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## \*\*\*\*\*\* A GIRL OF THE PEOPLE

By Mrs. C. N. Williamson. \*\*\*\*\*

"Oh, it can't be the right gases street!" I exclaimed, tremulously.
"Easel street, Commercial road.
There ain't no other of the same name. miss. Shall I kn. k?"
"If you please," I meekly answered. "And—and don't take down the luggage yet. I'll wait and see if—if—" My voice died. I did not finish the sen-

There was no bell on the door, which stood ajar. The cabman knocked loud-ly. From the two upper windows the frowsy heads of several children and a bold-looking young woman appeared.
They stared with open-mouthed curiosity at me and the four smart new boxes heaped on the four-wheeler. I shrank back, and wound my fingers

nervously together.
"What d'you want?" shrilly demanded the woman. "Miggits or New-

I drew my breath in sharply. My mother's name! There was no mistake, then. The cabman turned questioningly to me, and I realized that I must an-"I want Mrs. Newlyn," I reluctantly thrust out my head to ex-

plain.
"Owh!" returned the dweller on the upper floor. "I'm Miggits. Newlyn's

As my informant partially withdrew, a girl's face showed itself in the crack of the door; then the door was thrown wide open. She was about fifteen, with pale unwholesome skin, a pert nose, and an aggressive fringe of drab-colored hair. She fixed a pair of light blue eyes upon me, and slowly I de-scended from the cab, which seemed the only link left between me and familiar decencies of civilization.
"Is Mrs. Newlyn at home?" I enquired, in a voice which did not sound like mine, so dull and toneless was it.

"Yes, ma's 'ome." (I started.) "D'ye want to see 'er?" "If you please. May I-may I walk in?" Already half the swarming population of Easel street had come to its doors and windows to enjoy the sight

-such as it was. I felt curiously giddy. The sugges-tion in one of the first three words this girl had spoken had caught me by the throat. I entered the narrow passage, having again bidden the cabman wait; and the close odor of the house added to my faintness. A door a few feet down the passage was opened, and I had a dim impression that my companion was bidding me follow her into a room beyond. I obeyed, and then almost recoiled as I passed the threshold. The room could not have been more than twelve feet square. The boards of the floor were uncovered, and not too clean; the low ceiling was blackened with smoke, and the wall, destitute of paper, was decorated with a few glarng, unframed chromo-lithographs, held

in place with pins. In one corner was a tumbled bed, covered, pillows and all, with a dark leal table, spread with a few common ishes and a tin or two; there were three or four rough wooden chairs; a big box, heaped with a strange medley of cooking utensils and women's out-loor wraps; a mantelshelf, littered with odds and ends; and a kitchen range, into which a woman, with her eack turned to me, was throwing a few oals from a battered shovel. "May, 'ere's a lydy to see you,'

brusquely announced my guide. The woman turned, shovel in hand. yes sought her face wistfully, imploringly, for the one gleam of hope left. But the last flicker died as our eyes met. No subtle voice of nature cried out in my heart: "This is your mother; you are of one flesh and blood." She was a tall, thin woman, who might once have been pretty, even ladylike-looking in better days, but there was hardly a vestige of past beauty remaining, though in years she was not really old. Her scanty, grizzled hair was pulled carelessly back from a lined ehead. Her small mouth had a fretful drop; slightly open, in surprise at sight of the visitor, it showed that one front tooth was gone. The cheeks were hollowed in, the well-cut nose sharp-ened, the complexion of the uniform, faded gray most, fashionable in Easel street among those who were not overflorid. She wore a rusty black dress, and a colored cotton handkerchief was tied round the thin throat instead of a

My tongue clove to the roof of my mouth. It seemed physically impos-sible to tell her who I was, to ask her if she were not my mother. But they were both waiting for my explanations. I had to speak. "I—I hope——" A few lame words had come stammeringly, when the elder of the two broke in. "If you're one of those district visitors, why, I can just tell you as I told the last one, that you ain't wanted here. she said, acidly, with a rather better

accent than the girl's.
"I-my name is Cope." I stammered. "At least, I always thought it was until to-day."

