such ghastly things," said Theo angrily. "Miss Leach has a weak heart just now." She had sprung out of bed, and was busily fanning Fenella with a book. "Fetch the salts—over there on the table—that's right. right. No, don't go for anyone; she's coming to."

roming to."

Fenella opened her eyes and looked round wonderingly. "What is it, Theo?" she asked faintly.

"Nothing," answered Theo cheerily.

"You felt a bit off color, that's all. You're all right now. Have some tea—that will pick you up."

The maid, still wide-eyed and curious, stood looking on. "I'm sure I'm very sorry to have startled you, Miss," she said.

Then the color rushed back into Fenella's puzzled face, and Theo saw that she remembered. She pressed her fingers warningly on Fenella's arm.

arm.

"That will do, Jessie," she said.

"Miss Leach is all right now. You needn't mention anything to mother. She doesn't like us to be nervous or delicate. It worries her."

Jessie withdrew, eager to relate the incident in the servants' hall and bring herself into the picture which was monopolised at present by the under-gardener and his tragic story.

As soon as she had gone, Fenella sat up, white as death again, and shaking.

shaking.

The two girls looked at one another, an unspoken question in each mind.

"It's too horrible," said Fenella at last. "Theo, you don't think—you can't for a moment feel——?" She broke off with a tearless sob. "Oh, God! I'm so wretched," she said. "I wish I hadn't told you about last night. But you promised, Theo—you promised."

"I know I should to tall conthing."

"I know. I shouldn't tell anything even if I hadn't. And I'm glad you did tell me, because it would have

been maddening for you alone."
"What can I do?" asked Fenella.
"I was going to write to Laurie today—to Hounslow. Shall I? or shall
I wait till he writes to me?"
"Better wait. He'll see all this in
the papers."
They were silent again, neither
daring to put into words the thoughts

daring to put into words the thoughts that coursed their brains.
"Who is this girl—this Lisbeth somebody?"

"Lisbeth Bainton, Jessie called her," Theo said. "I don't know. Wait, though! I heard Tubby speak of a girl called Liz once. He was talking to Laurie. But I can't remember what he said."

"We must get up," said Fenella suddenly. "We must seem to be just as usual. No one must notice any difference in us. I expect—I am sure it's quite all right, but we don't want to risk any gossip. Hurry, Theo! we are late already."

She was still feeling faint and ill.

She was still feeling faint and ill, but the unacknowledged terror in her heart for Laurie—Laurie whom she loved with all the strength of a girl's undivided heart, steadied her, and gave her courage. and gave her courage.

CHAPTER IV.

There are those who put two and two together so clumsily that they make three or five.

MR. and Mrs. Pridham were ques-R. and Mrs. Pridham were questioning the butler in the breakfast-room about the murder which had occurred within a stone'sthrow of their own land. Mrs. Pridham, majestically interested, noticed neither the appearance of the two girls, nor their lateness in coming down.

down.

"Who is the poor thing?" she was saying as they entered.

"A very respectable, superior, young woman," answered Hoskins; "came here some months ago to look after her grandmother when the grandfather died. Old Mrs. Bainton is very feeble and Liz was a good girl to her. She had a first-rate character round here, too. No one has a word to say against the girl."

"And she was stabbed, you say, on the canal path?"

"Yes, ma'am. Right in the heart and must have been a strange sort of knife—two cuts like a cross."

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