

DAILY NOVELETTE

By ROSE MEREDITH

A Man and a Dog

UNDER the big maple tree in Mrs. Addy's front yard sat Mrs. Addy's boarder—Evelyn Byron, who was a clerk down at the lumber mill near the bridge.

The dog cocked his head on one side and barked sharply. Then he jumped down and ran frantically up and down the yard, close to the fence.

"Down!" commanded the man kindly. The Airedale leaped and thrust a pink tongue at his cheek.

"Down, you rascal!" laughed the stranger, stooping down to caress the dog's little gray, curly body.

"You dog?" asked the hatless one. Evelyn hesitated, Bob was her dog, by all the laws of finding—and needing!

"Belong to you?" asked the man, rising and looking her straight in the eyes.

"I beg your pardon—but I thought you were going to say, 'No'!" He bent down, whispered something in the dog's ear, patted the rough coat affectionately.

"Sudden! Evelyn gave a little sobbing cry and ran across the yard. She caught up with him as he passed the snowball bush.

"You called me?" he asked eagerly. The girl's charming face dropped in to her hands. "It is not my dog—I wanted him so—I found him in the bushes beside the bridge a month ago—

"The man's eyes fell to the dog, who was curled contentedly beside him. "His name's 'Sandy'—he recognized my name when you called 'Bob'."

"Sandy?" asked Bob. "About a month ago, I chained him up. I was going to the city and couldn't take him that day. When I got home I learned

he had slipped his collar and followed the car. I must have left him far behind, poor little beggar. If I had only known!"

"That is very kind of you," said Evelyn primly, but her eyes shone with joy. When she was alone with the amazed Sandy, she kissed the startled canine on its black muzzle. "I don't wonder you like him, Sandy," she whispered.

Bob Mason, who turned out to be a stockholder in the lumber mill, living in the adjoining town, came many times to visit Sandy, though Mrs. Addy declared the poor beastie played second fiddle to Evelyn. But late in the fall when it was too cold to sit under the maple, Bob told Evelyn that they must reach a decision about the ownership of Sandy.

"She looked wistfully into the glowing fire, while Bob adoringly regarded her dainty profile. 'Let Sandy choose,' she eyed him when they asked Sandy that most intelligent of Airedales, stood erect and placed one paw on Evelyn's hand and the other on Bob's knee.

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Mr. Haling, who was a widower and sixty-six years of age, died March 14 of this year at 827 Preston street. The disputed testament, which was executed on September 26, 1919, bequeathed to Mrs. Anna E. Souder, a married woman who had served as his housekeeper, his residence on Preston street, together with all its contents, and an automobile. Mrs. Souder also was given two-thirds of the residue of the estate, the remainder being bequeathed to Annie J. I. Woodruff, a half-sister of the testator.

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