

**THE COURAGE OF
CONVICTION:
A NOVEL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649557042

The Courage of Conviction: A Novel by T. R. Sullivan

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T. R. SULLIVAN

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A NOVEL

BY
T. R. SULLIVAN

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"Alexander subdued the world, Caesar his enemies,
Hercules monsters, but he that overcomes himself is
the true valiant Captain."—Howells's LETTERS.

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Published, May, 1908

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NEW YORK

WHO WILL
DIE
NEXT

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L. W. S.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. THE SONG AND THE SERMON	1
II. CAUSE AND EFFECT	16
III. THE TURN OF THE TIDE	26
IV. ART'S FIRM VOTARY	37
V. UNDER CHARITABLE STARS	50
VI. THE THORNS OF CONQUEST	63
VII. THE OBLONG BOX	71
VIII. ALTERED CASES	83
IX. PROSPERITY	99
X. THE HAMMER AND THE ANVIL	115
XI. CLOUD-CAPP'D TOWERS	131
XII. THE SHELTERED SIDE OF CARE	152
XIII. WHERE LIGHT IN DARKNESS LIES	166
XIV. CERTAINTIES UNFORESEEN	180
XV. ADVERSITY	196
XVI. NATURE'S KINDLY LAW	219
XVII. ADVENTURES BRAVE AND NEW	229
XVIII. UNDER THE ROSE	235
XIX. POSTSCRIPTUM	249

The Courage of Conviction

I

THE SONG AND THE SERMON

THE night was but half over at Mrs. Brinkley Barrington's, yet already her hundred invited guests, comparing notes confidentially in the pauses of the music, were convinced that it was one to be long remembered. The new oval room, hung with pale-blue silken damask, had been proved flawless, acoustically and artistically. The Paganini of the day, inspired by these favoring conditions, had surpassed himself, drawing from his rare old violin such strains as never before were heard. More than that, the soft, diffused glow, streaming down from the gilded cornice which concealed the lights, was most becoming. The women, wearing their best in satin, lace, and jewels, looked their best, and knew it. Supreme satisfaction shone in every face; all was so strange and so delightful that even the most jaded wanderer of the night could not help yielding to the tingle of a new sensation.

Into this agreeable company came two men, arriving late from the dinner-table over which they had

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lingered together in one of the smaller Fifth Avenue clubs, a few blocks away. They were men of about the same age, still young,—on the hither side of thirty, that is to say,—with fresh, unwrinkled faces. Their intimacy had begun in college, and they had much in common besides their youth and the accident of association. Comparatively poor, they were included in that very large fraction of American society which is dependent upon its own exertions for getting on in the world, as the phrase goes,—otherwise, for getting money in sufficient quantities to ensure comfort, if not ease. Both, therefore, upon graduating, had accepted the situation and those salaried positions down town which reconciled to a certain extent the laws of supply and demand; and, apart from these, each was fortunate enough to have intellectual resources of his own so marked as to give him distinct individuality.

The younger of the two, Gordon Wise, had shown, when a child, a strong taste for music. Later his father had received a foreign appointment in the diplomatic service; and, during those years abroad, the boy had fallen in with a famous German composer, who, discovering talent in him, fostered and cultivated it. The master's hope was that he would devote himself solely to his art. But this plan Gordon's father, who held practical views of life, bitterly opposed. Yet the son, though yielding so far as to give music only a secondary place in his scheme, kept the hope always in