THE GIRL SCOUT PIONEERS; OR, WINNING THE FIRST B.C.

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The Girl Scout Pioneers; Or, Winning the First B.C. by Lillian C. Garis

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LILLIAN C. GARIS

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THE TEMPTATION WAS TOO MUCH FOR THE FAULICSOME GRACE.

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THE GIRL SCOUT PIONEERS

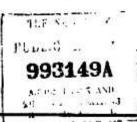
Winning the First B. C.

By LILLIAN C. GARIS

Author of "The Girl Scouts at Bellair," "The Girl Scouts at Sea Crest," etc.

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THE GIRL SCOUTS SERIES

By LILLIAN C. GARIS

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THE GIRL SCOUT PIONEERS
or, Winning the First B. C.
THE GIRL SCOUTS AT BELLAIR
THE GIRL SCOUTS AT SEA CREST
Other Volumes in Preparation

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CUPPLES & LEON COMPANY

The Girl Scout Pioneers

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THE GIRL SCOUT PIONEERS

CHAPTER I

GIRLS AND GIRLS

The shabby dark room lighted by a single oil lamp if any light could make its way through the badly smoked glass that served as a chimney, the broken chair, and the table piled high with what appeared to be rags, but which might have been intended for wearing apparel, the torn window curtain hanging so disconsolately from the broken cord it had one time proudly swung from, and the indescribable bed!

Like some sentinel watching the calamitous surroundings, a girl stood in the midst of this squalor, her bright golden hair and her pretty fair face, with its azure blue eyes, marking a pathetic contrast to all the sordid, dark detail of the ill-kept room. She took from the side

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pocket of her plaid skirt a bit of crumpled paper, and placing it directly under the lamp, followed its written lines. Having finished the reading, she carefully folded the worn slip again, and returned it to her pocket. Then she threw back her pretty head, and any frequenter of the screen world would have known instantly that the girl had decided—and further, that her decision required courage, and per-

haps defiance.

With determination marking every move, she crossed to the tumbled bed, and stooping, dragged from beneath it a bag, the sort called "telescope," and used rarely now, even by the traveling salesman, who at one time found the sliding trunk so useful. It would "telescope," and being thus adjustable, lent its proportions to any sized burden imposed upon it. Into this the girl tossed a few articles selected from the rummage on the table, a pair of shoes gathered from more debris in a corner, and on top a sweater and skirt, taken from a peg on the door. All together this composed rather a pretentious assortment for the telescope.

But the girl did not jam down the cover in that "movie" way common to runaways, rather she paused, glanced furtively about the gloomy place, and finally taking a candle from a very high shelf, lighted the taper, evidently for some delicate task in the way of gathering up her

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very personal belongings.