COURAGE

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Courage by Ruth Ogden & Frederick C. Gordon

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RUTH OGDEN & FREDERICK C. GORDON

COURAGE

Trieste



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ON THE WATCH.

See page 14.

"COURAGE"

A STORY WHEREIN EVERY ONE COMES TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE COURAGE IN QUESTION PROVED A COUR-AGE WORTH HAVING,

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RUTH OGDEN,

Author of "A Loyal Little Red-Cost," "Hit Little Royal Highness," etc. SECOND EDITION

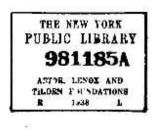


WITH TWENTY ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS BY

FREDERICK C. GORDON

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COURAGE.

CHAPTER I.

NAMED AT LAST.

IF one has a fairy tale in mind, why then, of course, the more mystery the better; but when you have a story to tell about people who cannot fly from hill-top to hill-top, and who to live at all must have food more substantial than rose-leaves and honey-dew, why then, say I, the less mystery the better. Therefore, let me tell you at once that the Courage of this story is not at all the sort of thing you might at first imagine. Auburn-haired, brown-eyed, and rosycheeked was this particular Courage; in point of fact, as charming a little maiden as you would meet on a long day's journey, and with Courage for her name. An odd name no doubt you think it. Courage herself did not like it, but the suns of a half-dozen summers and winters had risen for the little lady in question before she could so much as lay claim to any

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COURACE.

All that while she was name whatsoever. simply known as Baby Masterson. Her father, Hugh Masterson, was foreman in a machine shop over on the west side of the city, and "a very queer man," people said. Probably they were right about it. He was unquestionably a very clever man, and queerness and cleverness seem to go hand-in-hand the world over. He was the author of at least three successful inventions, but, as often happens, others made more money out of them than he. Hugh, nevertheless, did not seem inclined to grumble at this state of affairs. Having a wife whom he loved devotedly and a comfortable home of his own, he felt thoroughly contented and happy. Then when, one bright June morning, Hugh found himself the father of a lovely baby daughter, happy was no name for it, and he was quite beside himself with joy. But, sadly enough, the joy was soon over, for scarcely three months after the baby-life came into the little home the mother-life went out of it, and then it seemed to poor Hugh as though his heart would break. He hired a kind-hearted woman named Mary Duff to care for his baby, and plunged harder than ever into his work, hoping by delving away at all sorts of difficult problems to grow less mindful of his great sorrow; but do what he would, there was

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