

THE SAILOR

Street, the lamp in the right-hand corner of his brain suddenly went out.

By the time he came to the end of the street it had grown very dark. And as he turned a corner and found himself in a street whose name he didn't know he was unable to do anything. And then all at once he realized that Aladdin's lamp was broken in a thousand pieces, and he gave a wild shriek of dismay. The savage hunted eyes of Thompson were gazing at him from under the helmet of a passing constable.

The trolls had got him.

Nothing could help him now. It had grown so dark that he couldn't see anything, although it was hardly seven o'clock, the present of an evening in June. He almost shrieked again when he heard the sniggering voice of Auntie ascend above the gathering noises of the town: "Now, Enery, you must be a man and bear it."

He didn't know where he was now amid the maze of little-frequented streets of Mayfair. He had lost his way and he couldn't see. He was blind already with the growing darkness. He was losing all sense of time and place. But the voice of Auntie was ever in his ears, exhorting him with that shrill and peculiar snigger of which she seemed to grow weary, to be a man and bear it, as he stumbled on and on into the night.

II

ONE afternoon about a week later, Edward rang up No. 50, Queen Street, on the telephone to ask if Mary was at home. In reply he was told by Silvia that Mary had gone for a few days to Greyfriars, the Ellises, but her mother would be very glad if he