

**THE TRIMMED LAMP;  
AND OTHER STORIES  
OF THE FOUR MILLION**

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The Trimmed Lamp; And Other Stories of the Four Million by O. Henry

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**O. HENRY**

**THE TRIMMED LAMP;  
AND OTHER STORIES  
OF THE FOUR MILLION**





*"Wooded her across the counter with a king cophetua air."*

Parfew, N.S.

**THE  
TRIMMED LAMP**  
AND OTHER STORIES OF  
THE FOUR MILLION

BY  
**O. HENRY**

*Author of "The Four Million," "The Voice of the  
City," "Strictly Business," "Whirligigs,"  
"Sixes and Sevens," Etc.*



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## THE TRIMMED LAMP



## THE TRIMMED LAMP

OF course there are two sides to the question. Let us look at the other. We often hear "shop-girls" spoken of. No such persons exist. There are girls who work in shops. They make their living that way. But why turn their occupation into an adjective? Let us be fair. We do not refer to the girls who live on Fifth Avenue as "marriage-girls."

Lou and Nancy were chums. They came to the big city to find work because there was not enough to eat at their homes to go around. Nancy was nineteen; Lou was twenty. Both were pretty, active, country girls who had no ambition to go on the stage.

The little cherub that sits up aloft guided them to a cheap and respectable boarding-house. Both found positions and became wage-earners. They remained chums. It is at the end of six months that I would beg you to step forward and be introduced to them. Meddlesome Reader: My Lady friends, Miss Nancy and Miss Lou. While you are shaking hands please take notice—cautiously—of their attire. Yes, cautiously; for they are as quick to resent a stare as a lady in a box at the horse show is.

Lou is a piece-work ironer in a hand laundry. She