

# Two Husbands Wanted *by Hazel Deyo Batchelor*



## SYNOPSIS

Life to Lola Halliday is just one dashing from one place to another. From Florida to Maine, anywhere, so long as to be away from her husband, Ralph, who adores her. They have drifted apart and Lola thinks he is interested in another woman, Polly Long, a mannequin in the establishment of Madame Therese. He and Polly are friends, because he is lonely, but he adores his wife. The mannequins in the shop are warned to let Polly think that Ralph is Lola's sister, and when Ralph persuades Polly and the little mother to move to New York everything is fine until Annette, one of the mannequins, follows Polly home one night and uses a threatening attitude. Mrs. Long takes an intense dislike to the girl, and consents to Polly's going on the stage. Christmas night John Blake enters the story. John is shocked because Ralph has not told Polly he is married and because he is allowing her to go on the stage. There is a tragedy in John's life and he can go only just so far. Polly and John see Lola in the lobby of a hotel one day, and he has an attack in the taxi going home. Lola gets seats for the show in which Polly is appearing, and there is mutual recognition. Polly sprains an ankle, and Lola tries to see her, but she has already been taken home. Lola demands that Ralph give up his friendship with Polly. He pleads for her love. Polly's ankle makes her fretful because it piles extra work on her mother. Dr. Waite insists upon a rest for Mrs. Long. Ralph tells his father he is joining Lola at the Bradley camp in Maine when in reality he is taking Polly and her mother to the shore. Then Annette puts in an appearance. It is impossible to avoid her. She is staying at a stucco cottage belonging to Royal Hamilton, an older man. There are other guests. Polly is forced to accept invitations back and forth. Now we turn to Lola and Ted Bradley. Lola writes to Ralph not to come up until later. She is afraid he will spoil her good time. Other men are taking her about and she knows that Louise Bradley is interested in Ralph. But when she receives his letter marked Short Beach, she is suspicious once more and believes he is with Polly. She writes her father. Old Mr. and Mrs. Halliday arrive at Bar Harbor and are ensconced at the big hotel. They cannot understand why Ralph has fled to them and is at Short Beach. In the meantime, they see Lola playing around with Ted Bradley and other men. The gay summer is spoiled by Mrs. Long's sudden death. She is drowned and Ralph carries Polly back to the city, where Annette

stays with her. Ralph does not want Polly to stay with any one in the apartment, and she suggests Annette as a possible companion. Ralph shakes his head. He knows that Royal sees Annette and he does not want Polly to know Royal better. John Blake telephones and comes to see her, intending to tell her how much he cares. But he does nothing of the kind, because he feels he doesn't make enough in the advertising business. Ralph tries to find a chaperone for Polly and fails. Lola sneers and finally suggests that the older Hallidays take her. They are delighted. Ralph works hard all day and Polly dances in the chorus of "Brighter and Brighter." Lola runs around with Ted Bradley and Royal Hamilton, who has tired of Annette. He suggests that Lola get Polly, and they make up a four-some some evening. Lola taunts him.

## INSTALLMENT TWENTY-FIVE. ROYAL OND POLLY.

But the time came when things could no longer be hushed up and Polly, with no other person to confide in, went to Ralph's mother. "But, my dear!" Old Mrs. Halliday was shocked beyond words. Shocked at Ralph, and shocked at the unfairness meted out to Polly. It was a dastardly thing for Madame Therese to tell Polly that Ralph and Lola were brother and sister, when they were married! Now, Polly had fallen in love with him, although he didn't live here at the house. But he did see her occasionally outside, and he had seen a great deal of her before Mrs. Long's death. It was all very difficult. "Listen, dear child!" "Yes." Polly's lovely childish face was upturned. It wore a troubled expression. She saw no reason why the engagement couldn't be announced, now that she was living with Ralph's father and mother, and so she had told of it simply and openly. Why did Mrs. Halliday look so horrified? "You can't marry Ralph." "I can't marry Ralph—but I can—I'm engaged to him now. Why do you say such dreadful things?" Tears gathered in Polly's large eyes and began to roll down her cheeks. She couldn't understand the puzzle. "But Ralph is married, dear." "Married! Oh, no!" "But he is." "To whom?" For the time being Polly had reverted into a little savage, and was ready to kill any woman who had taken Ralph away from her. But Mrs. Long shook her head sadly. "Lola and Ralph are married, dear." "Married?" "Yes." "I thought she was his sister. Madame Therese and all the girls told

