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CHAPTER IV.

STAND BETWEEN. (Concluded.)

With a low cry, Hilda hid her face

With a sudden movement of pas-

sion the weak woman turned to her. 'Spare your pity! She will not need it long. He is still searching of-the-way cottage, to find her in for her, and before long he will find her-will find her and place herwhere you should be! Home, friends, wealth, love, await her. For you, until you die, there can be no home, you are left outcast and nameless. Be trace behind her. what you will - rich, famous-the ed me must follow and crush you!"

her lips refused to ask.

seeks bears the name of Lilian Leigh | made to be stopped. -she-she-look, Hilda; the lightthe light! It grows darker-dark! she is here-your child-your child!' And, half rising, with outstretched

hands, she fell forward into her daughter's arms, at rest at last!

CHAPTER V.

Weak Women

suddenly vanished, leaving no trace behind them. Dawson Slade had paid his wager on the night it became due, had afterwards played heavily at baccarat, and as heavily lost, and the next morning, when a friend called to enquire for him at the hotel, it was discovered that he had left in the

Hilda Fane's disappearance was still more mysterious. The manager of the theater had received a note NOR LOVE, NOR RICHES from the celebrated actress on the morning following her triumph in the Roman play, informing him she was prevented from fulfilling her engagement and inclosing the money forfeited by her breach of contract. The disappointed manager, wild with excitement, had tracked her to the outdeep mourning, preparing for the funeral of her mother.

Coldly and calmly she had met his subdued remonstrance, and imploring prayer for a fresh engagement, with a no name! Spare your pity for your steadfast refusal, and when, four days self for the day which will surely come afterward, he returned to press his when you shall see her, your sister, suit, he found that the greatest "draw" honored and beloved, mistress in her it had ever been his fortune to know father's-your father's-house, while had silently departed, leaving no

So great was the excitement caused shadow which has followed and crush- by her sudden flight that the intelli gence of an attack upon the overland With a cry of despair, the girl shrank stage, resulting in the murder of the from the awful voice and stony eyes. | guard and half a dozen passengers, Then suddenly she threw herself upon was allowed to pass almost unheeded. her knees, and, clutching the dying But it is only fair to add that the woman's skirts, looked the question stage had been so often stopped and the guard and passengers more or With an effort, Mrs. Fane leaned less murdered that the incident had become wearisomely commonplace. 'The man-your father-is Sir Tal- | People seemed to think that just as bot Woodleigh, and the daughter he watches were made to go, stages were ly:

Be that as it may, we have but Look there-there; he is here! It is little more to do with San Francisco, you, you-he seeks, not her! Talbot! and have but to glance at one more characteristic of the new world before we return to England once for all.

The sun was setting on the overland route, and throwing a crimson bloom on the waste, and lighting up the one glazed window of the station. "My Name is Lilian Leigh." It was a solitary but which served as WO topics of conversation en- a shelter for the station keeper, whose grossed the attention of the duty it was to take charge of the Golden City. One was the horses changed by the up and down interrupting her. loss of Dawson Slade's wager, oc- stages. A more melancholy existence casioned not only by his failing to can scarcely be imagined, not only carry out his challenge, but by the | melancholy, but dangerous, for the sudden disappearance of Hilds Fane; whole route was infested by bands of the other was the disappearance of ruffians, the scouring of the silver Dawson Slade himself. Both had mines, escaped convicts, and outcasts

generally, whose ferious attacks on the stages have become matter of

So still and calm was the waste, so deer an air of repose rested upon the solitary hut, that it might have been chosen as a type of innocence and peace but for the fact that within a hundred yards of the hut door lay two bodies, dead and stark, as they had been left by the gang who had attacked the coach, and that the rough door of the hut was perforated with bullet holes.

So deserted and desolate was the whole scene that a traveler would never have suspected that the hut contained any living thing, but, nevertheless, in the inner room of the rough wood cabin were two girls.

The room, if it deserved the title, had served the station keeper as a sleeping room, and on the straw pallet lay one of the girls, her face drawn and colorless, a bandage, stained with blood, drawn tightly round her shoulder. She lay half on the pallet and half on the aims of her companion, who bent over her a face almost as white as her own.

As they formed this motionless group, anyone entering the room would have been struck by a vague sense of their resemblance. Both wore plain, black, mourning dresses; both were apparently of the same height and age, and, still more notice- table? Yes-go on.' able, there was a decided likeness in and weakness, and the other bent over shot and a heavy groan -oh, I connot her with a calm presentment of strength | go on !' and endurance.

Difficult though it would have been

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to recognize in the strained, worn face the latter the young actress who, but a few nights since, had bowed before the applause of a crowded theater, it was no other than Hilda Fane.

Silence, as profound as reigned outside, brooded over the miserable room. With fixed attention, Hilda watched Asparagus, in tins. the suffering girl, cooling her hot forehead with water, and moistening the dry lips with a gentle, pitying touch

of her wet finger. Every now and then the wounded girl opened her eyes and looked up gratefully, and the pallid lips opened, as if she were trying to speak, and at last she succeeded:

'You are here-with me-still?' Hilda bent lower, and smiled grave-

'Yes. Do not fear that I shall leave

'No,' breathed the other, 'I am not afraid; I know you will not. How good you have been to me, and how brave. But for you I should have been left here to die -alone !' and a

shudder shook the feeble frame. 'Do not think of dying,' said the actress. 'You are weak and ill, but we must not give up. All is not lost yet; before long we shall be discover-

ed; the next stage is early due.' 'What day is it?' asked the other,

'Friday,' answered Hilda.

The other shook her head.

'The next stage does not pass till to-morrow-too late-too late for me,' and she closed her eyes.

Hilda suppressed a sigh, and drew loser to her, so that she lay quite in her arms. The movement roused the girl again.

'Too late for me,' she said, with a wan smile, 'but not for you; and yet I wish I could live to see them, to tell them how nobly you have acted, You will do so I know.'

'Be brave,' said Hilda, encouragingly; 'you will live to tell the story for many a year.'

'It is kind of you to try and cheer me,' said the sufferer, gratefully; 'but I know that it will not 'be, and I do not repine; I am not sorry to die; you would not be if you had lived the life I have ived. Bend lower: my voice seems growing weaker and weaker. Is that the sun setting? Turn your face so that I may see it. How beautiful you are! Tell me all over again!' form.

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from the beginning.' With a sigh, Hilda Fane obeyed. 'Yesterday, when he passed the last station-Five Forks, as it is calledwe took up two passengers; one was a gentleman, the other yourself. Are you sure you wish me to go over it

'Yes-ves-do not miss anything tell me everything."

'You were tired and ill-'And you gave up your place that might be more easy and comfor-

'You fainted once on the road, and the faces, and their expressions, though then fell asleep; were asleep when, one lay drawing long breaths of pain just before dawn, we heard a pistol

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