

warm, reddish brown color-the color

Joy when I first saw Taras. He came yer game? D'ye think I'm going to wharf and leading to the steps where there y're are. I know what I am." the steps where the old ferry used to ply between that part of Shadwell and astonishment. Rotherhithe, and another man was with him named Drigo. Taras was a me the kipper"" fine, big man, fair, with a long tawny mustache and a short beard. He was dressed like a workman in a dark gray of your hair." suit, a flannel shirt and and a blue handkerchief for a tie, but he didn't Shadwell way. He was too clean and and flat. They can call me anything active for that. Drigo was not a bit like him, being middle aged, meager, don't mind, but I ain't going to be police if we don't pay up." with a stoop in his shoulders, and having a yellow face with high cheek bones, a sparse black beard and slanting eyes. Men like him are common

enough about Wapping and the High-

They walked down the stairs, and Drigo pointed across toward the Commercial docks, but I could not make out what he said. Taras nodded, and they turned around and looked atten-Baxter's wharf on the right and Johnson's yard at the left, Drigo talking tively at the Mariner's Joy and then at with great earnestness in a low voice all the while, and Taras listening all the while, and Taras listening gravely as he smoked his pipe and regravely as he smoked his pipe plying only with a word or a nod of his head from time to time. I have the use of a room for a fe couldn't make out what they found to nights," said Taras. interest them, for Baxter's wharf was shut up—and had been shut up for go, rising, and dropping his voice as he was a hole in the side of the wall, unson's yard but a great heap of rusting known to outsiders, you understand." boilers and old iron. As for the Marme, and Drigo made a joke at my exthing for me to be sent out of the room been left, and this served me for a bed.

It was dry and good enough for an object of the love and I been left, and this served me for a bed.

It was dry and good enough for an up the steps stood now almost within glass. Then for the first time a territorial destination of the love and I been left, and this served me for a bed.

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At length they quitted the steps and what his secret dealings were, but that came up Ferryboat alley, and a min- kindly look in the face of Taras excited ute or two later I beard them open the a strange feeling of interest in my

"Give us some gin, miss," said Drigo, speaking with an odd accent.

"We ain't got no gin. We're lost our license," I answered.

voice, nudging Taras. "What do you people drink here?"

Taras asked.

'Pongelo-four half gen'lly."

-the bloke returns?" said Taras.

closin hours."

expect this here vessel to arrive?"

"You ken if you like." "Is he your father?" asked Drigo, setmuch do you want?" ting himself on the bench facing the

"No."

"Your husband?"

"What then?"

"What's that to you?" I replied.

"What is it to anyone" I asked my- layed till Saturday. self as I made my way through the bar "What does it matter to any the job would be pulled off when no- morrow at the same time." one who I am or what I am? A home- body much ain't about?" less dog would find more friends than 'Between 2 and 3 in the morning, if Good night, gentlemen.' I: a drowning cat would get more pity. possible.

sodden handrail of the platform, look- while you're on the lookout, and you sound of his harsh, guttural voice cursing out at the thick, dun water that shall hand over a five quid the night ing as he stumble sluggishly lapped the slimy shore, the job is pulled off and your mates. As soon as I dared I slipped from my I turned my head and perceived Taras that, can I?" musing himself by sketching me, lean- the following afternoon. brutal than the rest-but I had no de- I had been sitting there in dull apa- a feeling like the craving for food in sire to add to the amusement of my thy, my elbows ou my knees and my my breast until the impulse to over-natural enemies. thy, my elbows ou my knees and my my breast until the impulse to over-chin in my palms, a quarter of an take Taras and speak to him, even

"Do you mind standing as you stood hour or 20 minutes, when I heard a though Drigo were still with him, over-

I was lazing on the rotten balcony before the busy front of the Mariner's large the busy front of the large the busy front of th

I'm as ugly as sin and not so pleasant-"Ugly!" he said, with an accent of "Yes, ugly. Else why do they call

"The kipper? That is the fish with could distinguish no words. "But what are you going to do with day before, creeping under the stairs and occasionally the shuffling of feet, "No, it ain't. They call me 'goldin

any rate not such as you see down call me 'kipper' because I'm so skinny raising his voice to give emphasis to work they all went in by the passage, I could not make it out. There was no the offer; I heard this clearly: "He offered you £5; I'll give you more of them.

they likes to lay their tongue to-I double, and you can betray us to the don't mind, but I am't going to be Just then I heard the front door haccessory to murder"-

bloke-Putty was his name-who had and stepping sideways to cast a glance to come again. My teeth chattered, police? That seemed to me the mo money I had taken, and nodding at ried tone of terror, and the next mo- knew not why. As the clock struck archway as I heard a grating of the "These parties is a-waitin to see you." was quick enough to duck and avoid minutes later another boat came out of most immediately afterward I saw the He had not yet noticed Drigo, who the missile, but I only escaped falling the murky distance and drew toward three escaped friends of Taras come up sat up in a dark corner watching him into the savage hands of the bloke by the stairs. As it pulled into the stairs from Ferryboat lane. They walked in

"We want to know if you can let us off around a stranded barge.

