

I was ill in bed an' couldn't see him tonight.

"I never did so much sweatin' in all my life as I did when she got that out of her system, an' Amanda—she just sat there, smilin' to herself, but keepin' the gat in a direct line with my head.

"You better tell me all about it," she says at last.

"I did. There didn't seem to be anything else to do, although I saw at the time that me an' Bennet weren't goin' to be friends any longer.

"At the end of the pretty little story, she sat there smilin' an' thinkin' to herself for a while, an' then turns an' looks at me as if I was a new kind of bug that had blown in when the window was open.

"Now I wonder what I'm going to do with you?" she says.

"If you'll allow me to suggest—" says I.

"But I won't," says she. "You came here to take advantage of a poor defenceless woman, and now you are going to pay for it."

"Then she reaches out an' touches a bell.

"You ain't going to call the bulls, are you?" says I, the inside of me feelin' as if it was going to drop out.

"YOU shut up," says she. "Never mind what I'm going to do with you. But I'll finish your criminal career on my own bed if you make a single move," she added as she saw my eyes stealin' toward the window.

"A big, hunkin' man-servant, big enough to earn his living hon-

est, answers her ring.

"James," says she, "I want you to take this insect an' guard it till morning. I shall hold you responsible."

"Very well ma'am," says James, an' comes over an' picks me up under one arm, an' walks off with me.

"James tied my wrist to his, an' went to bed that way, an' although I pleaded with him all night, I might as well have talked to a stone wall.

"In the morning Amanda comes for me an' takes me out into a back yard, where two hungry bulldogs are spoilin' the scenery, an' points to a stack o' wood.

"Split it," says she, "an' if he tries to escape, James, sic the dogs on him."

"Oh, she was a nice amiable person was Amanda.

"Presently there was a ring at the front door, an' I heard Amanda's voice as sweet as a cooin' dove's.

"Oh, Mr. Bennett," she was sayin', "come an' look what I found in my room last night."

"Say, it was almost worth it to see Bennett's face, an' the way he made his excuses for leavin' in such a hurry.

"Amanda let me go after that, but I ain't forgettin' little things like that.

"By the way, what was the favor you wanted me to do for you?"

"Never mind," said I, "let's have another, and then I'm going home."