

do me and herself a favor.'

"'You are mad,' said Lou. 'If Denny Trogan finds you with her he'll tear you limb from limb. He is more jealous than a tigress of her cubs.'

"'I will take my chances,' I said, and left for the address.

"A thin, peaked woman answered my knock at the door. She was all dressed in black, and her face was white and lifeless, except for her two eyes, that burned in her head like coals afire. I called her a woman, but she was little more than a slip of a girl.

"'I have come to see Mary O'Malley,' I said.

"'I am Mary O'Malley,' said she, and I think my mouth dropped open and I stared at her. This was not the sort of woman I had thought Denny Trogan's choice would be.

"'I would talk with you of important things,' I said, when I had found my tongue.

"'Come in,' said she. 'We are in great trouble, and the house is all upset, but 'tis no great matter.'

"And she led the way into a little parlor. It was true that everything was upset, and unless I do not know the signs, 'twas because the landlord had found no rent waiting for him.

"I sat down on a trunk, and Mary O'Malley sat opposite me.

"'Well?' said she.

"But I did not answer her at once, because I was thinking too hard, and because I could not think of the right thing to say.

"'Well?' said she again.

"'You love Denny Trogan?' I asked. And I saw her hands clench, and the knuckles show white, and she leaned forward a bit, and there was fear in her eyes.

"'I do,' she said, at last, with her big eyes fixed on me as if she would read my very soul.

"'Have you influence with him?' I asked.

"'I have,' said she.

"'Will you see him before to-morrow night?' I asked.

"'Yes,' said she.

"'Then make him promise not to do that which he has arranged to do tomorrow night,' said I.

"'Who are you?' she cried, 'who comes talking about what Denny has arranged to do?'

"'I am your friend,' said I, 'and Denny's, but I cannot tell you more.'

"She stared deep into my eyes with those big blazing coal fires of hers for maybe two minutes, and then she drew her breath, in the rattling way a man does who has been near drowning.

"'I believe you,' she said.

"I rose and went to the door. With my hand on the knob I turned.

"'I would not tell Denny that any man left that message,' I said, "'Twould only make him more set on doing the thing.'

"She threw up her head proudly.

"'I know Denny better nor you,' she said. 'I believe what you have told me, and he shall not do this thing.'