

Reading for Women and all the Family



"When a Girl Marries"

By ANN LISLE

A New, Romantic Serial Dealing With the Absorbing Problem of a Girl Wife

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CHAPTER CXXIV

"Anne, what have you done?" demanded Sheldon Blake, turning on me and showing a livid face that might betoken either rage, chagrin or misery.

What his interest in Virginia was I did not know. That he had no right to any and so no right to any consideration I did know. But it didn't lessen the fact that he would be distasteful to have to blurt out the truth here and now. While I hesitated about answering Sheldon's question, and Jim looked as miserable and helpless as I felt, Phoebe hung her head into the breach. She leaned forward and put her hand gently on Sheldon's.

"Shelly, you've been such a good friend to me and Jeanie that I think you'll want to be the very first to know of our happiness," she said.

"And these other dear people are such close friends that we want them to know before the world finds out. I'll be spokesman. Jim and Anne have been so close to this that now it's happened it has struck them dumb."

Jim's hand found mine under the table, and I leaned back almost re-

lieved that Phoebe had gone so far we couldn't interfere now.

"Virginia never stopped being Pat's wife," went on Phoebe, with unconscious use of Pat's very words. "The separation was nothing at all—nothing but stupid words the law and their own hearts gave them a right to forget. Now they've forgotten—so everyone who loves them must forget they were apart so long. That's all."

"How charming!" murmured Val dreamily. "If ever I suggest a leave of absence from you, Lane, old dear, you'll know I got the idea out of the mouths of babes as it were—and right from your dear friends the Harrisons."

She turned the battery of her eyes on Shelly as she spoke, but he seemed not to notice her. Her look turned to scorn as he brought out a fumbling comment which plainly didn't express what he felt:

"Are you congratulating me in order? And if so where should they be addressed?" he asked.

"To our little Anne, I reckon. I'll bet she engineered the meeting that gave these lucky folks a chance to find their happiness again before they'd lost it for keeps," said Uncle

Bringing Up Father

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By McManus



Ned in his nice, deep voice. "My bride and I are a long sight happier for your folks than you most likely want to hear outsiders say."

"I want to hug you all!" cried Aunt Mollie. "But I guess you'd rather we didn't brush the dew off things for you. Only I'd like to tell you, though you haven't asked it, that we'd rather be proud to keep this a beautiful secret."

"We'll have to form ourselves into a club for the protection of encore honeymoons," said Val lazily.

Then again she addressed herself to Sheldon. It seemed as if she suspected him of deep feelings in the matter and was amusing herself with the delicate torture of seeing him wiggle like a fish on a hook.

"Men have a way of OK-ing your tastes, haven't they, Mr. Blake? Show a girl a little attention and she captures a fancee in a stray husband or some such prize. Now if my Lane ever starts philandering with Anne, for instance, and I want to get him to appreciating me again I'll send for you. Will you come?"

"If you send for me," replied Sheldon, making a stab at his usual gallantry, but bringing out the words in a cold, flat voice Val didn't miss. Then a very limp seemed to get into her.

"Let me see," she said. "There's that Miss Mason you rush now and then; she's had at least two fiancés. And you were rather nice to our Phoebe before she captured Neal from some one or other. And now—"

Phoebe's eyes met mine and I got their message.

"Make her stop. This is awful, humiliating for Neal and me and cheapening for Sheldon."

I opened my lips for words, random words—anything to stem the tide of Val's malice, the cause of which I couldn't guess. But it was Sheldon who picked up the gage she had thrown down. Evidently she had goaded him too far and he was in no mood for chivalry or the gallantry with which he generally addressed women, no matter how he felt about them. And as for me, it was clear that however he felt about Virginia he resented my part in removing her from his orbit.

"You were asking what I'd do if you sent me an S. O. S., Mrs. Cosby," he tossed at Val. "I'd come, you know. Those promising eyes would never flash a come-hither look in vain. But if our Anne ever emmeshes your man I'd advise you to kiss him good-by; she's such a clever manager. But I can't guarantee I'd let you slip through my fingers as easily as all the other heroines have done. You're the sort of woman a man must ignore or conquer."

"Say, what is this, anyway; a dinner or a problem play?" asked Lane.

"But if someone will kindly keep my wife interested, so she won't notice and tell me I'm fat enough without, I'll order a second portion of this ducking. It's great."

There was something like disgust in the look Val flashed at Lane. But the flash modified to languor again as she turned to Shelly and challenged him.

"You mourn your lost loves, I mourn my husband's lost lovely figure," she said scornfully. "I think I'm tempted to send that S. O. S. right now."

derer-perfect lover school of philosophy.

"Why shouldn't I kiss you?" he says. "Why shouldn't we be happy? Where's the harm in yielding to the joy of the moment?"

