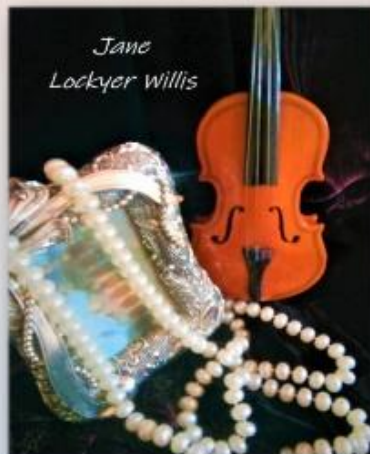


## ON THE FIDDLE

or

*The misadventures of two  
small-time crooks*



Jane  
Lockyer Willis

Be different: buy direct  
from the author or  
[tslbooks.uk](http://tslbooks.uk)



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

Claribel Louise was buried wearing her pearls.

'Selfish, if you ask me,' snapped Melanie. 'She could have left them to Bertie. I wonder why she didn't, he could have made quite a bit with those.'

'What's it to us?' replied Henrietta. 'She wasn't married to the man.'

Melanie raised her eyebrows, tapped her neck and winked.

'We could, you know, Henri.'

'Oh! Mel. We wouldn't dare!'

'Why not? You always envied them like crazy.'

Henrietta blushed. 'I admired them.'

'Same thing.'

'We'd be put away. Probably for life.'

'Nonsense. We'll swap 'em and no one will know.'

And that is exactly what they did.

\*

Before I go on with my story, I need to give a little background.

The late Claribel Louise, Clary to her friends, was during her lifetime amiable and pretty with an affectionate nature. She had acquired the double string of south-sea pearls, insured at around one hundred and fifty thousand pounds, by marrying into money.