

**STORM-DRIVEN, IN
THREE
VOLUMES, VOL. II**

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Storm-driven, in three volumes, vol. II by Mary Healy

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MARY HEALY

**STORM-DRIVEN, IN
THREE
VOLUMES, VOL. II**

STORM-DRIVEN.

BY

MARY HEALY,

AUTHOR OF "LAKEVILLE," "A SUMMER'S ROMANCE," "OUT
OF THE WORLD," ETC.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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STORM-DRIVEN.

CHAPTER I.

MISS TEMPLE, THE COMPANION.

ONE evening, towards the end of November, Lil sat alone in Mrs. Cox's Paris salon. She was the one bit of sober quiet colour, with her plain grey dress, in all the gilt splendour of the immense room. There was gold everywhere; in the chairs, in the massive tables, gold about the huge fireplace, with its great red fire; gold about the windows, with their crimson hangings, —red and gold, gold and red. Usually in

French houses, everything, on the contrary, is on a small scale, and harmonious in tone; but in certain fashionable hotels, vast apartments are kept for very rich foreigners who want show and much finery, without the trouble of an organized household; Mrs. Cox was one of these foreigners, beloved of hotel-keepers. As Lil sat by a shaded lamp, quietly working, she looked none the less pretty for the quakerlike simplicity of her dress; her expression, however, was subdued, and she was a little pale.

The past two months, during which she had travelled with her patroness in England, before settling down in Paris, had taught her various things useful to know, but not always pleasant to learn; she had learned them, however, by heart.

Mrs. Cox was never unkind to her—that

would not have been in the lady's nature, but more and more, day by day, she made Lil feel that she was an inferior; now and again the old fancy would come back, for, after all, Lil was extremely pretty, and very bright as a travelling-companion, enjoying things with a freshness and youthfulness which amused Mrs. Cox; but the fits of affection grew less and less frequent. She had but said the truth, when she told Lil that she was besieged on every side; beset by suitors; sought out by fashionable people, or would-be fashionable people who wanted her name on their visiting-lists; worried by well-dressed beggars, by tradespeople, so that she had but very little time to herself. As soon as it was known that she was in Paris, cards, notes, and visits succeeded each other in uninterrupted succession. Lil in