me so and the little mother always believed it or else she wouldn't have allowed me to become engaged to Ralph." Polly was crying now. Tears were streaming down her sweet face, and Mrs. Halliday cried a little, too, in sympathy. Madame had done Polly and Lola and Ralph a great wrong, but that wrong couldn't be righted by divorce. Ralph and Polly and Lola must go on as they were. Polly must meet and marry some other man. Lola and Ralph must patch up their troubles and have some children. That would keep them out of danger. Mrs. Halliday carried Polly's news to her husband. "And the poor child thought she was engaged to him all the time. She was just waiting for our permission to announce it." Old Richard looked worried. "You think she loves the boy?" "I do. There's no doubt of it." "Does he love her?" "You know he doesn't, Richard. He's mad about Lola. You know I warned you not to engineer that match. Lola is sweet but she is a product of the times. They all fly around in search of excitement. There are fewer children, more divorces! You know that!" Richard did know that, and there was nothing to be done about it. Polly would have to go! But Polly and Ralph and Lola were all three dear to the older Hallidays. They didn't want to part with one of their children! What was to be done about it? In the end Polly left. She took a tiny place and managed with a part-time maid to do her work. She refused to see Ralph. He had fallen down from the pedestal on which she had placed him. He was no longer Sir Lancelot. Dear Sir Lancelot! And she had kept his shield for him all these days! Now he would never carry her away with him on his white charger! Ralph! Ralph! But Polly was not used to work. It tired her. She grew weak and thin. John protested when he saw her. He insisted that she eat more. He wanted to give her his love and protection, but that was impossible. He had loved Lola for so long—so long! Years had passed and he couldn't pluck his love from his heart. But he felt toward Polly like a sister. And so the matter stood. The Hallidays missed Polly, of course, but they felt they had acted for the best in the matter. It was Polly who suffered—more than any of the others save Ralph. She bore the suffering on her own frail shoulders and the weight proved too heavy. In the meantime Lola had met Polly at a party after the show one evening. Royal Hamilton introduced the two women to one another and they stared deep into each other's eyes. Polly was dark, with great dark-fringed eyes and glossy dark hair. Lola was fair. Her hair was a glittering shade of gold, her eyes blue. She

