

On the Trail of a Maltese

By...
F. B. WRIGHT

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It was the kitten that began it, the Maltese kitten whose name was Dot, though it was usually called by any endearing epithet which came handy. It ought not to have tired of the paper ball provided for it, nor gone on a tour of exploration into the hall, not then into Graham's studio. But the last was Graham's fault, because he had neglected to close the studio door when he went out.

Of course, Miss Mabel Hastings had to get her pet, and, of course, as the kitten would not come at her call, the only way was to go into the studio again.

She found it after a considerable search sitting serenely beneath the big chair under the long studio window. With the kitten safe in her arms she should have gone back to her interrupted work. She did not, however. She listened to the voice of the tempter, who told her that her opportunity was come at last; that having seen so much it was no harm to see a little more, and that no one would know. She had wanted for a long while to know what Graham's studio was like, and if it suited with him, and a number of other things.

It is the first step that counts. From a general survey Miss Hastings descended to a particular examination. She tiptoed across the room glanced at the books and inspected the Japanese ivories in a cabinet on the wall. Then, having imbibed one finger, as it were, and nothing having happened, there seemed to be no reason why she should not dip in her whole hand. Besides, if Graham should come, she had the kitten for excuse. It was to the kitten she talked as she wandered about.

"He wouldn't care at my looking at his pictures, kitty," she confided as she rummaged in a stack of canvases, "and anyway if he doesn't want them, look at why does he put them with their faces to the wall?" He ought to know that that would make any one any one desire to see them. I wonder if they are rejected pictures and if he hates to see them as I do that pile of rejected stories of mine? Perhaps that is why he leaves them wrong side out, Hump! Spring Scene! Rather good, I should say. Italian Peasant Girl! I don't think much of her. Old man with pipe, moonlight or sunrise or something. It's pretty, but I can't make it out. Just look at the fist behind them too. It's all over my mind." It would be a giveaway if he should come. Only I'd say I got it hung up for you. Didn't you ever see anything like this table, Dot? I wish I dared straighten it up. He needs some one to keep things in order. Bachelors are never minded by heaven to remain bachelors, for order is heaven's first law. It must be nice, though, to feel above obeying it.

She moved about the room as she talked, studying the sketches on the wall, testing the softness of the draper, feeling the texture of the tapestries, running her finger along the mantelshelf and looking at it with mock horror.

"It's just the kind of studio I thought he'd have. Dotlets. It's just like him—big, sunny and not full of books nor too many curios nor cluttered up with furniture. I don't like a giddy-man nor a booky-man, and he isn't either. I knew he wasn't. Is that the model's throne over there? I wonder—that platform? It doesn't seem to have been used much, and yet he's been painting this morning. I'm going to see what it is. It's covered by a curtain, but a peep won't hurt any one."

The easel stood in the corner by a table littered with half-squeezed tubes, brushes, palettes and paint rags, as if the painter had thrown them down in a sudden heat of exasperation over the inadequacy of his art.

Mabel drew the curtain from the picture and then sat down hastily on the painting stool. It was her own picture she was looking at—her own and yet not her own. Not the everyday, story writing, money worried Mabel Hastings whom her looking glass reflected, but a girl clad in some soft, exquisite clinging eastern fabric, reclining gracefully in a deep chair of lashed ebony. There were jeweled glistening in the meshes of her coiled hair, and row upon row of pearls clasped the delicately curved throat. Her hands were playing with the roses in her lap. Her eyes were dreamy.

"Now, how did he know, Kathinka, that I cared for roses?" said Mabel when, after the first moments of surprise, she settled herself in critical delight, chin in hand, before the picture. "And such roses—dream roses—just opening to the June air. How did he know—if it is me? I suppose it isn't me really, but I like to think it is—and indeed it looks like me, or at least I might look if I had beautiful things and dwelt in a fairy palace. Only, I'm afraid, kit, that I'm not half so pretty as that girl. She hasn't any bother about making her purse fit her necessities nor trying to make stories end nicely. I don't think she writes at all that girl—there's ink on her fingers. And yet I just know it is, and I'm rather glad—only, of course, it's horribly impertinent in him; you can't know how impertinent."

