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ONLY HERSELF BY ANNIE THOMAS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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ONLY HERSELF.

A NOVEL.

BY

ANNIE THOMAS,

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AUTHOR OF "DENIS DONNE," "ON GUARD," ETC.

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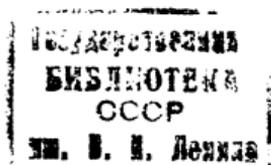
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ONLY HERSELF.

CHAPTER I.

Dora's Triumph.

DORA felt very nervous again as the moment for going down to luncheon approached.

"Helen," she said, going into her sister's room, "try my heart."

This was not by any means meant as a fervent appeal for Helen to test the enduring or devotional powers of the organ mentioned, but was merely a request that Helen would place her hand on the side of Dora's silk bodice, and feel a fluttering beneath.

"It's beating quickly," Helen said.

"Beating quickly," Dora repeated, with a supreme air; "but I suppose you don't know the symptoms? My poor mother died of heart complaint from agitation, and I'm liable to the same thing. Well," (this she added brightly), "it's to be hoped if any one wishes me to live that they won't agitate me much. Oh Helen, if you play me false through any fear, don't fret too much about the consequences, dear; just remember that I told you what they would be beforehand."

"I don't think that that remembrance would help