The blackhirds were whiching medicolously in the bowery old orchard at the the back of the house; the tiger-lilles and clove-pinks were in blassom matter at at the the back of the house; the tiger-lilles and clove-pinks were in blassom matter at at the the back of the house; the tiger-lilles and clove-pinks were in blassom matter at at the the back of the house; the tiger-lilles and clove-pinks were in blassom matter at at the the back of the house; the tiger-lilles and clove-pinks were in blassom matter at the the back of the house; the tiger-lilles and clove-pinks were in blassom matter at the theory of the part of the tiger-lilles and clove-pinks were an early and the part of th

of the moment, Matthew Russet opened the THE WAITING JULIET.

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The house in question was what Peter the Scholar (who corrects my proof-sheets) calls one of the rusinurby sort—the front facing a street and the back looking over a turfed garden, with a lime-tree or two, a laburnum, and a lawn-tennis court marked out, its white lines plain to see in the starlight. At the end of the garden, a door, painted dark green, led into a narrow lane between high walls, where, if two persons met, one had to turn sideways to let the other pass. The entrance to this lane was cut in two by a wooden post about the height of your hip, and just beyond this, in the highroad, George was waiting for us with the dog-cart.

We had picked the usual time—the dinner-hour. It had just turned dark and the church clock, two streets away, was chiming the quarter after eight, when Peter and I let ourselves in by the green door I spoke of, and telt along the wall for the gardener's ladder that we knew was hanging there. A simpler job there never was. The bedroom window on the first floor stood right open to the night air; and inside was a faint candle light flickering, just as a carcless mad will leave them after her mistress has gone down to dinner. To be sure, there was a chance_of her coming back to put them out; but we could hear her voice going in the servants' hall as we litted the ladder and rested it against the sill.

"She's good for half-a-hour yet," Peter

three paces ahead of us, and waited whi we whispered, with the moonlight, the slanted down into the lane, whitening he have neck and flashing on her jewels.

"One moment," I said, and stepped for ward to her; "you had better take of those ornaments here, my dear, and give them to my servant to take care of. There's a carriage waiting for us at the end of the lane, and when he have stowed them under the seat we can climb in and drive off...."

"To the end of the result in the seat of the model of the seat we can climb in and drive off...."

ac carriage waiting for us at the end of the lane, and when he have stowed them under the seat we can climb in and drive off—"

"To the end of the world—to the very rim of it, my hero."

She pulled the gems from her ears, hair, and bosom, and handed them to Peter, who received them with a bow. Next she searched in her pocket and drew out a tiny key. Peter unlocked the case, and, having carefully stowed the diamonds inside, locked it again, handed back the key, touched his hat, and walked off toward the dog cart.

"My dearest lady," I began, as soon as we were alone between the high walls, "if the devotion of a life—"

"Her bare arm crept into mine. "There is but a little time left for us in which to be happy. Year after year I have marked off the almanac; day by day I have watched the dial. I saw my sisters married, and my sisters' daughters; and still I waited. Each had a man to love her and tend her, but none had such a man as I would have chosen. There were none like you, my prince."

"No, I dare say not."

"Oh, but my heart is not so cold. Take my hand—it is firm and strong; touch my lips—they are burning—"

A low whistle sounded at the top of the lane. As I took her hands I pushed her back, and, turning, ran for my life. I suppose that, as I ran, I counted forty before her scream came, and then the sound of her feet pattering after me.

She must have run like a demon; for I was less than ten yards ahead when Peter caught my waist and pulled me up on to the back seat of a dog-cart. And before George could set the horse going her hand clutched at the flap on which my feet rested. It missed its grasp, and she never got uear enough again. But for half a minute I looked into that horrible face following us and working with silent rage; and for half a mile at least I heard the platter of her feet in the darkness behind. Indeed, I can hear it now.—Memoirs of a retired burglar.

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