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Two Husbands
Wanted Hazel Deyo Batchelor



CHAPTER I
POLLY LONG

In the softly lighted salon of the display room on 57th street Ralph Halliday sat beside his wife, Lola. She always insisted that he be present when she selected her gowns and it bored Ralph.

But today there was an electric current as of fall in the air. Ralph felt that something was about to happen to him and was restless. Bored, he raised his eyes to the velvet-covered dais of the expensive display room to study the mannequins. How alike they were—and yet—

He glimpsed a slim silken ankle. It looked like the ankle of a child. He raised his eyes still farther to see a child's innocent face and a child's slim fingers held away from the costume she was showing.

At 24 Polly Long looked 18 and yet life had not been kind to her!

She came around the platform again, small chin raised, brown eyes fixed in the meaningless smile she had been taught to wear. A soft grey felt hat framed her dark hair and she was wearing a gray fall suit trimmed with squirrel. Ralph was staring at her fixedly when Lola's sharp voice broke in on him.

As she turned, she saw his face and for a moment her heart contracted. Was she imagining ideas? But of course not. Such an idea was absurd! She could still twist Ralph around her little finger. He loved her!

"The beige street-gown," she had begun to say. Then she changed her mind.

"That gray model is entirely wrong for my coloring."

Therese began to protest that nothing was wrong for Lola's coloring but Lola grew more insistent.

"All right, Therese, I like the beige suit. You might measure me for that and I'll come in later to look at evening dresses."

Once more about the platform stalked the mannequins, slim, delectable and young. It was then that Polly saw him, saw him as once long ago in a romance Elaine had seen Lancelot. And as Elaine had loved Lancelot Polly loved Ralph instantly. He stirred her dreams to a romantic awakening. She shivered as she stepped down from the back of the platform. A childish resentment filled her heart.

Would she ever see him again? And who was he? Perhaps some of the girls would know and yet she hesitated to ask any of them.

She was sitting in the workroom wearing only her slip when Annette entered. The two girls were entirely different. Annette had worn the beige suit that Lola Halliday had selected. After she had pulled it over her head without hurting a wave of her beautiful marcel, she sat down beside Polly.

"Don't you ever get tired of this life?"

"Yes." Polly was mending a small rip in her stocking. It wasn't necessary to

meet Annette's eyes while she sewed and she could afford to let the other girl's voice drone on and on.

Annette wanted good times, frivolity, a rich husband.

Polly, our heroine, wanted only romance!

She came to herself conscious that she hadn't heard a thing that Annette had been saying. She forced herself to laugh and changed the subject.

"I know it, Annette. This life isn't easy, but then it might be worse."

"What could be worse?" Annette retorted.

"An office job would be worse," said Polly.

Annette shrugged. "Well, I suppose it's all in the way you look at it. Sometimes I wish I'd taken up stenography. At least I'd meet some one in a job like that, some handsome man who might fancy my looks and take me on for life."

She stood up suddenly and passion mounted in her voice.

"What do we get in a job like this but constant temptation? We wear beautiful things and then they're taken away from us."

"Oh, but it's like looking into Fairyland while it lasts," protested Polly. She would have said more, but Madame Therese was beckoning to Annette from the door of the models' room.

Outside, there occurred the following conversation:

"Not a word to Polly about the Hallidays."

Annette stared sulkily, and a little fear stabbed her heart. The job that a moment ago she had been disparaging seemed suddenly wonderful to her, but Madame needn't speak to her like that—just as if she had done something wrong.

"You mean—"

"Yes, I mean just that, Mr. Halliday is a good customer. We can't afford to lose him, and Polly is a strange child. She mustn't know that he is married."

Annette longed to be able to tell Madame what she thought, but there was the question of her job and she certainly needed the money. When she returned to the models' room, however, she stared at Polly—Polly, who seemed suddenly no more than 16 years of age.

Polly had finished her sewing and looked up.

"Did you sell the beige dress?"

"Yes, Gee, I'd certainly like to own that for my own fall turnout, wouldn't you?"

Polly shook her head slowly, but she smiled.

"I like my own much better."

"You didn't sell it."

"Oh, well, that's my bad luck."

She was getting into her street things, simple things very different from the gray suit she had been wearing. As she dabbed her nose with powder, the other side trailed into the room, and for a moment she fancied they

looked at her strangely. They said nothing, however, and when she left called a cheery good-by to her. But the minute her back was turned they burst into animated conversation.

"Can you beat it? Madame has warned all of us not to breathe a word about the Hallidays. She doesn't want Polly to know that Ralph is married. We're not to tell her on penalty of losing our jobs."

Tomorrow—The Finger of Fate.

SPRING IN WINTER.

What though the winter skies
Be cold and grey?
I have her deep blue eyes
To light my way.

What though the winds bow keen?
I do not care,
Once her smile I have seen
And her soft hair.
What though no song of bird
Falls on my ear,
If I her voice have heard
And she is near?

O let the long months bring
Blessing or bane!
With her the tender spring
Comes back again.

March by the calendar?
Bid it depart;
April still stays with her
Fast in my heart.

—EDWARD FULLER in Philadelphia Inquirer.

The New Year has to make one detour around February 29.

CITY OF FREDERICTON—NOTICE OF SALE OF LANDS

NOTICE is hereby given, that pursuant to the provisions of the City of Fredericton Assessment Act, 1926, there will, for the purpose of satisfying taxes assessed and levied in the said City of Fredericton, for the years mentioned hereunder, against the parties hereinafter named, unless the several sums due, together with the costs of this notice are sooner paid, be sold at Public Auction in front of the City Hall, in the City of Fredericton, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the 21st day of January A. D. 1928, all the right, title and interest of the parties hereinafter named in and to the lands and premises in the said City of Fredericton, hereunder mentioned and set opposite their respective names.

