

# **MY BATTLES WITH VICE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649653669

My Battles with Vice by Virginia Brooks

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VIRGINIA BROOKS**

**MY BATTLES  
WITH VICE**





Virginia Brooks

# MY BATTLES WITH VICE

BY

VIRGINIA BROOKS

Author of "Little Lost Sister."

NEW YORK  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

NEW YORK  
THE MACAULAY COMPANY

1915

## CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	7
FOREWORD . . . . .	9
I A MOTHER'S REQUEST . . . . .	23
II I FIND WORK AS A WAITRESS . . . . .	28
III I BECOME A CLERK . . . . .	44
IV THE FIRST CLEW . . . . .	51
V NELLIE DALY'S MEAL TICKET . . . . .	62 ✓
VI "BULL" TEVIS . . . . .	70
VII AT THE CAFE SINISTER . . . . .	78
VIII WHAT HAPPENED TO MAIZIE . . . . .	85
IX THE TRAIL OF WATCHFUL JOHNNY . . . . .	94
X THE BEKELWALM BALL . . . . .	107
XI HER RETROSPECTION . . . . .	117
XII QUEER FISH IN THE DEPTHS . . . . .	123
XIII TREFALKA AND STEVE . . . . .	135
XIV THE SCARLET WEDDING DRESS . . . . .	142
XV ANNIE'S HUSBAND . . . . .	151
XVI MARY HOLDEN . . . . .	160
XVII I HUNT A JOB ON THE STAGE . . . . .	165

## CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
XVIII	THE MIDNIGHT CONVERSATION . . .	172
XIX	GRAY WOLF AND LOVE PIRATE . . .	179
XX	IN MERCEDES' APARTMENT . . .	187
XXI	CARMEN OF THE TORPEDO CAFÉ . . .	196
XXII	IKE BLOSSOM . . . . .	203
XXIII	MAZELLE . . . . .	210
XXIV	"THE CAFÉ" . . . . .	217
XXV	THE ESCAPE . . . . .	224
XXVI	CONCLUSION . . . . .	234

WIM WEN  
DUBIN  
VIA FOL



## INTRODUCTION

"MY BATTLES WITH VICE" is the story of the struggle for honor and virtue of the girl who must work to live.

It is the story of thousands who have fought the battle of modern industrial life and lost.

Virginia Brooks is the girl, who single-handed fought the forces of evil in West Hammond, Illinois, and compelled the town to clean up. It was she who drove the worst dives in Christendom out of existence, because, knowing the law, she fought for its enforcement.

This story is written by a young woman reared in the best social atmosphere, whose desire to aid her less fortunate sisters manifested itself early in life.

With the energy and eagerness of youth,

backed by the foremost philanthropic interests in Chicago, she sought out and studied at first hand the problems of the six-dollar-a-week working girl—not by asking questions, but by living with the girl, working with her side by side for the same wage, experiencing her temptations, sharing her sufferings, confronting her problems.

Virginia Brooks did not stop there. She followed the girl who had fallen to those precarious crags and ledges down the mountainside that delay the final plunge into the abyss. In the amusement resorts, dance halls and byways that exit all in one direction, she learned the lesson of the ages from a new viewpoint—the viewpoint of the new woman.

THE PUBLISHERS.

## FOREWORD

### THE OLD UNDERLYING EVIL

THE social evil is as old as humanity. As far back as history gives any record, evidences of its existence and the subsequent terrible traffic are to be found. From savagery to modern civilization women have been slaves to the brute that lives in man. They have been captured, sold for profit, and have had little to say.

The Dark Ages are replete with data on this sad, shameful phase of life. The dawn of the Christian era, with its accompanying teaching of purity and chastity, introduced extreme asceticism. A radical stand was necessary where civilization had apparently gone sex mad.