THE WIDOW'S SECRET

"I don't think you treat him right", said the rosy little widow to the dressmaker who was fitting her trim figure to a silk gown of the color of "moon upon the lake," and at the same time holding her head back, and a trifle to one side, lest her tears should drop thereon. 'I don't think women know

how to treat their husbands.' 'You must be expert in the matter, responded Mrs. Fittem, 'seeing this is the fourth time you have tried 'em. Hollow in your back a trifle, as is natural to you-there-set's like a duck's foot in the mud-can't be bettered.' she exclaimed professionally.

The widow eyed herself sharply, turning from side to side, and smiling consciously at her own prettiness.

'Yes, that will do, Mrs. Fittem; but I am sure you don't treat your husband right.'

'Shouldn't wonder, ma'am, seeing my patience has clean gone out of me. This will be your fourth husband. Well, well, you must, begging your pardon, like men better'n I do. 'Moon upon the lake,' is mighty becoming to you, and very suitable for a widow.'

The lady reddened, but she gave a short laugh, also, as she answered in a way and manner to hide the sting under what she said,-

'Men are good creatures when women know how to manage them. They do seem to incline more to some women more than others.'

You never had a drinking husband, ma'am,' I suppose ? 'Bless you! no, never! I could not

be on her guard.

thrive and grow pretty upon it. The widow laughed, saying,-'I never gave it a thought-but it about.'

may be so. 'Going to be married the fourth time! Not a chick nor child! not forty yet, and plump and pretty as ever! Upon my word, ma'am, I don't see how you

manage.' 'Oh, that's a secret.' Mrs. Fittem opened her eyes wide, and slowly repeated, --

'A secret !' 'Yes, indeed; I have found it work admirably with three husbands, and doubt not it will work just as well with the fourth.

dressmaker, dropping the cord she was covering to put the flounce on with, and an ill-disguised horror on her face. 'Oh, I didn't kill my three husbands.

They were dotingly fond of me to the last, and left me well provided for.' 'Do tell me your secret, ma'am,' and an expectant, not to say painful

hope, brightened her wan face. 'It isn't much, Mrs. Fittem, and yet it is a sccret, and its application has been, as it were, disastrous in my case. I am sure I never expected it.'

'Dear me! you seem to own up to something. Did they die suddenly, poor critters?'

'Quite the contrary; they lingered along as if loth to go.' Poor critters! I should have thought

you would have felt bad.' 'I did, indeed;' and the pretty woman preparing to wed her fourth husband wept at the memory of the

three. Do tell me all about it," persisted the other with a look not sympathetic. 'Yours tears haven't seemed to dim

your handsome eyes.' 'I don't know about that-I never thought about it-but, Mrs. Fittem.

first and last I have cried a great deal. 'Perhaps you had a reason unknown to the world, ma'am. But I want

dreadfully to know how you managed it.' Our widow was a sort of widow Wadey-easily beguiled to tears or smilesand she began to perce ve that the

astute dressmaker had some latent design in thus questioning her, which she did not object to gratify. Accordingly she assumed the narrative form, while the needle of her auditor clicked against her thimble in concert. 'My first husband you must know, was well-to-do, but not rich. He was what is called a model man. We went

to church every Sunday, and dropped

twenty-five cents each into the contribution-box-never more or less. I knit him stockings and made him shirts; he liked to see women industrious, and I was industrious. We went to lectures, and no wand then to a social partyalways at home and in bed at ten o'clock. He was agreeable in temper, and apt to drop to sleep. Slow, and automatic in movement. He had a way of looking into kettles and jars, as as if he expected to find things out of order; and he did so find them, sometimes-it was a comfort to him. He read all my letters; he liked it. He poked over my bureau drawers, and saw all my gloves and laces in such a mess-and in the mildest way reprimanded me. This was a comfort to him, also. He had not a fault; he had not a vice; he had not an inordinate

desire. I wished he had.' 'You wicked woman!' ejaculated the dressmaker. 'You didn't know when you were well off.

'I know it -I know it-I didn't somehow grow good with such a man as I ought to have done, but when he was rear threshold. 'Was are you contemgone I saw it all, and almost cried my | plating, lovey? Who is it?' eyes out. You see a man is a good is sure to feel lonesome and out of sorts | shoulder, and replied,when he is gone. I learned to think Dear, dear ducky, the nice little a dull husband by no means undesirable widow has been telling me how-how I as a husband. Now the second hus- might be a widow.' band. I wore my widow's weeds the 'She has? She understands the conventional period, though several of business, I should think.' The idea FOR TERMS AND FURTHER PARthe most agreeable men were attentive had the effect to sober him. 'What TICULARS to me, but I shut my eyes. I managed did she want you to do, lovey? to prevent them from proposing, for I 'Well-it was dreadful! rather liked my freedom, and somehow three excellent men, who had known a warrant out and arrest her; I'll have

The dressmaker groaned. such a husband must be beautiful.'

