shadwell

"Five years ago; in the month of July; "I wouldn't do that, Doll. I'll tell you in Shadwell church. That's enough Doll, and now don't let him see that you're jealous, because he's made so, and he'd be angered, and when he's angered-if I was you, Doll, I wouldn't anger him. So that's

all right, isn't it?" "I suppose so," she replied, sullenly.

"He has been there-" "He won't go there any more, I promise you that, and there's to be no sticking with which she had trimmed the steak, she and calling names? Because, you see, Doll, ing information because, you see, it would your own-to the gallows. You'd never foryou all the rest of your life."

"No, I won't lay information, but she's

"She will, she will when she hears the than to give him up. Now, Doll, the steak "Then I'll go out in the street and I'll is done, I'll carry it up, and, hark ye, not

> He carried the steak on a hot pewter "Well," he asked, "have you got the

> "I've got 5 guineas-there it is for you." "And you saw the lady?" 'I've seen the lady. She's a fine woman as ever I saw. But she's dangerous."

"How dangerous?"

"Tell the man,' she says, 'that he's got to do what he's told. I know all about married to me, because he had a wife already. Doll is her name, and he was married in Shadwell church five years agoin the month of July,' she says."

"How did she know that?" "I can't tell you. That's what she said. And here's your money. Five guineas she sends you. You're to make it last a long time, she says. Divil a bit more you'll have for a long time. Give me a shilling. I wouldn't rob you; a shilling is all I want

"Come and drink a bout this evening." turous visions of unbounded rum for himwouldn't go down, if I was you. They seem honest lads, but no one can tell. ragged locks which still hung down upon astonished, she says, astonished I am, she There is talk of a negro runaway from Virginia; I heard people in the street talktainly had not seen a comb for a long time | ried so long. Believe me.' she says, 'there's | ing of a hue and cry and the reward. It's a pot of money for anyone, mind you."

"So 'tis; so 'tis." "There may be some of those down below-but who knows? Brother, if I were you I'd lay up here. Get your drink up the stairs-and year supper. Doll will do that

for you. Lay up, lay up a bit." So saying he departed, leaving Mr. Truxo to the enjoyment of his steak and the apprehension of betrayal. He had also filled the heart of one of Truxo's wives with jealousy, so that he came away with the consciousness of having done a good morn. ing's work at the expense of a little exer-

cise of the imagination. As for the negro, he sat alone in his room, a prey to all the direst terrors-and drinking continuously in order to put out of sight that narrow courtyard with which he was already familiar, and the thoughts of which rose up before him in his waking

(To Be Continued.) .

"I thought you knew-why, Doll, the woman-she's an angel to look at-the to go to her and to say 'Doll's his wife, and Cook's Imperial Extra Dry Champagne with