He doesn't actually say it. He seizes the half-willing girl in his arms and acts it out. The half-willing girl has her taste of stolen sweets, of thrill, of emotion. And remembering its effects on heart and pulse, he longs for it again.

If she has strong character and ideals, she doesn't let it happen again. She doesn't let herself disintegrate into the sort of girl to whom he who wills may make light and facile love. But nevertheless she remembers and longs for what she has once experienced and knows is part of her woman's heritage.

Then along comes a sincere and loyal man who has for her devotion and respect as well as love. And he asks her to be his wife, without trying to arouse the emotional nature which might sweep her into his arms. This is the girl he wants to marry, not the girl he merely wants to amuse himself with. So he talks about love as an "academic proposition," to quote a young friend of mine. And the girl thinks of the responsibilities and duties marriage entails. She has time to notice that the man's coat needs pressing. All sorts of humdrum things get between her and her heart. She hesitates, and the suit is lost.

The dazzle of cheap lovelinking has blinded many a woman's eyes so that when a great, shining love was offered her she couldn't see it. What are we going to do about it?

Either men must all stop philandering, or girls must repel all attempts at lovelinking when there is no love, or else youth must grow up in a hurry and learn to distinguish the false from the true; or—and here I think lies the real solution:

Men must learn to study the women they love. They, who have so many free emotional outlets, must learn that women often starve for love, and that when it is offered it must be offered at once, sincerely and attractively.

A kiss ought to mean a proposal, no doubt. But the converse is just as true: A proposal should mean a kiss!

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Fishing Party Gets 800 Pounds of Nescopeck Eels

Sunbury, Pa., Nov. 7. — Cyrus Knouse, of Northumberland, returned home from Nescopeck where he was a member of a fishing party that took 800 pounds of eels in their baskets. Knouse brought with him

200 pounds which he distributed among friends.

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CORNER'S BOOT SHOP

24 North Third Street

Little Talks by Beatrice Fairfax

"Dearest and loveliest of human beings, will you be mine?" said the hero of some romance I read in my youth.

For years I fancied that no proposal of marriage could be couched in words less poetic and thrilling! I suppose that almost every woman has a foolish little idea of how the great He who is coming to her some day will sink gently on one knee and in words that are almost songs, beg to be his for evermore.

And so, perhaps, on meeting the "one man in all the world, a girl finds suddenly that he doesn't mean a thing to her when it comes to the point, because he drives romance and anticipated thrill of the great moment away by proposing so abominably.

Awkward, self-conscious or, even worse—stupidly businesslike, is your real lover often and often. His very sincerity makes him bungling. The intenseness of his respect makes him cautious and honest rather than overwhelming.

The man whose devotion to his pretty wife is a by-word, confided to me that he proposed to her in a dingy little tea-room.

"I wanted her to go into a life-partnership with her head as well as her heart," said he. "I didn't want a beautiful background to make the idea romantic. They did I want to be alone with her where emotion might rule us. If she married me, it was going to be because she wanted to spend the rest of her life with me—not because she wanted to experience a thrilling moment and have the promise that it would be off-repeated."

There was something in his idea but it would have repelled a great many women.

Girls look on a proposal as a thing apart from the rest of life and living. A romantic moment. A splendid landmark. They want to cherish in memory, to cuddle and fondle in their minds. They want it to be lifted out of the humdrum of everyday into the enchanted land of romance for which we all pine.

Not all girls want this. Not all girls would know they wanted it even if they did, but plenty of them have a sub-conscious desire for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow—and for the perfect lover.

As a matter of fact, "the perfect lover" often has no idea of finding himself transposed into a husband. He likes freedom, he has no sense of responsibility. He flits from flower to flower after the immemorial habit of rovers—and bees.

There was something in his idea almost every girl meets a gentleman of the Don Juan-Gay Lothario-Philan-

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We know the buying connections this firm has established with coat manufacturers during the last 29 years, are of the best. We know, on account of our "out-of-the-high-rent-district" location, our expense of doing business is less than other stores. Our already low prices have been reduced Saturday's selling.

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Washington, Nov. 7.—Two new reservation proposals were placed before the Senate yesterday and, together with several others presented by individual Senators, will be taken up after the committee list. One was by Senator Knox, Republican, Pennsylvania, proposing that the United States become only a "consulting member" of the league with no duty to govern its own course in all respects, and the other was by Senator Johnson, Republican, California, relating to equalization of voting power in the league.

FIRST SNOW IN MIFFLIN

Lewistown, Pa., Nov. 7.—With the temperature dropping from summer-like weather in 24 hours to freezing, the first snow of the season fell here on Wednesday. The fall here was light, but in some parts of the county it snowed quite a bit. Ice freeze the last two days on still water.