

**AGAINST FATE.
A TRUE STORY**

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Against fate. A true story by Mrs. M. L. Rayne

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MRS. M. L. RAYNE

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A TRUE STORY**



"Good-bye, mother; now don't you fret about me at all."

AGAINST FATE.

A TRUE STORY.

By MRS. M. L. RAYNE.



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W. B. KEEN, COOKE & CO.
1876.

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AGAINST FATE.

CHAPTER I.

OUT INTO THE WORLD.

“How shall it be with her, the tender stranger,
Fair-faced and gentle-eyed,
Before whose unstained feet the world’s rude highway
Stretches so strange and wide?”

GOOD-BYE, Mother! Now don’t you fret about me at all. I shall write often and tell you just how I get along. And may be I’ll come home at Christmas. You shall have a new dress for a present, if I don’t come. I am going to save my money on purpose. Now don’t cry, please, there’s a dear good mother. It will all come out right.”

“I hope it may, Jennie,” answered the mother, sadly; “but, oh dear! I’ve never slept a night

without you under the same roof, and if anything should happen it would break my heart. It does seem to me that I shall never have you back again, the Jennie I see before me. Somehow I mistrust that woman you are going to. I wish we knew more about her. She has promised well, I know, but will she keep her promises?"

"It will not take long to decide that, mother!"

"Yes; and I suppose it will be better than going into a store; but oh, it does seem as though I cannot give you up!"

Mrs. Armstrong looked at her daughter, and it required all the stern discipline of her reserved nature to keep her from breaking down utterly, as she parted with her only child, fearing in her heart, she knew not what evil, poor woman! She had fallen into the useless habit of looking on the dark side of everything, which was no very surprising circumstance, considering that her blessings all came in disguise; even this precious child, growing from lovely girlhood into lovelier womanhood, had always been a source of exquisite sorrow. How to get enough to clothe her comfortably, to give her even an ordinary education, to surround her with the