

one on? Wordlessly he started in; and as they jerked forward face, then another, and answered last glass. There was steal and threatening about mute massing of mysterious Valley wasn't just scattered saw, and fields and hills and tureen. Everything was comelated, mobilized. The very ing the dim dirt road were leagued against her, an alien. he drove, while she sat there after a while he forked to the narrower road; and seeing a e knew they'd arrived.

a plain white house, like the y'd left in the village below, m branched over it and barns ear, and behind it pastures that o woods. The car jerked to a l still without speaking, he r luggage on the path.

ly Liz opened her monogram- carefully she brought out a r bill. "Here," she said, and ghly, "Keep the change."

ing without haste a wallet of he counted out deliberately four nd a quarter. He put the money nearest suitcase, then turned, into the car, and drove off. od there alone.

uddenly the aloneness was ob- fact. Suddenly it was as if the were shrinking, receding, leav- stranded in nowhere at all. in pure void, possessionless and sed as a ghost. Suddenly it was ere s cry out: "It's me! Liz son!" ybody would hear, nobody know. Nobody on the whole of ould care.

ood, a mere pinpoint of being, iness.

light struck her. A broad swathe . Coming through a pane in the ront door, cutting across the porch aight down the path. She was in light. She was pinned by it y. If she were to run now, she'd . She, Liz Gunnerson, running her hands seemed to move of their cord, smoothing bright rayon; her ligerently thrust itself out. , this was it! Okay, get going!

E didn't seem to be any bell, so ounded on the door. Almost y, through the lighted hall a fig- oved forward. The door opened. hey were. It was done.

woman stood tall and erect before ood looking straight at Liz, and y the woman's hand went up to her as if in shock. But her voice, when ke, was steady as steel. "Yes?" she ke steel. Like ice.

aced her. This was the way it be, of course. Everywhere and al- his was the way. Nobody was go- hand out a thing, all pretty and ke candy for a kid. Whatever you u got fighting. Inch by rough inch. word were so learned that they the es. "I heard you needed help, and I'm looking for a job."

ness, erectness, there was nothing o be made of the woman, standing as with her back to the light. g, except what might have been a ened guardedness. "You have d on a farm?"

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