Still she stared at me, with little, if any, awakening comprehension in her eyes. I blundered desperately on. 'Perhaps, if you don't know what I nean it may be a mistake after all. But Lady Cope is dead. I was brought up to believe her my mother, and now—"
Suddenly the woman's pale face changed and reddened with a vivid flush. The small fire-shovel she had been grasping slid out of her hand and fell to the floor with a metallic crash.
"My goodness, gracious me!" she ejaculated, with a gasp. "It's Jenny."

A faint shiver ran through me. I was

ot even "Shella" any more. I was "I heard to-day that-that-" I fal-

I could not go on. But she took up eagerness, as if she were half-afraid of me: while the girl stood by, wide-eyed and dumb in bewilderment. "Did they tell you the whole story? Did they tell you who I was, and all?"

you who I was, and all?"
"Sir Roger Cope told me that you
were—my mother," I said, duily.
"Well, I never. He told you that!
And after Lady Cope making me swear "Oh ma. it ain't true, is it?" cried

is Uric Acid in the blood.
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"Hold your tongue and mind you own business," was the sharp answer and I felt, rather than saw, the flounce of her poor skirts and the toss of her tousled head that the girl gave. The woman looked keenly at me, her face still flushed and excited, half-suspicious;: but she did not take a step

"I don't think Lady Cope meant me to be told." I answered, choking back a sob. "But Roger knew from the first. Moth-Lady Cope only died a few days ago, though it seems a long.

ong time. "You heard to-day, and you came straight here to see me," said my newly-found mother, reflectively. "Well, that was very good of you, my dear, that it was. I only wish I and a better house for you to come to. But I haven't had any luck. Totsey, get the young lady a chair. Dear me, I wonder low if you'd let me make you a cup o'

She still spoke to me as to a stranger of another class from hers, a visitor who must be entertained. She was nervous, and suddenly she became a pathetic figure in my eyes, though I had no stirrings of love. Perhaps this was unnatural, hard-hearted. I cannot help that, for I must paint the pic ture truly.

I could have screamed or broken into hysterics as Totsey rather sullenly placed a chair for me; but I almost fell "Is-is it possible that this is my sis-

ter?" I forced myself to ask. "Your half-sister," was the quick reply, as if there were relief in responding to definite questions. "After Lady Cope adopted you-it was hard enough to part with my only one, I can tell you, my dear, but what was I to do?-after she took you away I married again. 'Twas the only thing to do, for I wasn't the sort of woman to be left alone. I had two girls by my second husband, a father. I thought, though he was but a rough fellow compared to him, he'd be a protector. But 'twasn't long before I found out it was the money he was after-the money Lady Cope gave ne when she took you."

So I had been sold for a price! was the thought that darted through my mind. But I was silent, listening. As she went on there was a loud noise in the passage outside the door. The handle turned. I started and turned round. What was to come now?

CHAPTER IX.

Home. Sweet Home. A big, black-eyed girl in a coarse blue iress, with a large hat trimmed with feathers, bounced into the room, but paused at sight of me. This, I was sure, was my other half-sister. She was older than "Totsey." quite, a young

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of thinking herself pretty. No doubt she was a beauty—for Easel street.
"I didn't know there was comp'ny,"
she remarked, bridling.
"It's a wonderful thing's happened.

"It's a wonderful thing's happened. Fan." said the mother of us all. "This young lady—I never told you before my daughter by my first husband was alive—but it's so. And here she is."

The poor, faded creature spoke as if she were half-ashamed, half-proud of the startling revelation.

"Laws!" said Fan. Then, giggling: "She seems to 'ave done pretty well by 'erself."

