

A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER.

"We cannot hold out much longer." It was a man's voice in troubled accents that fell on the ears of a young girl, who stood with her shoulder leaning against a post, within a small stockade in southeastern Arizona. Time, soon after the close of the Rebellion, when war and rumors of war were still floating in the air along the Mexican border. "Is it then so bad as that, Capt. Dashwood?" said Edith Searle, as she approached the stout figure in blue who stood near. "I thought we were in no immediate danger. You so stated this morning, and surely nothing has since occurred to change the situation."

"You, Ingham? I thought—" "Never mind what you thought," interrupted Ingham. "I would not allow myself to be influenced by the whim of a girl. I see the danger is real, and I will undertake to find aid for Darkwood to-night. I do not reckon the danger as great as do you, captain. I have a disguise that may aid me, and once beyond the enemy's line, on a fleet horse, I shall be safe."

Edith trembled like a leaf in the wind. An awful weariness seemed to possess her limbs. What had she done? Slain a human being with her own hand! The thought was a terrible one. She dared not look at the prostrate Apache, but turned away. "Edith," It was a faint yet startling voice calling her name. The girl turned and staggered to the side of the man on the ground. "Edith—I meant to save you," said the man in a husky voice. The girl knelt quickly and peered into the painted face. "My God!" she exclaimed, it is Sergt. Ingham!

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