CHAPTER II. A MYSTERY.

"For a private purpose," added Dri-I lodged in Baxter's wharf. There tions toward him. came closer said, with a wink, "unbeder the stairs, for ventilating the cel-Putty nodded, and addressing me, of the bars was gone, and through the where they stopped, talking together scratch on his face. While he was iner's Joy, with its broken windows, said, "Hook it," as he took down a pot narrow opening I could just manage to in a low voice and in their own tongue. the gaping planks of its bay front and and drew himself some beer. Taras squeeze—thanks to being a kipper. In a low voice and in their countries and them are the squeeze—thanks to being a kipper. the rotten balcony projecting over the gave me a pleasant nod as I slunk out once inside I had the whole run of the to the Joy to see that the coast was the fight. He spoke to Putty and then muddy foreshore, there was nothing in by the front door. That altered my by the front door. That altered my warehouse. It was quite empty, but clear. Meanwhile, made reckless by walked off along Sweet Apple lane.

never troubled myself even to wonder door in Sweet Apple lane and enter mind, which made me curious to know Cable street, for which he gave me dinhalfnenny into the bargain.

I slipped down Ferryboat alley to It was dark when I left there bethe shore, climbed up the rotten tween 7 and 8, and feeling safe with re- happiness in having rescued his friends. my—the enemy of all outcasts and timbers on to the balcony and edged myself into the bar parlor, where I boat stairs as quickly as I could, run-stowed upon another, and drawing a But after a time I caught sight of stowed upon another, and drawing a "That's a good sign," said Drigo in a could hear pretty distinctly all that ning part of the way. I was anxious step nearer, by an instinctive impulse, Drigo returning down Sweet Apple to know what was going on at the raised my hand and laid it on his lane with a loaf under his arm and oth-Drigo was speaking, but his broken Mariner's Joy. I had been thinking arm. The act was not intentional. I er provisions in his hands. Then, des English and the low, crafty tone of his of it all day long—feeling a strange could not help doing it. voice made what he said unintelligible emotion within me such as I had never The movement was seen by his com- ed into the road from the do "four to me. It seemed to perplex Putty al- felt before, accompanied with a yearn- panion, who gave a cry of alarm. Tar- where I had been crouching, and stopp half," and while I was drawing it so, for presently interrupting him he ing to see Taras again—to get another as, seeing me, spoke a few low words of said with irritation:

| So, for presently interrupting him he ing to see Taras again—to get another as, seeing me, spoke a few low words of remonstrance to his friend that seemed with the words of remonstrance to his friend that seemed remonstrance to his friend that seemed with the remonstrance to his friend that seemed remonstrance

what I do your pardner's, mate. LemPutty was lounging against the door"Yes, it is me—the kipper," I tried hours ago." "Gorned out."

"When will he be in?"

"The matter's simple edough, replied Taras. "Three friends have left reaps not afore shuttin up time."

"All the Likewing way her them."

"Yes, it is me—the kipper," I tried to say, but my voice was thick with fewersh agitation and my words unin-their country for certain reasons. To represent their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. To represent the first their country for certain reasons. The first their country for certain reasons the first their country for certain reasons. The first their country for certain reasons the first their country for certain reasons. The first their country for certain reasons the first their country for certain reasons. The first their country for certain reasons the first their country for certain reasons. The first their count All that I know now has been acquired since that time. Then I spoke like a savage and was little better than a savage in any way, having lived from 1sy childhood friendless and utterly neglected.

Taras and Drigo spoke together in a tongue that was unknown to me, and they cannot openly break the contract without rendering themselves liable to be taken back by force. But they intend to desert, and our object is at them more closely. Taras was about 32 then, and as I have said, a fine, large man. There were resolution and strength in his chin and nose, in glothes for the dress we shall have in the first time in my remembrance.

