

OF INTEREST TO THE WOMEN

WHAT HAPPENED TO JANE

By Virginia Terhune Van de Water

CHAPTER LIII.

(Copyright, 1916, Star Co.) During the hour and a half that Augustus Reeves remained alone in the quiet diningroom he was neither resting nor sleeping. He was thinking deeply and planning his course of action.

For the time for action of some decisive kind had come. He had never imagined that Mary Baird, heretofore submissive to his will, could become the creature into which she had developed since his marriage, less than five months ago. He had known that she resented this marriage. He was even prepared for her veiled resentment against his wife. But he had been sure that if he kept her in her proper place she would get over her disappointment and chagrin.

That she should so far overcome her anger and prejudice as to be on friendly terms with his wife had not entered into his calculations. Certainly that a crisis would develop which would imperil his reputation in the eyes of his wife, perhaps in the estimation of the entire neighborhood, was unthinkable.

Yet such a crisis had seemed imminent to-day. For a few fearful moments he had actually thought that Mary had told Jane facts that he and the house-keeper alone knew. If she had done this he would have been ruined.

He had been a fool to submit to Mary Baird's demands as long as he had done. He would not now withdraw the sum of money he paid her each month—a sum that she straightway sent to a certain priest-institute for the feeble-minded children. But she must be made to understand that in paying her this monthly stipend he discharged every obligation due her, and that were she ever to betray his secret or even threaten to do so, this allowance would be stopped once and for all time.

He recalled a clause in his will made at the time of his second marriage in which he had mentioned a certain sum for his "faithful and industrious housekeeper." With this she would be able for years to come to pay for the maintenance of her child—and she ought to be smart enough to get regular work to support herself. Thus had he argued.

He remembered this clause, of which he had told Mary when he drew up his will. But he remembered it as another threat which he could hold over her.

First of all, he must have a plain talk with her. This had not been practicable for a long time. Present circumstances demanded that he have it immediately. Mary must understand her position and his intentions before she had an opportunity to create another scene like the one he had broken in upon this morning. He must seal her lips definitely. If he could not do this by reason and argument, he would do it by frightening her.

There was only one way to hurt her. That was by threatening to cut off her present and future income. She did not care what became of herself if she could pay out each month the sum demanded by

the Home. To-day he had handed her, as a gracious gift, her fare to this Home and back. He felt that in doing this he had shown her kindness beyond her deserts.

He flattered himself that he had arranged matters cleverly in getting Jane out of the way for the evening. When Mary arrived from town in his wife would have been asleep for an hour. This was the time for the necessary talk with his housekeeper. He would intimidate her and put her back on her old terms of servility to him.

Of late she had behaved as if he were no longer her master. It was to Jane that she turned for orders. This was not safe and it must stop. He had told Mary before his marriage that if she did not behave herself she must leave his house, and he meant it. He knew that she would not go so long as she could draw her monthly salary for her child. He sprang to his feet and listened. Yes—there was the sound of carriage wheels at the back of the house. He opened the door.

"Mary," he said, in guarded tones, "come in softly. I don't want Mrs. Reeves disturbed." Then, as Jane, having helped Mary alight, drove off to the barn, Reeves added: "Wait for me in the diningroom. I want to talk to you. I'm going upstairs for a minute first."

Jane, sitting up in bed, heard the stealthy footsteps on the stairs, and sank back upon her pillows, closing her eyes and breathing regularly. A moment later she heard the door of the room, but she did not stir.

He Takes Precautions "Jane!" It was scarcely more than a whisper, but she heard it distinctly. He wanted to make sure if she were really sleeping. He came into the room and stopped as if to listen to her breathing. A moment later she heard his foot-fall once more on the stairs. He had returned to the diningroom.

Mary had thrown off her hat and cloak and was waiting for him, standing in the middle of the room. Her face was strained and anxious. "Well?" he asked as he shut the door behind him. "How is everything?"

She took a rapid step toward him. "Oh, Augustus! He is fearfully ill! It's brain trouble, and they've been afraid of convulsions. This afternoon he's better. But—laying her hand on his arm, "there's something wonderful I have to tell you. He can be cured!"

"Cured?" Well, what of that? I did not suppose he was dying!" he said, gruffly. "Oh, I don't mean cured of this sickness he has now—but—her voice caught in a strangled gasp—"listen! The great surgeon from Germany that has done so many wonderful operations on the head—you've read about him in the paper, I guess—well, he's been out there and he's seen him—and he says he'd be bright and well if it wasn't for a pressure on his brain.

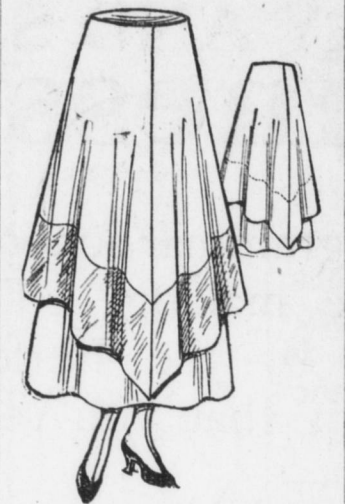
"An operation would cure him—cure him right you!—so that he'd be like other children—sensible and all right! Oh, Augustus, Augustus! For God's sake give me the money for the operation—for God's sake—Augustus!"

(To Be Continued.)

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By MAY MANTON



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For the medium size the skirt will require, 3 yds. of material 36 in. wide, 2 1/2 yds. 44, with 4 1/2 yds. of bordered material 16 or 44 in. wide or 3 yds. of plain material 36 in. wide, 2 1/2 yds. 44 for the tunic. The pattern No. 8822 is cut in sizes from 24 to 32 in. waist measure. It will be mailed to any address by the Fashion Department of this paper, on receipt of ten cents.

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"SHOULD PREPARE FOR WAR" Special to the Telegraph Blain, Pa., Feb. 17.—To-morrow afternoon the literary society of the High School will render a program of exercises to which the public is invited. The question for debate is, "Resolved, That the United States Should Prepare for War."

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MANAGING THE CITY By Frederic J. Haskin [Continued from Editorial Page.] of additional laborers had to be employed. The force of every city department had to be immediately expanded—and the money ran out. When the smoke had cleared away—literally and figuratively—the city commission sat down and faced the future. Thousands of things had to be done. Many things that had been done had not yet been paid for. Looking ahead only a year the commission realized it would have to have about one-third more money than it had spent in the preceding year.

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