



Reading for Women and all the Family



The Four of Hearts

A Serial of Youth and Romance by Virginia Van De Water

CHAPTER LVIII

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Milton Van Saun and Dora Livingstone had had their talk out. The man had appeared in compliance with her request, arriving at 4 o'clock on his way uptown from the office.

Dora, with a calmness that had surprised even herself, had told him of her desire to end their engagement. Milton, with a frankness that did not wound her, acknowledged that he approved of her decision.

"We have never loved each other," Dora affirmed after a while. "I have loved you and you have bored me."

In spite of her relief, she protested when Milton suggested that the truth should be confessed to her parents at once.

"Oh, please not yet!" she begged. "Let us wait for a day or two until I can decide what we are to say or do. We are both scared almost to death," she added with a nervous laugh.

"I don't blame you," her companion said. "I am a bit fussed myself."

Cynthia, in her own room, wondered how matters were progressing with her cousin and Milton. The rain that had begun yesterday afternoon was still falling, giving an excellent excuse for not finishing the little shopping that Aunt Amanda said must be done before the wedding preparations would be complete.

In spite of her efforts to remain calm, Cynthia found herself listening anxiously for sounds from below. How long Milton was staying! What made him linger like this?

Caught by the Mother
At last the front door closed and Dora's light footstep sounded outside. The girl looked up eagerly as her cousin entered and dropped down upon the couch with a gesture of despair.

"Oh, Cyn!" she exclaimed. "What do you think! Mother waylaid Milton in the hall just as he was leaving and told him he must dine here to-night. Then she telephoned Ger-

ald and asked him to come, too. Both men tried to get out of it—but no man can escape mother. Oh, dear, isn't it funny?"

"I do not agree with you," her mother said indignantly. "It gives people ample time to select wedding presents. Don't you think I am right, Gerald?" she appealed to Stewart, who sat beside her.

He flushed crimson, yet did not lose his self-possession.

"I do not think that a mere man should express an opinion on the matter," he evaded. "In such a case as that, the ladies are really the best judges."

"We can always depend upon you to say the pretty thing, dear boy," Mrs. Livingstone smiled.

She glanced expectantly at Milton but he did not meet her gaze. Nor did he make any comment on the subject, although his hostess referred to it several times before leaving the table.

Stephen Livingstone was dining at his club to-night and Milton Van Saun and Gerald Stewart did not stay in the dining room to smoke. Instead, they accompanied the ladies into the dressing-room. Here Mrs. Livingstone bade them good-night gracefully, preparatory to going to her room.

"A new novel demands my attention," she explained. "I must finish it before I sleep."

As soon as she had gone, Milton, hitherto so silent, spoke.

"The time has come, my friends," he declared, "for a council of war. Gerald, shall we decide what's to be done?"

"I would suggest that we consult Dora and Cynthia, first," Gerald said.

"Good!" Milton agreed. "I will appoint myself a committee of one to talk the matter over with Cynthia. You can discuss it with Dora."

"Cynthia," with a bow, "let us adjourn to the library, where these two people won't disturb us."

Upstairs, Mrs. Livingstone read her new novel placidly, little guessing what was happening in the rooms below. She was satisfied that her young people were carrying out her plans to the letter.

(To Be Continued)

Advice to the Lovelorn
Dear Miss Fairfax:—I am a young man nineteen years of age. Do you think it is right for me to go with a girl? I work on the railroad and I think it would be nice to have a little friend to help keep up my spirits when I get back from a hard day's work. If you think it is advisable for me to do so, I wish you would kindly advise me how to get a girl, having never been out with one. Thankfully yours,—VERY LONELY.

The best way to meet young women is through the church, for I judge by your letter that you desire to meet only the right kind of girls. Do you attend church? Connected with the church are many wholesome social affairs where you will meet with plenty of girls. Assume a tactful attitude when you do meet girls. Do not show them too openly that you desire to cultivate their acquaintance. Merely be polite, friendly and interested in them and interesting to them. Request the present privilege of calling upon them after you have met them. You will find many very nice girls as anxious for friendly companionship as you are. Surely it is all right for you to go with a girl. But you are too young to settle down with one of them.

Bringing Up Father



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I'M VERY SORRY—

WHY—AM TOO LATE?

YEP—ABOUT TWENTY YEARS!!!

SIR!!!

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By McManus

5-24

THEIR MARRIED LIFE

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Well, of all the sentimental twaddle! Warren said disgustedly to the curtain fell on the last act of the play.

"It wasn't very good, was it?" said Helen.

"What on earth did you recommend it for?"

"Why, dear, Mrs. Stevens saw it and thought it was fine."

"I'll bet she did. Her speed is claptrap trash anyway. That settles it for ever taking her advice about a play again."

"The conversation continued in the subway after they had strolled down Broadway."

"Why, if there had been one amusing thing in it I wouldn't have cared," said Warren.

"That's true; it was so artificial."

"How did you happen to take Mrs. Stevens' word for it? Why I get as much amusement out of a trip to the office, and I don't have to pay \$2 a seat, either."

"Helen, trying to agree with him and to keep him in good humor, hastened to assent. "It was expensive entertainment, wasn't it, dear? Why didn't you get cheaper seats?"

"Not for me. If I can't sit in the best seats I want to stay at home!" Helen was silent.

"The evening was ruined so far as any excitement or pleasure is concerned. If you had kept still we might have gone to see 'Sacrifice.' They say that's a thriller."

"Warren kept up a running fire of criticism about the play until they reached the very door of their apartment. Then, as the elevator let them out and shot down into space, Helen's eyes widened as she looked at the guilty marks surrounding the keyhole."

"Warren," she gasped, "look!"

"Looks as if some one had been busy with our lock, doesn't it?" Warren remarked, a tense note creeping into his voice.

Helen tried the door. "It's open!" she said, almost in a whisper.

They went into the apartment quietly, and Warren snapped on the lights in the hall. The next moment Helen had rushed into Winifred's room, but nothing had been disturbed there, and the child was sleeping calmly.

silver is gone, and some of my smaller pieces. We'll never get them back."

"Things might have been worse. You still have your valuable jewels, and I must give you credit for thinking to change them. I'll take them down to the office and put them in the safe to-morrow."

"And they might have frightened Winifred!" said Helen.

"Was she sound asleep?"

Helen nodded dreamily, the memory of the child safe and deep in slumber stirring her emotions.

"Strange Mary didn't hear anything."

"But Warren, her room is so isolated, and she sleeps so soundly."

"Well, if they didn't steal all the food there was in the house, how about some eats? Strange, we spent two dollars to see a play that will not excite or amuse us, and we come home and get all the excitement for nothing, minus a few valuables." Helen said.

To Be Continued.

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Sponge Cake
4 eggs, 1 cup sugar, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1 cup barley flour, 1 tablespoon lemon juice.

Beat the yolks of eggs stiff and light, add lemon juice, sugar and flour gradually; fold in well-beaten whites of eggs, and bake in a slow oven.

Delicious Brown Bread
2 1/2 cups graham or whole wheat flour, 1 cup rye flour, 1 1/2 cups corn flour. (measure last two after sifting and measure level), 1/2 cup brown sugar, 1/2 cup molasses, 2 cups sour milk or buttermilk, 1 tablespoon melted fat, dash of salt, 2 teaspoons baking powder.

Mix all dry ingredients, add soda to molasses and sour milk, combine mixtures, add fat and bake in bread pans in moderate oven for one hour. It is improved by adding one cup of seedless raisins.

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