"And the pearls! Did he put them around my neck for effect or to show how well he could paint them? May be—he may have wanted just to give them to me. It was very extravagant of him, kit. I'm sure he can't afford them, and, of course, I can't accept them. I'll have to say I'm greatly obliged; but I can't think of any excepting them only I'd like to."

"Then, too, there's nothing I could give him in return—at least nothing he'd want. I can't make him any nicer than he is, and so in our stories I put him in just as I see him—only sometimes he's rich and sometimes poor and sometimes a soldier and sometimes an artist. I don't know why he will insist on getting into my stories, but he does. Well, I'll do it for him. Puzzlings, and that isn't much, for they often puzzles him. They're being cruel to us, but they're probably jealous. If it is the editor, Katinka, and he should come for my acceptance, I'd only think to reflect him—only I'm not an editor, and so he'll never know."

"Do you suppose he painted me because he wanted to? Because he liked me and wanted me to have beautiful things or just to make a picture? You need to sit for him, though. That involves not quite right and the eyes."

"That's what's bothering me, the eyes," said a token. "They were not right, but they had so little chance

to observe!"

Mabel jumped and felt the blood surging up into her face. Graham was standing by the easel, smiling down at her.

"I—I came after my cat," she said confusedly. "It came in here, and I had to get it. You left your door open, you know, and—Miss Hastings rallied her forces for a defensive attack—and then I saw this picture, a picture of me."

"I thought I left it covered," said Graham.

She deigned no answer. "Isn't it usual to ask the sitter's permission before doing the painting?" she said coldly.

"How do you know it is you?"

"Did grandma tell you they would make coins on your feet if you wore them?"

"Yes."

"How did she know?"

"She found out by experience, just as I did."

"Hadn't she any mamma to warn her against wearing them?"

"Oh, yes."

"But she wore them just the same?"

"To be sure."

"And you did too?"

"Yes. That is what I was telling you."

"Well, if I ever have any daughters I ought to be able to give them a warning against high heeled shoes from my own experience, oughtn't I?"—Chicago Tribune.

"What are you going to do?" asked Mabel faintly.

"Destroy it, or, rather, let you for I can't. You see, my whole heart and soul have gone into it, all my dreams and hopes and ideals, and I can't." He handed the knife to her.

She took it, but did not use it. "I don't know how," she said, "and I don't think I want to. Can't I have it? It's my picture."

"The mouth is wrong, you said, and the eyes. I couldn't let anything wrong go out."

"You might correct it."

"I would take a lifetime."

"If I don't think I mind so very much if it did," whispered Miss Mabel Hastings, "but I suppose Mrs. Dickson would be angry if I suited with him, and a number of other things."

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"Heaven!" he exclaimed. "How did you come to get that so soon?"

"Goodly, dear Mr. Dickson," said the innocent Mrs. Pounderry effusively. "I am so sorry you can't sing. You really ought to learn, you know."

And then it was that Dickson's face rivaled the best root for beauty of coloring, and he fled.

And Graham agreed.

THE WEIGHT OF MONEY.

Deceptive Appearance of Metal as Well as Paper.

"The weight of money is very deceptive," said an employee of the treasury. "For instance, a young man came in here one day with a young woman. I was showing them through the department and happened to ask him if he thought the young girl was worth her weight in gold. He assured me that he certainly did think so, and after learning that her weight was 106 pounds we figured that she would be worth in gold \$28,647. The young man was fond enough of her to think that she was rather cheap."

"Another thing that deceives many people," he continued, "is the weight of paper money. Now, nowadays one dollar bills do you think it would take to weigh as much as one dollar goldpiece?"

On a guess the visitor said fifty, and the clerk laughed.

"I have heard guesses on that," he said, "all the way from 50 to 500, and from men who have handled money for years. The fact of the matter is that with a five dollar goldpiece in one scale you would only have to put six and one-half dollar bills on the other scale to make it balance."

"The question afterward was put to several people and elicited answers all the way from 29 to 1,000, the majority guessing from 300 to 500."

