

A HEROINE.

BY JOHNNIE DILL. The blood-red ribbons of the storm- threatening sunset were streaming in the west; the huge oak trees and pines of the Iowa forest were murmuring ominously...

"A girl!" said Mrs. Myers, dubiously, as Dora Klein pressed her neck against the door. "I did talk about hiring a girl, but I don't know anything about you."

"Please try me," pleaded Dora. "I am so tired, and I know not one in this country, as indeed, indeed I will do my best to serve you."

"What shall I do, James?" "She's a total stranger," said conversative Mr. Myers. "But she looks so weary and worn out."

"Nor I, altogether, but I do believe in Dora Klein!" And as the days and weeks went by, Mr. Myers was obliged to confess to himself that so far, at least, his wife's judgment, or rather instinct, had been correct.

"Come, wife, come!" called out her husband from the wagon. "And if the horses should catch fire, or anything, add this prudent little modern edition of Martha, 'troubled with many cares'."

"What do you mean?" asked his wife. "To tell that girl just where our valuables are kept!" "James! What an idea! Why I can trust Dora Klein with the money."

"What do you mean?" demanded Myers. "Was the door and windows was all open as I come by the cross-road, just where you can see 'cross the meadow to your back door, and there was two or three men round in the kitchen. I thought it was some of your folk, till I see your wagon just now!"

"Dora there!" gasped the wife; "she would see that nothing happened!" "Dora is there," asserted Mr. Myers. "and she's the very reason I'm worried. Hold the baby firm, and I'll see what speed is left in old Dobbin!"

"How they rattled over the frosty road, Dobbin galloping as if he was trying the turf on the Avenue St. Nicholas; and the old wood, rushing past them like the scorching splinters of a panorama, while, to the anxious hearts of wife and husband, every moment seemed an age."

"Who are you?" demanded Dora, with feigned valor, "and what do you want?" "Don't worry yourself, my lass," said the taller of the wain, gruffly, "and don't make any noise, if you don't want your neck twisted round like a chicken's!"

away Bank yesterday morning with a walleful. Quick woman! we haven't any time to lose!" "It's—It's upstairs sewed into the bottom feather-bed, in the spare room!" heated Dora. "But you won't hurt me?"

"I shall not scream," said Dora, clenching her hand a little contemptuously. "Who is there to hear me if I did? We are two miles from a house."

"My dear, that's true enough," said the man called Jack. "Give us your knife, Casey, and we'll stir up the live-goose feathers to some purpose. The gal won't trouble us, I guess."

"But the heavy footsteps of the men had hardly sounded at the head of the steep, wooden stairs, than Dora Klein's languid assumption of indifference vanished. Like a winged spirit she flew across the room, and noisily prying up the loose boards with a buckhorn-handled knife, she caught up the japanned box and the stockinged foot of the rusty door-hinge, and struck into the woods back of the house."

"My Dora!" cried the farmer, "what does this mean?" And Dora told her story, incoherently and full of sobbing pauses; and when it was concluded, Mrs. Myers threw her arms round the German girl's neck, and kissed her again and again.

"James, James!" she cried almost hysterically, "you will never mistrust Dora Klein again!" And James Myers, wiping a stray drop or so from his eyes, confessed that Little Dora Klein had been as true a heroine as Joan of Arc herself!

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