

**A MOONBEAM TANGLE,
ILLUSTRATED WITH
TWENTY-THREE
DRAWINGS**

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A Moonbeam Tangle, Illustrated with Twenty-Three Drawings by Sydney Shadbolt & Joseph Bligh

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SYDNEY SHADBOLT & JOSEPH BLIGH

**A MOONBEAM TANGLE,
ILLUSTRATED WITH
TWENTY-THREE
DRAWINGS**

A MOONBEAM TANGLE.

Woo the still world



and set the waters flushing.

See page 106.

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MOONBEAM TANGLE.

BY

SYDNEY SHADBOLT.

ILLUSTRATED WITH TWENTY-THREE DRAWINGS

BY

JOSEPH BLIGH.



"SWEET MOON, I THANK THEE FOR TRY HUSNY BEAM;
I THANK THEE, MOON, FOR SHINING NOW SO BRIGHT."

A Midsummer Night's Dream.

CASSELL, PETTER, GALPIN & CO.:

LONDON, PARIS & NEW YORK.

1881.

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MOONBEAM TANGLE.

CHAPTER I.

THE JOURNEY THERE.



It must have been nearly nine o'clock. To call it dusk would have been ridiculous: it was dark, as anybody with half an eye could see. The curtains of the carriage were drawn; and the train was still tearing along as though it were mad—just as it had been doing, with occasional stoppages at dim-lighted, sleepy stations, for hours past. After spending a whole delicious month in the country, Etta was returning home to London. Curled up comfortably amongst her cushions,

she was blinking solemnly across at Nurse, who was sitting opposite. She had been doing her best to entertain herself for a length of time by listening to the rhyme of the wheels:—

“Click-click-click clack!

Click-click-click clack!

When we have to go forward we can't go back!”

This, though all very well in its way, was becoming a little monotonous from constant repetition; so thinking it high time that some kind of protest should be made, she put her lips down to the carpet, and whispered: “You've really made that remark before.”

Now, if there's one thing in the world that a train-wheel—in this like a human being—detests and abhors, it is being told that it has made the same remark twice over. At any rate, these instantly changed the burden of their discourse, gabbling forth, as fast as they could utter the words—

“Click-click-click clon!

Click-click-click clon!

We'll come to a stop when we can't go on!”