# LITTLE BLUE HOOD

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Little Blue Hood by Thomas Miller

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## **THOMAS MILLER**

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BY .

THOMAS MILLER.

LONDON:
SAMPSON LOW, SON & CO.
47 LUDGATE HILL.
1863.

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### LITTLE BLUE HOOD.

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#### CHAP. I.

HERE was quite a crowd before the rich jeweller's shop in Piccadilly, and not more than two or three out of the whole assembly rightly knew

what had happened. One said what he thought, another reported what he had heard, while a third boldly asserted that it was a robbery; as a proof of which he pointed to the policeman stationed beside the shop door. Some looked at the empty landau, with its rich lining and spirited horses, on which the coachman kept a watchful eye, while the two footmen stood beside the carriage, looking very frightened, and speaking very low. At length a superintendent of the police came up at a sharp trot, and said to the footmen,

"Where's the lady?" The answer was. "Inside the shop;" into which, without uttering another word, the superintendent entered. While he was inside the shop, the measured tramp of half-adozen policemen came sounding along the pavement, and after clearing the crowd from the window and the carriage, they drew up, as if awaiting further They had not to wait long before the superintendent came hurrying out with a memorandum book in his hand, exclaiming, "Quick! let informarion be conveyed to all the stations. child, about six, in a little blue hood, her hair in ringlets, of a gold colour, and a small black and white dog, are missing. Tell Serjeants Moore, Ratcliffe, and Shaw, to get on horseback, and convey the information to every man on the beat within a mile round. I am authorised to give fifty pounds for the recovery of the little girl. Quick! the lady left her in the carriage with her dog only a quarter of an hour ago. Let the cabs and omnibuses be looked after, the bridges watched, and every court and alley searched about the neighbourhood." He then said to the coachman, " Remain here until I return. I am going to Scotland-yard; when I come back, I have a few questions to put to those footmen. Your lady is too ill to return home at present." Saying which, he set off at a brisk trot, leaving only two

policemen before the shop.

Soon after an eminent physician came rattling up in his carriage to attend the lady, who was too ill to be removed. He ordered the landau to return home, just as a messenger arrived from Scotland-yard, summoning the footmen to appear before the head commissioner of the police force.

The footmen "had no tale to tell"; one of them, feeling very thirsty, had hurried off to get a glass of bitter ale. He might be gone two or three minutes, perhaps five: when he came back he stood talking to the coachman, never noticed the landau, as he left John beside it; thought all was right.

John, the other footman, feeling tired, had sat down for a minute or so on the landau steps, which he had not put up after the lady entered the shop. Trot, the dog, stood reared up inside the landau, and kept tapping him on the hat with his forepaws, causing Little Blue Hood to laugh. Saw a gentleman's ser-