'That is true, Mrs. Fittem-and he and threw herself into his arms. thought me beautiful. But you must | 'I will never do it, duckey, never.' understand he was a model man, and he 'I am sure of it, I can trust you. did his best to make me a model wo- You are not fit to be a poor lone widow. man-but it was not in me. We women You need the protecting arm of some are naturally preverse, and apt to think husband. our way as good as a man s way.'

'So it is, only a good deal better,' muttered the other.

'I don't know about that. I am apt to think a man is wiser about many things than we are; but, any way, married people will quarrel as a rule, because each is bent upon his own way. Now I never disputed a husbandnever, never opposed him. But, as I was going to say, one of my admirers was of a different kind. He was bright, dashing, high-spirited and witty. He quite took me by storm of contrast.

He was not a model man by any means, but he was intelligent, loved boats, and had a fine taste for music. He had a mean opinion of women in general, and was sometimes furious at himself for loving me. He declared he would be master in spite of me, which was quite unnecessary, for I rather liked to have a master as saving trouble and responsibility. I hate disputes and fuss of any kind, and let matters slide in the

easiest manner possible.' 'I should think you might be a little lazy,' returned ner auditor.

'Is that the name for it? Well, perhaps I am. He would get into a fury about his buttons, and because a door creaked, or the coffee was poor, and storm about the house, and slam doors and kick over chairs, at which I only said, 'Softly, softly, dear,' which only made him worse.'

'I believe you,' said the dressmaker 'He even called me a devil once, in a sort of tender fit, and quoted Shake-

speare,-

" 'Perdition catch my soul, but I do love thee! 'He said I would sit perfectly calm on a husband's coffin while he smotherabide the breath. A woman ought to ed beneath, for what is a woman to do, but be quiet, while a big, strong man is 'It seems so strange. Widowhood raging about nothing. In one of these seems natural to some women-they spells he broke a blood vessel on the brain, and an autopsy showed a disease

of the head, which was pitiful to think 'I wonder he hadn't killed you,' was the response of Mrs. Fittem.

'My third husband was all sentiment and called me pet names, that would have delighted Fanny Osgood, the poet. I took them all patiently.' 'Patiently!' cried her hearer. "It

must have been delightful.' 'Yes, when he called me pet, I had an excuse for being girlish, if birdie, I might thrill my notes; queeny might be cold and proud, so he had it all his own way. But your sentimental man wants | fitted with PATENT OVENS the inner shells of a good deal of sentiment in return; 'Bless my heart!' exclaimed the must be indulged and coddled, and sees everything in a sweet Arcadian light : wants his wife to dress in out-of-the-

> way styles; quotes:-"Give me a form, give me a face, That lends simplicity a grace. Robes loosely flowing, hair as free; Such sweet neglect more taketh me Than all the adulteries of art, That take mine eye but not my heart.'

'I went about mindless of the cestus of Venus, and had an excuse for showing my beautiful hair, and dawdled over Moore and Byron, feeling internally that I was a poor goose, and a sort of fraud, for too much sentiment is very tiresome.'

'And he died like the rest?' 'Y-e-s,' and the widow tapped a anall boot upon the carpet musingly. 'It seems to me that your second husband understood you better than the

others,' remarked the dressmaker. 'How so! no matter; but you must see that I am right in thinking you do not know how to manage your husband, SUPERORITY Mrs. Fittem.

'You have not told me your secret.' 'Do you not guess it?' 'It seems to me that you let them

have their own way.' 'To be sure I did. It is fatal to man or to woman always to have their own

way. A little contention is the passport of love. Nothing is more fatal than indifference. 'And you married three men and in

different to all!' The widow reddened.

'Perhaps I am naturally of that kind, while you, Mrs. Fittem, oppose, fret, scold, and not happy yourself, nor do you make him any the better man : en are not easily turned about.

'What would you do in a case like | mine, where a man drinks?" 'I would manage just the same.' 'But how, ma'am? how?'

'Well, well,' muttered the widow Groceries, Winter Apples, half to herself, 'I can't find opinions and make annotations on them. 'Do tell your secret, now, I cannot for my life guess what it is.

