

### False Face

By E. C. Buley

"It's no use, Lola," he groaned. "I don't want to be the High Spot, and Sacchino does. And I'm no killer; and I give nobody the word to shoot it out. Do you get me? I'm

—not—a—killer." He buried his face in his arms, and Lola smothered back his tawny hair with gentle loving fingers. "No, Boy," she said wistfully. "You're only a ladykiller, I guess. But you've done for me, just the same. I can't see you go on to the spot, loving you like I do." "Maybe they didn't get Braley?" the Boy suggested hopefully. "Talk sense, if you can," Lola

commanded. "If you won't pass the word to Fingers, what will you do?" "Take a vanishing powder," College Boy declared. "Look; I've got the kale right under my hand. I can put my fingers on it any minute. I'll get right out of America; and then . . ." "What will Sacchino be doing, then?" Lola asked, scornful again. "Do you go in your own name, Mr. Truscott Whalen? And doesn't Sacchino broadcast it, that one of the big racketeers is on the ocean, making for England, or Paris, or whatever. And then what happens, I ask you. What happened to Jack Diamond, when he swallowed a dose of vanishing powder?" College Boy shook his head dismally. He was aware, as fully as Lola herself, that the rules of the racketeers permit no gang member to withdraw. To "take a vanishing powder" is an offence punishable by death, an offence as dire as "Squeaking," or in any way inviting the law's interference in racketing disputes. "You said it, Lola," he admitted wretchedly. "Sacchino would get me, even if I made the grade as far as Europe. They would not give me the chance of a yellow dog."

and no questions asked for a fortnight?" "What way?" Truscott asked, his eyes lighting again. "Tell me. What way?" "What happens to me, if I do?" Lola asked. "Me, stuck here, answering all the awkward questions of all the pretty girls in Paris. And, believe me, there would be some questions to answer. If you ran out on them, Fingers would be worse almost, than Sacchino himself."

would sing—it was not often he condescended in that place. It was one of his natural gifts, and he employed it sparingly. In the contacts which were his department of the gang work in which he shared. But now he appeared with a guitar slung before him, and the winning smile which strangers found almost irresistible; and there was a burst of welcoming applause. To be continued

### THE STARS SAY—

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a splendid year of opportunity, to be wisely evaluated and practically put over. The mind is keyed to exceptional versatility, acumen and sound sense, while the forces and stability find footing on firm ground. With sound techniques in promoting clever and shrewd ideas and objectives, surprise denou-

ments may arise. But be not carried to excesses or extremes, either in over-generosity, personal indulgences or graciousness. Keep all things in moderation. Be conservative.

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