"She was adopted by a grand lady, a

"She was adopted by a grand lady, a "She was adopted by a grain lady, a lady of, title," answered the elder woman, with emphasis. "Things were different with me in those bys. I was poor, goodness knows; but her father was a gentleman, if he had come down in the world, and he knew how to treat a woman. Yours brought me to this, as I was telling her when you came

"You never pyde us a call before," said Fan, still laughing with a certain jealous defiance.

"She never knew who she was till to-"She never knew who she was till to-day," said our mother, sharply, de-fending me from the innuendo. "I do-hope, my dear," she continued, turning again to me, "that her ladyship left you well off? It's what you had a right to expect. And though, perhaps, I shouldn't say it, it would be a comfort if you could feel inclined to give us a little lift from time to time. Not that ittle lift from time to time. Not that we'd expect you to come often, or—"
"I've just six pounds in the world," I interrupted, impulsively; "nor shall I have any more till I've earned it. And

I've even lost my home." For an instant nobody spoke. "That's bad; that is bad," said my mother, gloomily, at last. "What a shame. Can't anything be done? Can't you go o law?"

nephew comes into everything. was her husband's cousin as well, and has the title. No will was made, and have no chance at all. Besides, wouldn't fight him for the money if I

that's your father all over! It's won-derful how blood tells. He was on his beam-ends when he came to my mothman I ever saw. I didn't pretend to understand him. He had relatives with some money; but when we were

at our worst, and he dyin' for lack of medicine and proper food, he wouldn't let me go to them. 'Let me die,' says he. 'I'm no more good to you or the baby. It's better I should die than they should know what I've sunk to.' Now, it's the same thing with you.

quired Fan. (She pronounced it "hair.") 'Is 'e young or old?"

"Over thirty," I lanswered the stories in 'My Love' novelettes." ocks. I heard her ind

mur something about "folks that were too stuck up to live." "What are you going to do?" asked my mother.

the old friends who would take me in; no one, at least, that I would ask." "There it is again. Just your father's pride. How it does bring back old times! I used to get cross enough with him till he'd fling out of the house, like as not, and stop away for hours." My poor father, whom I had never known! My heart warmed to him; and wondered if he cared for me in his freedom from the bondage of this sordid world; if he could see and feel sor

Quickly my thoughts traveled on to possibilities. To stay with my mother and her two daughters did not seem to be among them. Yet, with six pounds between me and starvation, what other To be Continued.

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The Wise Inhabitant.

And yet 'tis best

And make no note

Cure For Dyspepsia. Well, I can tell you how to cure it." "It isn't necessary. I know how."

"You do?" "Yes. All that is necessary is to eat nothing that one likes and pretty nearly everything that one doesn't like."-

Something Definite. "And will you wait for me," said she,
"If I will consent to wed?"
He thought a moment earnestly,
And then, "How long?" he said.
"A year," she answered, "Yes," said he
"That shows there's something in it.
I was afraid that, womanlike,
You'd answer, "Wait a minute!"
"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

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I shook my head. "Lady Cope's

"Well, I don't see why!" exclaimed my mother. "I'd fight him for all I was worth. Your friends—you must have a lot of grand friends—would pay the costs. You'd get something. But there, er's house to lodge, poor fellow, for ne'd been unfortunate-everything had failed. But he was a gentleman. And he looked at things different from any

"What sort of feller's the heir?" en-

"Ow, not past the marryin' age. Couldn't you 'ave set yer cap at 'im? Then it would 'o bin all right. Jest like I shuddered, I fear perceptibly, for her face hardened and she tossed her head, with its wild profusion of dark

"I-I don't know," I almost sobbed "Six pounds won't go far."
"No, indeed," I admitted. "You'll live with friends, I suppose,

till you get something to do-gover-nessing, or-or a lady's companion." "I'm afraid I haven't anyone among

It seems quite true That spring is here, with violets blue,

A blizzard can

se shame a "duster" and palmetto fan!

—Atlanta Constitution.

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