Her Birthday Present.

By JANE LUDLUM LEE.

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Robertson, the jail breaker, handcuff king and magician, was in town. Billposters were everywhere announcing his arrival at Peck's Vaudeville theater, telling of the wonderful feats he would perform. Standing before one of these posters was a pale faced, tired girl on her way home from the office. It was incredible to think that a man could do the things advertised—to see a man break out of jail, to unlock the dreaded handcuffs before your very eyes! Oh, no; it was too wonderful to believe! She had often watched a crowd of urchins following a man who had been arrested and once had seen him taken to the lockup, but that a man could get out of his own free will—this seemed incredible.

She gave a final look at the picture of the man on the poster, tucked her novel tightly under her arm and moved slowly toward home. It was her

"I WANT TO GO HOME. PLEASE TAKE ME."

birthday, and her mother had given her a dollar to buy herself a present. She still had the dollar, and the thought occurred to her that she could take a girl friend to the vaudeville tonight and see this wonderful man. Then she recalled that her mother objected to girls going to the theater alone. After eating her dinner she decided that she was too tired. She would stay at home.

The thought of the dollar after dinner caused her mother to inquire [illegible] She [illegible]

"Why, I [illegible] you come [illegible]

"Oh, [illegible]

"Why, [illegible] I have been [illegible] I [illegible] I [illegible] I