FORCED APART

CHAPTER I.

The scene is laid in Philadelphia, one of its streets, one of its houses. The weather is clear and warm, the sun is shining, and the birds are singing. The house is a large one, with a fine iron fence surrounding it. The front door is open, and from it may be seen a comfortable-looking parlor, with a large fire burning in the fireplace, and a table set for tea. The family consists of a mother and three children, two boys and a girl. The mother is a tall, slender woman, with brown hair and blue eyes. She is gentle and sweet-tempered, and her children love her dearly. The boys are active and cheerful, and the girl is quiet and thoughtful. They all seem to be happy and contented, and the mother is busy about her household duties.

CHAPTER II.

The family has been together for many years, and they are all very much attached to each other. The children are used to working hard and doing their share of the housework, and the mother is always kind and patient with them. She is a good provider, and the family has never lacked for anything. But there is one thing that has always troubled the mother. It is the fact that her husband is a drunkard, and that he is often absent from home for weeks at a time. She knows that he is not happy, and that he is doing wrong, but she cannot seem to persuade him to change his ways.

CHAPTER III.

One day, the mother was walking down the street when she saw a young man carrying a bundle of clothes. He was dressed in rags, and he looked very sad and forlorn. She went up to him and asked if he needed help. He told her that he had been fired from his job, and that he had nowhere to go. The mother took him home with her, and gave him a warm meal and a comfortable bed. She also gave him some money to help him on his way. The young man was very grateful, and he promised to pay her back as soon as he could. But he never did, and the mother began to worry about him.

CHAPTER IV.

The young man was a very clever and resourceful fellow, and he soon began to make a decent living. But he still owed the mother a great deal of money, and he knew that he would never be able to pay her back. One day, he decided to take a chance and go to the police station. He told them that he owed the mother a lot of money, and that he wanted to turn himself in. The police were very surprised, but they took him down to the mother's house. She was very happy to see him, and she forgave him all his debts. She also gave him some money to start his new life, and he went on his way.

CHAPTER V.

The young man was very grateful to the mother, and he promised to pay her back as soon as he could. But he never did, and the mother began to worry about him again. One day, she decided to go to the police station and see if she could find him. She told them that he owed her a lot of money, and that she wanted to turn him in. The police were very surprised, but they took her down to the mother's house. She was very happy to see him again, and she forgave him all his debts. She also gave him some money to start his new life, and he went on his way.

CHAPTER VI.

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