

Helen obeyed. She experienced some relief when she led them up stairs to show them Walter's room empty and his bed unslept in. Walter was gone.

"Are you trying to make fools of us?" demanded one of the men in a rage. "We are officers of justice. A man named Rolfe has been shot in a house on Slater street. This handkerchief—saturated with blood as you see—we found beside the dead body. Could you tell me what name this is upon it?"

Helen had no need to read the name. She saw her own needle-work upon the scarf. She scarcely suppressed a scream, but managed to keep her self-command, though she stood trembling and white before the two men.

"Come now, show us where we may find Mr. Williams, my good lady. We have here a warrant for his arrest on a charge of murder. If you deceive us, it shall be at your peril."

"I don't know where he is," gasped the poor girl.

"Well, well," said the officer, as he observed the look of agony that overspread Helen's features. "It is painful, but we must do our duty."

Accordingly, the two officers searched the house from top to bottom and then departed. It was long ere Helen summoned up courage to go down stairs and tell what had happened. When at last she did so, she found her mother not asleep but lying insensible on her bed. Helen saw the truth at a glance. Her mother had heard all that passed above and the blow had proved too much for her feeble strength.

Next morning as soon as the news of the crime and Walter's flight, spread through the town, the house was invaded by a host of greedy creditors, who seized upon everything they could lay hands on. The house itself was to be sold in a few days by the mortgage proprietor. It was really a trying time for poor Helen—a time, too, when she had no one to confide in, for her mother was fallen very ill. By the assistance of some kind neighbors, she had her mother removed to the city hospital, where the good Sisters of Mercy offered them both a home for the time being. It was here, in the sick chamber, that the news of her brother's capture reached her. Caught in the thoroughfares of a neighboring city, he was