"Taking the weight of gold coins and bills given at the treasury, it was figured that a five dollar goldpiece weighs .206 of an ounce avoirdupois. The employee at the treasury who handled the paper money said that 400 bills weighed four and one-half ounces. That would make one bill weigh .45 of an ounce, and between six and seven bills would balance the goldpiece."

On the proposition of how much money one can lift, figures were obtained at the treasury. Where certain numbers of coins were placed in bags and weighed at standards, for example, the standard amount of gold coin is \$5,000, which weighs 184 pounds. Five hundred silver dollars weigh 352 pounds, while \$200 in halves, or 400 coins, weigh eleven pounds.

Two hundred pounds of coin money of various kinds is made up as follows: Silver dollars, \$2,617; half dollars, \$2,636; quarter dollars, \$3,657; dimes, \$3,636; nickels, \$917; pennies, \$295,61.

In one dollar bills the same weight would amount to \$71,111.—Washington Star.

SENTENCE SERMONS.

Honesty needs no advertising:

That which is useless cannot be harmful.

Who will not be a servant cannot be a saint.

It is easier to endure failure than to succeed.

Parading a cross is no proof of possessing a crown.

Emitting new ideas is no proof of loyalty to old ones.

A little sin may hold as much sorrow as a large one.

He gives but an empty hand who withholds his heart.

It is no sign that a man is riding to heaven because he is driving others there.

Better the service without the sentence than the sentence without the service.—Chicago Tribune.

THE AGE OF HURRY.

There is no backwater to which this impetuous tide of hurry has not pene-

trated, and if we try to find one where we may lie in a punt on plunk bushes under a tree we are certainly be-

ing restless by the long since hour of a frosty storm, launch or the short double line of searing motor car and instead of lying still we jump up and cry, "Oh, wait for me and take me, I'm in terrible hurry, get there and do it with me." And when we do, we are taken in, and have recovered our breath we are well on our way again to do it, we remember to ask where we are bound for and what we are going to do. A Countess in London quotes,

"The so-called epidemic of grip which usually appears every winter," said a well known physician, "are more imagined than real. This troublesome dis-

ease shows a marked increase and is

attributed after a full score of days to peculiar atmospheric con-

ditions which follow a snowfall and which affect the bronchial system in such a way as to bring about the unpleasant grip. After an unusually se-

vere snow-storm a number of years ago I had as many as eighty calls a day all pure cases of the grip, it is a day

after the snowfall that one must take the necessary precautions to evade the disease."

How to Evade Grip.

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By order of the Town Council and as approved by the Chief Burgess of the Borough of Danville, Pa.

Attn.—
HARRY B. PATTON,
Secretary of the Borough of Danville.

BENTON B. BROWN,
High Constable of the Borough of Danville.

Council Chamber, City Hall, Danville, Pa., June 21, 1904.

SCHOOL OF EXPERIENCE.

"Daughter, you ought not to wear those high heeled shoes. They will make corns on your feet."

"How do you know, mamma?"

"Because I used to wear them when I was a girl."

"Did grandma tell you they would make corns on your feet if you wore them?"

"Yes."

"How did she know?"

"She found out by experience, just as I did."

"Hadn't she any mamma to warn her against wearing them?"

"Oh, yes."

"But she wore them just the same?"

"To be sure."

"And you did too?"

"Yes. That is what I was telling you."

"Well, if I ever have any daughters I ought to be able to give them a warning against high heeled shoes from my own experience."

"Please give me something else instead of those pennies," she said.

"I have not room for them in my small purse."

"That's good money," retorted the conductor briskly.

"I am aware of that," continued the woman, "but it is as good to you as to me. You have more room in your overcoat pocket than I have in my purse."

"The conductor said nothing, but he did not take back the pennies. Two women who had boarded the car in time to hear the conversation looked comiserately at their sister in distress.

"Here!" exclaimed one of them, leaning toward her and proffering a dime.

"Please give me your ten pennies."

"The exchange was made, and, dropping the ten pennies into the open palm of the conductor, she smiled with a sly smile.

"The conductor looked thoughtful as he walked to the platform.—New York Press.

Very Easy for Her.

A "woman's reason," with all its traditional lack of logic, came out in an amusing fashion at a recent dinner party in Brooklyn.

In the course of the evening the conversation