Property to be Sold	Name of Person Assessed	Arrears for Years	Total Due
Lot of land and building, eastern side of Carleton Street, leased from His Majesty the King in right of Dominion of Canada by said Company.	Arctic Rink Company Limited.	1925-1926-1927 Interest	\$ 416.57 37.63
Lot eastside of Smythe Street, near line of Valley Railway, described in deed from H. J. Patterson to said August Lofstrum dated February 20th, 1918.	August Lofstrum	1925-1926-1927 Interest	\$ 151.23 11.16
1.—Lot at Corner of York and King Street, 43 feet 2 inches on York, and 92 feet on King. 2.—Lot on south side of George Street, deed from Isabella Staples, October 2nd, 1916, to Alonzo Staples. 3.—Lot on Northumberland Street west side, south of Aberdeen Street, 100 feet, 45 ft. front.	Alonzo Staples	1925-1926-1927 Interest	\$2159.13 126.33 169.75

Dated the 17th day of November, A. D. 1927.

FRED I. HAVILAND,
City Treasurer of the City of Fredericton.

VISITING TOURISTS HAVE SPENT
\$218,500,000 IN THE PROVINCE OF
QUEBEC IN LAST FIVE YEARS

Montreal, Jan. 14—In the past five years visiting tourists in the Province of Quebec have spent, it has been estimated, the sum of \$218,500,000, with an expenditure on the roads of this province standing at \$90,000,000 for the same period, said Hon. J. L. Perron, minister of highways for Quebec, in an address last evening before the members of the Adirondack Resorts Association, which is holding a two days' convention in this city.

The money thus spent by the visiting tourists is a great help to the farmers and the people of Quebec, continued Mr. Perron, for the money stays in the province. The Minister made these remarks in giving a resume of the road building activities of the Quebec Government and in pointing out the beauties of the province to the members of the association, who were the guests of the Mount Royal Hotel.

Amounts Increased.

The amount spent by tourists in the province was shown to have increased year by year. In 1923, \$23,000,000 was spent; in 1924, \$38,000,000; in 1925, \$45,000,000; in 1926, \$50,000,000; and in the year that has just ended a total of \$52,500,000 was left in the province. This amount would undoubtedly have been greater, explained the Minister, if the unfortunate conditions of last spring, such as the typhoid epidemic, had not existed.

In spite of the campaign that was carried on against visiting Montreal on account of the epidemic, there was an increase of 25 per cent in the number of cars from across the border. A total of 233,000 automobiles entered Quebec from United States during the last year as against 265,000 in the previous year, said Mr. Perron. Of these 56 per cent came through the Adirondacks, so that this province is directly concerned in the doings of hotels, resorts and publicity bureaus in the above region, said the speaker.

Big Employer.

The road department of the Quebec Government was the largest employer of men in the past summer during the time roads were under construction, said the Minister, having over 20,000 in its employ. During the four and one half months of activity, 1300 miles of road were built, making a total of 8,000 miles of good roads which were entirely kept up by government. Quebec, he said, is the only district in the world that has so many miles of good roads to which the individual does not have to contribute to the cost or maintenance. Since 1911, it has been estimated that ninety millions were spent on roads.

In connection with the country hotels of the province which Hon. Mr. Perron now has under his supervision, he said that the Government now maintains two inspectors who have visited over 150 of the hotels throughout the province at the request of the owners and have suggested means whereby to improve the service while still maintaining a profit. In two or three years he says that Quebec will have one of the best hotel systems

of the world, and that in 10 years time he is sure that it will be equal to that of the Adirondacks.

The Minister touched on some of the beauty spots of the province, and said that by this time next year the Government will have completed a highway along the Gaspé Peninsula which will be known as one of the prettiest drives in the world. It will then be able to complete a round trip of 1,000 miles along the sea coast, starting from Levis and coming back by way of the north shore of the river.

Need For Co-operation.

Col. W. B. Woodbury, vice-president of the New York State Conservation Association and prominent New Yorker, spoke to the gathered guests on the need of co-operation for success in industry and in private life, stating that it is an economic necessity. The two tourists organizations were obtaining magnificent results through collective action, he said.

During the day the members of the association were the guests of the Windsor Hotel management, and addresses were given by Ald. T. G. Morgan, president of the Montreal Tourist and Convention Bureau, Incorporated, and John T. Gren of New York City. The guests were also welcomed by George A. McNamee, secretary-treasurer of the Montreal organization, and S. J. Mathewson, convention manager, who both took an active part in making arrangements for the entertaining of the visitors.

Ald. T. G. Morgan welcomed the guests in behalf of the city, and stressed the existence of the friendship that existed between the two organizations. He stated that it was not a remote possibility to look forward to an open highway for tourists between Montreal and New York all the year round.

Mr. Gren, director of the touring department of the Automobile Club of America, spoke of the goodwill existing between the motorists of both countries and stressed the opportunities that there was for recreational travel in the Adirondacks. He, in his concluding remarks, pointed out the tendency of the American travellers to come, more and more, into this province.

TWO MEN WERE
RESCUED BY A
CANADIAN SHIP

New York, Jan. 15—Two men, swept far out to sea from West Palm Beach, Fla., in a disabled launch and picked up after three days by the Canadian steamer Pioneer, reached here on board the steamer yesterday.

They are Olin Swenson, of Brooklyn, and Albert Carter, of West Palm Beach, negro mechanic. Their two cans of food and jug of water were empty when they were rescued, and they were near exhaustion. The high seas forced them to bail water steadily for hours.