

**AND THE CAPTAIN
ANSWERED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649420285

And the Captain Answered by Octave Thanet

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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10/20/19

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By

OCTAVE THANET

Author of

The Man of the Hour, The Lion's Share
By inheritance, etc.

*And the chief captain answered, With
a great sum obtained I this freedom.*

Acts 23:28

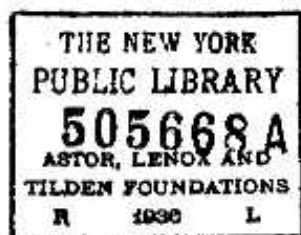
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INDIANAPOLIS
THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

LT



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PRINTED BY
BRAUNWORTH & CO.
BOOK MANUFACTURERS
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

JOY WOOD
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UNSER FROM C. O.

And The Captain Answered

CHAPTER I

HER BOY

ONLY two members of the battery were outside the train, Captain Winthrop and Private Victor Hardy. The "boys" had marched through the long wide streets of the midwestern town, packed with a black, swaying, cheering mass of their fellow citizens, while the bands blared *Marching through Georgia* and the *Star-Spangled Banner*. They had gathered be-

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fore the club house of the town and had heard the men whom they had been reared to respect praise them and promise to guard their families, a promise loyally kept, by the way; and mentioned here because such promises are not always loyally kept. Now, all were aboard the cars—or as they liked to phrase it—entrained, except only the Captain and Private Hardy. The Captain remained on the station platform the better to be sure every one of his men was safe on the train. The private who had been detailed on special duty had just reported.

Beside each of the two soldiers

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stood a pale and smiling woman, his mother. Mrs. Winthrop was slender, tall, with a mist of silver just beginning to glint in her black hair. The Captain's dark eyes were an exact replica of her fine, dark eyes. Her bearing and voice were charming and there was about her an air of distinction and elegance as much in her person as in her careful toilet. At moments her eyes rested on her son with a flicker of pain, instantly dispelled. She talked only of the lightest, most prosaic things, making a laughing appointment to visit him before long at the camp in Des Moines. All about her was a surg-