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Confession of an Every-Day Wife

By Idah McGlone Gibson

HOW THEO HELPED EMIL BAUR

My room looked rather untidy in the morning light, for it had not been touched since I had left hurriedly to go to father's bedside. Mechanically I began to straighten things up and restore the tidy appearance the room usually had. But all the resilience of the morning had left me. I hardly had the strength or inclination to remove my hat and cape and loosen my dress before I threw myself heavily on the bed.

I was so fatigued that in spite of my mental worry I immediately fell asleep. I did not awake until nearly noon and then only because of the noise I heard in Theo's room. Two voices, speaking in subdued but tense tones, I recognized almost before I was thoroughly awake. Robert and Theo were quarrelling about something.

"I tell you it has got to stop," said Robert.

"Are you going to stop me?" asked Theo, and I noticed his voice trembled with rage.

"If you are not man enough to stand by your obligations I'll make you," answered Robert. "You know I saw you this morning slinking up to the side-door of Sallie Saunders' home with your car covered with mud and both you and that pretty limb of Satan looking as though you had been stealing chickens from a preacher's hen-house."

Theo replied only by an indignant snort.

"Can't you see that that amateur vampire is using you for her own ends? The moment I read the morning papers I understood what you had been doing—you, an American soldier of good family to allow yourself to be bamboozled by a woman like Sallie Saunders into helping her old lover to escape. Bah! It makes me sick."

"Look here, Budge, you are going too far. I did not know I was helping that Baur rat to escape and neither did Sallie. When I left you and Margot at the house of the Commissioner last night I intended to come straight home. Indeed I had started the car up the street in which Sallie Saunders lives on my way here. When I was opposite the Saunders house I saw Sallie standing down by the driveway gate, and naturally I slowed down. She seemed very uneasy; said she was suffering from one of her old nervous headaches and had come outdoors for a little air before going to bed.

"She would have gone for a drive, she said, but her father had taken the car into town for repairs.

"Then I just did what you or any other friend would have done—I asked her to go for a little spin in my car. 'Oh thank so much, Theo,' she exclaimed, as though I had taken a heavy load off her mind. 'Take me down the river road. I'll be quiet down there.'

"I tell you Sallie was nervous. Every little while she said, 'Go faster, Theo' and I let the car out a notch or two. As we turned into the river road she seemed to grow calmer and came to slow down a little. We said nothing to each other except that I asked her to say when she wished me

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to turn back.

"Oh, Theo, let us go a little further," she answered, "it seems as though this restful drive in the moonlight with you was bringing me new life, new hope."

"I was wondering how I was going to get home before Margot and save an awkward explanation, but I kept on—more slowly now—for I had decided to put on full speed and come home as soon as possible the minute Sallie felt we had gone far enough."

"All at once I saw something that looked like a man lying across the road a few yards away. Sallie must have seen it too, for she clasped my arm convulsively and whispered, 'Be careful or you will run over him.'

"I drove up to the figure and made sure it was a man. I stopped the car and the man rolled over, seemingly with great difficulty and held up a hand. In an instant Sallie was out in the road beside him. 'Oh, he is hurt Theo,' she exclaimed, 'and we must get him into the car and take him somewhere.'

"A pretty kettle of fish, with Margot home wondering what had become of me, but at that I could not leave the man there in the middle of the road. I scrambled out of the car and took hold of his feet while Sallie lifted his shoulders. I said I had better take his head, as it was heavier, but Sallie said 'I am much stronger than I look and if you will just hold his legs I know we can lift him.'

(Tomorrow—"When Brothers Quarrel.")

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A public meeting for the reorganization of the Young Men's Christian Association of Fredericton will be held at the Y. M. C. A. Building, on York street, on

THURSDAY EVENING, 23rd Inst. at 8 o'clock.

All men and boys who are interested in this project are invited to attend.

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