'Dear Mrs. Fittem, you are an admirable dressmaker-my silk, to use my in the mud; but you don't know how to nanage a husband. You must come the morning I am to be married and see that I am all right. Mr. Blank is fastidious. My hat is a perfect love of a hat, and makes me look charmingly but let me advise you,' laying at the same time a nicely gauntleted hand on Mrs. Fittem's shoulder, 'let your husband have his own way,' and she whirled her limber little shape out of the door, with a musical laugh that did

not crinkle her cheeks nor pucker her Mrs. Fittem gave the moon-upon-thelake dress a somewhat vigorous kick

and exclaimed,-'She's a devil-that's what she is, and three times a widow.'

'So are all women,' hiccoughed a maudlin voice just coming in over the

The dressmaker eyed him a moment thing about the house, to lock the doors scornfully, but the calling her lovey, yaH will find this as represented and look after things. When a woman did the business for him; with mingled is once used to having one around she tears and smiles she patted his dusty

·Well, well, what was it? I'll have my excellent husband, were not to my her shown up for what she is-the she mind. I am afraid I hated good men.' Harry Tudor-the she Blue Beard that she is,' and he went so far as to kiss the 'Oh, how could you? I am sure cheek of his poor wife, who quite broke down under this unwonted tenderness,

Mrs. Fittem drew herself up a bit at

this; there was rebellion in her look. 'Yes, she told me her secret,' she

'What was it, lovey ? I am sure you would not hurt a hair of the head of your poor, devoted-'

Here he broke down from some cause or other, and staggered to one side. 'I told her about your drinking so, James, and how you spent my earnings, and how I get out of all patience and sometimes well nigh hate you.' This was said with grave solemnity, and then she added briskly. 'What do you think she told me to do?

'Couldn't guess: but I'm very sure you won't do it.' 'Never-you would not live a month.'

'Do tell-do tell what it was.' 'She told me to let you have your own way-think of that!'

The man's eyes twinkled with wicked

'That wasn't so bad, lovey.' 'Not so bad! why, you would drink yourself to death in a month or less, if I

let you have your own way.' 'Oh, no; I would be cautious for your dear sake, so unfit to be a widow. Let me have my own way, lovey; I'll

widow's advice. Under the circumstances, the reader can easily divine why Mrs. Fittem became a widow.

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Also, All and singular that certain oher Lot "or parcel of Land and premises lying and beinging the Parish of Rogersville, in the County of Nor-thumberland and Province aforesaid, and described as follows: -Beginning at the corner of Lot Pleasant Ridge Settlement, thence running by the magnet north forty-five degrees west fiftytwo chains, thence north sixty degrees east twen ty chains and twenty-five links, thence south fifty-eight chains to the place of beginning, conining 50 acres, and distinguished as the west half of Lot number sixty-three Jeib Lot, in the easant Ridge Settlement Also, all and singular that certain other lot of arcel of land and premises lying and being in he Parish of Rogersville, in the County of Norumberland and Province aforesaid, and described as follows;-Beginning at a stake standing on the Eastern side of the reserved road at the cor-And she did-she followed the ner of Lot, No. eighty-eight granted Luck Brow, hence running by the magnet south forty-five egrees east fifty-five chains and sixty links, nce south eighteen degrees west twenty chains, thence north forty-five degrees west fifty-five chains and sixty links to the easternside of the aforesaid reserved road, and thence along

the same north eighteen degrees east twent hains to the place of beginning, containing los more or less, and distinguished as Lo umber eighty-nine in Pleasant Ridge. The same having been seized under and by virtue of an Execution issued out of the Nor thumberland County Court by Michael O'Brien inst the said Frank Burk and Oliver Burk. Sheriff of Northumberland County, Sheriff's Office, Newcastle, 14th Decembe

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title, dower and thirds, property claim and de-mand whatever, both at law and in equity, of hem, the said George Arnold and Annie Maria Arnold, of, in, to, out of, or upon the said lands and premises, or any part thereof Dated this 25th day of January, A D, 1886. JOHN HAVILAND,

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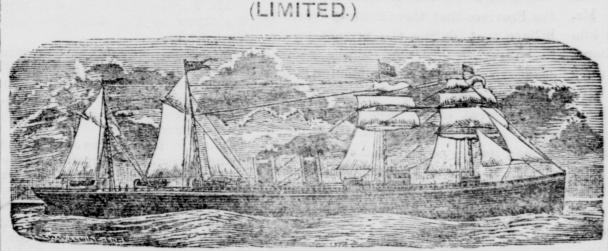
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