

**FRIENDS
TILL DEATH**

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Friends till death by Hesba Stretton

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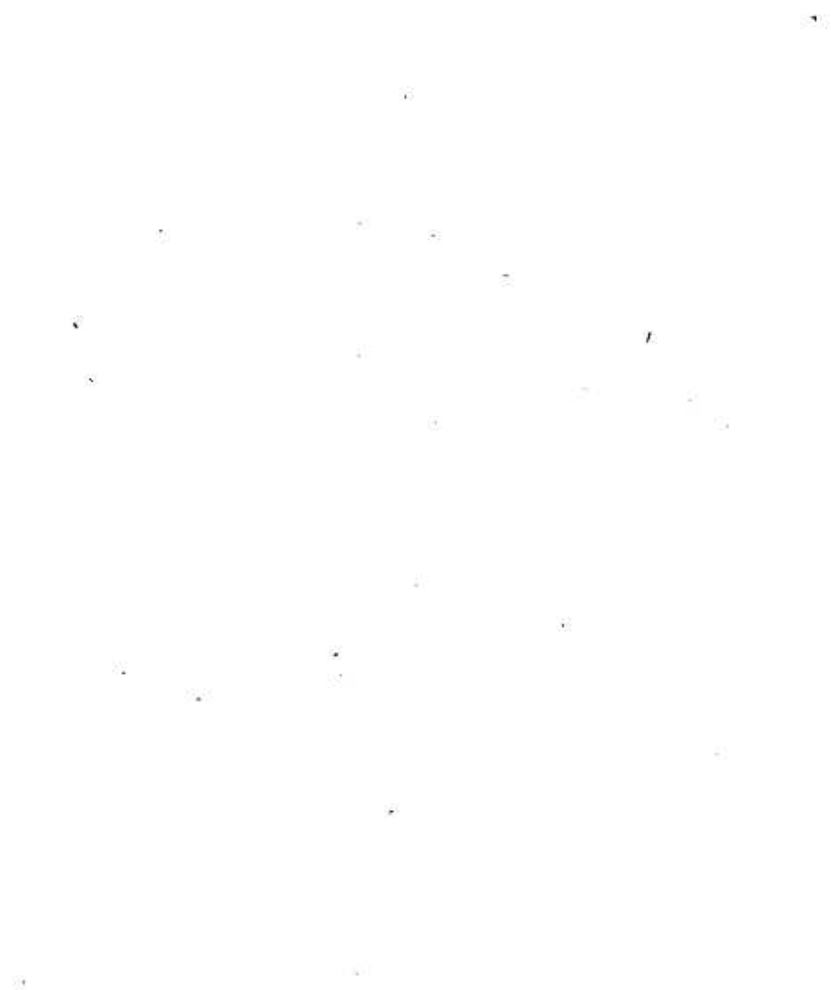
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'We sat together a good half-hour listening.'—Page 48.

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TILL DEATH

BY

HESBA STRETTON

AUTHOR OF

LOST GIRL 'CARBY' 'JESSICA'S FIRST PRAYER' ETC.



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FRIENDS TILL DEATH.

CHAPTER I.

AY! write it down, write it down! There's nought to be said against God Almighty in the ordering of my life. There are folks—I have heard them myself—that say it made no difference to them whether He was in the world or wasn't in the world. That's not my case. I've known times when I've been up on the moors with my flock, and you could hear nought save the bees buzzing in the few flowers, and the rooks cawing far away down the valley, and everything else has been as still as a church with not a soul in it—I've known times like that, now and then, that I could almost hear God's voice, as Moses heard it when he was keeping his father-in-law's sheep in the wilderness. 'Andrew! Andrew!' it has sounded deep down in my heart, and I've been ready to answer up loud, 'Here am I,