The is country for certain reasons. To go so they engaged themselves as saillos on they engaged themselves as saill right," he said, adding, after he had a long clay who had long that he was looking out for Taras and Drigo who have come to tell us that it is all right," he said, adding, after he had given this explanation to his friends, "I's very good of you," and he nodded the shadow of an archway until he shadow of

was shut, and the rickety shutters of the bay window were closed also for the first time in my remembrance. Under the stairs I found a dry timber that he was to be loved and feared as well. Not so Drigo. There was nothing to love in his tace. His deep sunk black eyes were crafty; his mouth was bristling out added to the ferocity of the lower part of his face. Two front to lower my may change their seago the bay window were closed also for the first time in my remembrance. Under the stairs I found a dry timber where I could sit secure from observation, and there is accurate from observation, and there is accurate the bay window were closed also for the first time in my remembrance. Under the stairs I found a dry timber where I could sit secure from observation, and there is accurate the bay window were closed also for the first time in my remembrance. Under the stairs I found a dry timber where I could sit secure from observation, and there is time in my whole life.

I waited on the landing until they shad all filed into the Joy. Then I slipped past the closed door and ran accross to the archway in Sweet Apple lane opposite the house. I knew there was no accomodation for the party at the Joy, and that as soon as the escape of his friends at 2, but I did not mind that. It was a mild, still night. I had nothing else to do after dark but to think, and I might just as well sit there and dream as anywhere else. I waited on the landing until they with a server. I made on reply, and he went on to the bay with a derisive chuckle. I waited on the landing until they will all filed into the Joy. Then I slipped past the closed door and ran accross to the archway in Sweet Apple lane opposite the house. I knew there was no accomodation for the party at the Joy, and that as soon as the escape of his friends at 2, but I did not mind that. It was a mild, still night. I had nothing el teeth were missing, and the rest were lemen. But you will understand, sir, black. His face was deeply marked by that all this nere is agen the law, and heard Putty put up the shutters about I had stood there not many minutes and pushed open the door of the the smallpox. That type of man was I lay myself open to lose my license not unknown to me.

I had stood there not many minutes when I heard a glass crash in the Joy, hour later I saw by the glimmer of and the next moment there was a deep "I suppose we can wait here till the for lettin of parties into the house after light through the dirty fanlight over

the side door that he was still sitting "I will pay you for your risk. How up. A little after the clock had struck 2 I "I'ts more risky than you think. It caught sight of a boat coming across looks like a dead and alive hole, as no the river from the Rotherhithe side. one comes anigh once in a blue moon, As it drew into the steps I made out but the coppers keep a bloomin sharp one man at the oars and two men in eye on us all the same. When do you the stern seat. Then my heart beat quicker, for I felt that Taras was there

"Tomorrow. But it might be de- before I heard his voice. "We shan't want you any more to-"That means a sitting up on the night," he said as the boat ran ashore, parler to my former seat on the bal- look out three or four nights. Of course "but you will be at the same place to-

"I'll be there master, never fear. "Good night."

What good am I to any one." What "That'd do." Then after a little con- The boatman pushed off, while Taras sideration Putty said: "Here, I'll tell and Drigo groped their way up the Such thoughts as these were passing you what I'll do. You shall have the dark and slippery steps over my head. through my mind as I lelled upon the use of my room for a dollar a night I knew the other was Drigo by the

when feeling the presence of some one get clear. Now I can't say fairer than hiding place and ran up the stairs like a cat. When I reached the top, I saw standing near with a notebook and a Taras accepted these terms, and after their figures standing up sharp and pencil in his hands. He had found his some further discussion he and Drigo black against the light farther up the way out there by the passage and was left the Joy, saying they would return alley-Taras square and erect, Drigo with his head buried in his shoulders ing against the wall, with his pipe in I slipped out of the Joy by the way I They stopped at the side door of the his mouth. I thought he was "taking had entered it and hurried round to Joy and rapped lightly. The light me off," finding something in my face the front, impelled. I think, by some from within fell upon Taras' fair beard to ridicule like everyone else, and I unrecognized hope that Taras would as the door opened. A few words were turned my back on him. Not that I nod to me again. I know that I sank interchange in a low tone, the door minded whether he made sport of me down on the steps of Baxter's wharf closed, turning the corner under the or not-I was too accustomed to serve disconsolate when I saw him in the gas lamp into Sweet Apple lane. I did as the butt of coarse jest and heartless distance turn the corner of Ferryboat not attempt to follow them, dreading sarcasm to heed another shaft, more or alley and disappear without looking to pass the door where Putty might still be standing, but stood there with

step in the alley and turning my eyes came my fear. Then I ran swiftly up thad as if some one had thrown him. saw Drigo coming back. Just before the alley and along the lane, straining self against the door, then there followhe reached the Mariner's Joy he stop- my eyes with mad desire to see him ed a stifled cry, the shuffling of feet and

