

shook with emotion, Melissa made haste to tell the story.

"And, after all," she concluded, "he *might* have killed me to make more sure of getting off, Jim! We must give him credit for that. So I really want him to get a good start. I don't want to feel that he lost anything by letting me go."

Jim laughed.

"You certainly do like to play fair, Melissy! Well, the only way is for you to be too sleepy to tell about it when you get home. An' I'll promise not to report till I git back again with the trunk an' things. That'll give him more of a start. An' that's about all we kin do for him, I reckon."

With the big grey ploughing massively through the drifts homeward, Melissy felt so happy that she presently went to sleep again. Seeing that she swayed at every motion of the pung, Jim put his left arm around her and drew her down against his side, and felt that the journey would be all too soon at an end. Melissa slept for an hour. Then, as dawn was beginning to streak the sky ahead, and the forest fell away at the first outlying clearings of County Line Settlement, she woke up.