

**LIVING UP
TO BILLY**

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Living Up to Billy by Elizabeth Cooper

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ELIZABETH COOPER

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... NEAR WEST NUTTY, AND MADE AN AWFUL FOOL OF MYSELF."—Page 1

LIVING UP TO BILLY

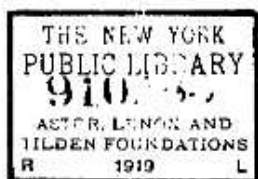
BY

ELIZABETH COOPER

AUTHOR OF "MY LADY OF THE CHINESE
COURTYARD," "SATONABA," ETC.



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September, 1915

A logo consisting of a stylized 'S' and 'A' intertwined within a square frame, positioned to the left of the date 'September, 1915'. Below the logo and date is a large, faint, dotted watermark that reads 'STOKES COMPANY'.

LIVING UP TO BILLY

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LIVING UP TO BILLY

I

Dear Kate:

Two years! Only two years, what do you think of it! Why, when I heard the judge say two years, I nearly fell off the bench. You were caught with the goods, and he had your record with its two stretches right before him, yet he only gave you two years. You told me yourself you thought you would get at least five. We tried to dope it out up to the room, and kind of figured that he had it in for the prosecuting attorney, and you got the benefit. Well, if you ain't singing tonight in the toms, you orter be. And two years, old girl, will go by so quick that when you see the lights of Broadway again, you won't even see a change. You can get a lot

off for good behavior, and you know how to work all the con games there is to be worked, so as it will make it easy for you, cause it ain't as if it was your first time. Put on a good face, and don't get sulky and you will be out before you have time to remember you was ever sent up.

Now, I will come up and see you just as often as I can, and I will get you a letter regular once a month anyway, and I will tell you all that is doing. Oh, Kate, it kinda breaks me all up to think of you being put away again. You're all I got, and I don't know what I will do without you. That last stretch of yours I nearly died. You and me have just got each other and we have been mighty close, more so than most sisters I think. You have not always treated me white, sometimes you have been mean, but it was not your fault. I suppose it is hard in a girl like you to have a sister left on her hands, and I was only a kid when you had to take me over and was lots of trouble to you. You have been good in your way, and Kate, I want you to know