as if to make sure he was not followed. ty. When I reached High street and was going on in the bar of the Joy. In Then he dived quickly down the two stopped there, panting for breath, not Shadwell one hears the noise of fightsteps and entered the house. I had a soul was to be seen to the right or ling every night. But I could hardly taken a dislike to the man from the left; not a sound broke the dead si- believe that Drigo and Putty were the There was an evil, wicked look lence. I gave up the pursuit in de- attacking party. The latter I knew to There was treachery in spair and returned slowly in dejection. be a coward and feeble as well, being furtive glances, in the very stoop The light was out in the Joy when I sodden with drink. Taras I felt sure of his shoulders. Why had he come passed. I crept into the cellar, felt my could defend himself against half a back alone? What further business way through the storerooms to my dozen such as he, and timid as his had he with the bloke which he could corner in the loft and lay down to friends might be it was not likely that not have done when Taras was with sleep, comforting myself with the re- they would stand aside and make no him? These questions aroused my fac- flection that I should certainly see effort to aid him. I had no fear for

Drigo was talking to Putty, but in was patching the shutters. When that he had discovered Drigo's treachery such a low key that I could make noth- job was done, the man put some screws and was now giving him a lesson not ing of the sounds that reached me. I in the bolt of the passage door, Drigo to be forgotten, and with a burning decaught a glimpse of them through the and Putty looking on all the while. sire to hear him howling for mercy I crack of the door-their two villainous Taras was not with them, nor did I see ran across the road and put my car heads close together over the bar-and anything of him all day, though I to the door. drew as near as I dared, yet still I only left the spot once to buy some The fight was over already. I could food with the money I had earned the hear no sound save a faint whispering

him?" Putty asked, and his voice, and behind the barge and so round by and even these indications of move though low, was distinct enough-per- Johnson's yard into Sweet Apple lane ment within ceased after awhile, leadsurrup' and 'treacle' when they're get- haps because I was more used to it. that I might not be seen f.om the Joy. ing me to believe that the whole party I could not gather the reply; but, When the carpenter had done his had retired to the room behind the bar.

As soon as it was dark I went to my concluding a fight or quarrel that I evhiding place under the stairs, but I was er heard. What did it mean? Had "And a tenner won't pay me to be a less patient than I had been the night Taras killed Drigo by some terrible before, and I could not control my agi- blow of that strong arm and were they pen, and going into the bar I met the Drigo silenced him with a long 'hist,' tation as the time drew near for Taras all silenced by the fear of alarming the ment a pewter pot flew at my head. I 2 the police boat passed by. About five lock in the side door of the Joy, and al-

> text for speaking to him-he was not night. I hung about the place in vague in danger. With his three friends he perplexity, unable to leave it, expectwas more than a match for Drigo and ing every minute some further develop-Putty, supposing they had evil inten- ment of the mystery.

At 7 o'clock, when it was broad day-

They landed, and having discharged light, the front door of the Mariner's lars, closed with an iron grating. One dark stairs to the landing above, took down the shutters. He had not a on the top floor some old sacking had by unsatisfied longings, I had left my Putty went in and reappeared, sweepoutcast like me, who knew nothing of arm's reach of Taras. I distinguished ble fear that Taras had been killed in comfort and less of luxury. I slept the profile of his face quite clearly the fight took hold of me and shook there that night, and the next morn- against the faint light beyond as he me like an ague. But I did not know ing I was lucky enough to get work turned to speak a few cheering words what to do. I was like one paralyzed-(sail mending) at a ship chandler's in to one of his friends—the bold, hand-incapable of action. I never thought the sanded bar. I went through the what business he had to transact with ner and tea and paid me sevenpence curve of his mustache and his sharp, Taras was dead? Besides, from the carpointed beard. Almost I fancied I liest days of my recollection, I had re-

perate with this new born fear, I stepp-

"Taint likely. None of the rooms ain't furnished, 'ceptin the parlor, and after I go into it.

I which it seemed pretty clear his friend which it seemed pretty clear his friend but not a sign of embarrassment or sur-

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## returned. He was all right—quite so-ber—for a wonder. I gave him the money I had taken, and nodding at money I had taken a money I had tak

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amined him in the same way, and then turning to Taras who had gates, of next month, you —, or I'll null disappointment for I had made in month.

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"Here! It's no manner of use your to tell him of Drigo's second visit to the being so cussed sly over this here busibeing so cussed sly over this here busiboy and all I had overheard, that he

Joy and all I had overheard th hood, with many strong situations from the plots of the Russian police to abduet the Prince, and her effor

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