

black hair falling round her shoulders. She was almost theribly beauti- cast one rapid glance around-all was ful to behold, as that "war of passions" raged within her.

when a softer look came to the ex- over her fair young sister, who slept quisite face, and softer tears fell down such a sleep as would never again the pale cheeks. Then a better and visit Inez Lynne, her sweet face inobler impulse whispered to her to the patient, to submit, to leave her sister happy in her love, to conquer and trample upon the wild love that "wrought havoc" within. But the bet- blow her hand was about to inflict.

ster impulse passed, and the proud, indomitable spirit woke up fiercer and stronger for its repulse. "No mercy has ever been shown to

ine!" she murmured. "Years and ted the room. years ago, if I had had the love that

has to give me? I cannot!" So she watched and repeated wild fortune favors me." words to herself, until the first faint

sky. A thought had struck her;-in bade her enter. He looked up with a the first few minutes that it came to smile when he saw her so fresh, and her, she seemed to shrink from it, for fair, and dainty, but the smile died a crimson flush covered her face, and away when his eyes fell upon the

here?"

she went on.

her eves fell as though with a sense flower she bore in her hand. of shame. Yet it came again, and egain, and again she played with it. began; "I know you spend half of She let herself think of all that your mornings here; but I have some-

might be, and then she yielded, and thing very particular to say to you



as she wished. Agatha lay, sleeping soundly, and the white hyacinth was It was a war; for there were times in a glass on the table. She bent wearing a look of profound happiness. a smile parting the rosy lins Inez felt no remorse for what she

was about to do-no sorrow for the "She cannot feel," she murmured can be true, I know." to herself, "and I can." Then slowly and cautiously she took

room, and entered her sister's. She

"Until death." was the reply. the flower from the glass, and quit-"I shall not make much difference. in my arrangements," he said "I

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"It is all a chance," she said, "but was going by the evening train; but ought to have been mine,-if my fath- that chance is my last and only now I shall leave at noon. Say adieu er had treated me as he did his other one. If he is down it can be done, and to your sister for me," he continued child,-my life would have been dif- I am safe; if not, that hope goes. I taking her hand in his. "Tell her I ferent. Shall I lose the only love I will not think or fear detection af- shall bear the pain like a brave man, twenty miles a second. Suddenly it ever asked for, the only blessing life terward. I will so manage that it and that I will not seek her presence shall be impossible. Let me if again until I am cured. Tell her

pray Heaven to bless her, and make She rapped gently at the library her happy, and that we shall meet ters our envelopes of air. Its speed dawn of the morning came into the door; Philip's and, clear and joyous, again as good and true friends."

"I am afraid I disturb you," she Lift Off with Fingers

You are going to London to-day, are a sugar you not?"

"Yes," he replied, slowly. "I wanted to see you before you settled anything about your journey." she said. "Can you guess why I am

"I almost begin to fear," was his reply, and she saw his face grow pale; still there was no voice in her heart that cried to her to save or to span

"I have brought your flower," she said, gently and distinctly. "You reember what you asked with it?" He bowed without speaking, an

"It cannot be. Agatha has no w pain you, but it cannot be."

haps a giant comet, perhaps another "To prevent her from seeing me world-struck this planet in a headagain until my folly is forgetten. on collision

Yes-tell her in hoth wishes I will Each was shattered into tiny pieces. which, owing to their small size, obey her punctually." cooled rapidly. The larger ones be-He did not notice the flush that came little worlds inhabited possibly seemed to scorch her face as she gave by microscopic creatures: but the utterance to the false words; he did smaller, ranging in size from that of not notice how carefully she nicked a havstack to that of a walnut, wanup the poor little flower that, in his dered through space, whirling always round the sun, but pulled out of itation, he had dropped. their true courses by any great globe

Let us see what hap the first time by her name. "You them. For millions of years it strays through space, pulled now this way, now that, but always managing to avoid destruction. Then one day its

nath comes near that of the earth Slowly at first, then more rapidly, it is drawn towards our globe.

> Twenty Miles a Second. Finally it feels the full force of the

earth's mighty attraction. It rushes headlong towards us at perhaps is brought up short by hitting our atmosphere. Instead of the utterly empty realm of space, which offer no is slowed down, but it rushes towards the ground at about a mile a second. So terrible is the friction that in a fraction of a second the little stone. whose temperature a moment ago, was 400 degrees below freezing point, becomes white hot. That is the moment when it is first visible to our eyes as a brilliant point of light. The heat rises as it rushes towards

the earth. In an instant it has been burnt up, leaving nothing but a trail of glowing dust, which falls slowly, cooling on its way. If the earth had no atmosphere,

life on its surface would be imp sible, even if Nature designed beings that could live without air, for the constant fusillade of shooting travelling thousands of times faste than rifle bullets, would soon wipe ut every living thing. The atm obere acts as a kind of bullet-p recent. Owing to its presenteors are burnt to harmless du ile they are still a hundred mile

bove our heads A few of very large size do occas trate the air.

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