looked like an ice woman as she glittered across the table at Polly, but Polly looked wounded and hurt. She hadn't meant to love Ralph. She hadn't known he was married! Why did Lola blame her for what had happened? It wasn't fair! Polly was trying with all her might and main to be entertaining to Royal Hamilton. She wanted so much to like him. But how could she when she was already in love with Ralph? How could she? Royal invited her to go out with him, and at first she refused. But it was lonely. Often she couldn't sleep. Other girls had good times, and the evening arrived when she accepted Royal's invitation for dinner. Not only that, but she was to join him after the show at a gay party somewhere. The party would be comprised of chorus girls and college boys, with a liberal scattering of older men. Polly hated that! Nevertheless she went. Annette was there, sullen and disagreeable. There were several girls from the chorus of "Brighter and Brighter," silly bright dolls who talked a great deal and said nothing. But there were some sweet girls, some fresh, unspooled girls like Polly. They sat for the most part unnoticed, but Royal, who was determined to make an impression on Polly, kept claiming her attention. He loved the way her long lashes swept her cheeks, hiding her magnificent eyes when he complimented her. He loved the way the soft pink crept into her cheeks. She really was a darling. Royal loved Polly. She was different from the rest. He had watched her carefully all summer and he believed implicitly in the girl. She couldn't lie. The rest of these girls were all after his money. Polly wanted romance! He could make her love him romantically after a time, but all the other men would be trying to win her for themselves. If only he could win a promise from Polly, that would be something. He asked her that night. "Polly, sweet, will you marry me?" She shook her head. They were in Royal's big closed car. The chauffeur was driving and could not see Polly huddled into a corner of the limousine. "I don't love you, and Annette is mad about you." "But I'm not mad about Annette." "You used to be." "I never was, dear child. I befriended Annette, nothing more. I want you to be my wife!" Wife—but she couldn't marry any one but Ralph! She loved Ralph! And he was married to Lola! "Is there some one else?" "No," denied Polly. But Royal knew better. He knew that Polly loved Ralph. He knew the whole story. He would try to be patient until Polly was over her infatuation, for that was all it amounted to after all. But Polly didn't change, nor did Ralph, nor did Lola. Something big had to happen to shake them all out of their accustomed ways. And tragedy is hard for youth to bear, hard for dancing feet and light hearts. Polly had gone through her Gethsemane, and Ralph his, but there was more in store. Lola must suffer before he could see her way clear. John loved her, of course; he had always loved her, but the Hallidays had interfered. Not only that, but Lola was married to Ralph, his best friend!

To Be Continued.

## 17 KILLED WHEN CARS RUN WILD

Thionville, France Feb. 11—A string of freight cars breaking away from a train ran down a hill here last night and cut an electric car on a grade crossing in half. The car was crowded with homeward bound workmen. Seventeen of the 26 passengers aboard were killed. The remaining nine were injured. The motorman apparently crazed fled. The new Oxford dictionary, the last volume of which has gone to the printers, contains 425,000 words, so you can imagine what Tunney is up against.

## DESCRIBES WORK OF DR. TOTHILL FORMERLY OF THIS CITY AMONG THE FIJI ISLANDERS

At the recent meeting of the Fredericton Science Club, a letter from Dr. J. D. Tothill, the organizer and past President of the Society, was brought before the members by Mrs. C. C. Jones. This letter gave an outline of the success obtained in entomological work in Fiji, which was of particular interest to the Science Club members and may also be of interest to Dr. Tothill's friends in Fredericton. The letter was quite long, so the following summary has been prepared in which have been included a few remarks concerning Dr. Tothill which can be made here. In his letter Dr. Tothill stated that the colony at Fiji is purely agricultural, the three most important exports being sugar, copra and bananas. Copra, the dried kernel of the coconut, being second to sugar in value for export but in some ways more important as one of the mainstays of the native race. The coconut industry of the colony has an estimated value of \$2,700,000 and furnishes for the native inhabitants not only their most important cash crop, but in times of drought their food and drink. It is also the mainstay of most European planters and of many business houses in the colony. Catterpillar Ravages. This industry was threatened with destruction a few years ago through the ravages of the Purple Moth caterpillar, *Levuana iridescent*, which, while native on one of the islands, had no natural internal parasites to hold it in check and very few predaceous enemies. On this island, Viti Levu, which is a little larger than Jamaica, it has never been possible to produce copra because of this insect. In 1916 the insect was carried or spread in some way to another island in the group, and from there to a group of small, but important, islands producing about \$50,000 worth of copra per year and which were close to the principal coconut-growing islands of the colony. Once distributed to these islands, the insect had the chance to spread throughout the whole archipelago and cause the destruction of the copra industry. Faced with such a disaster, the government of Fiji had first offered a cash prize of \$25,000 to any one who could discover a remedy. On the advice of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology in England, this was later changed to an appropriation of funds for a scientific study of the problem. Dr. Tothill's work in the study of the parasitism of Tent Caterpillars, Fall Webworm and Spruce Bud Moth in Fredericton and in British Columbia made it that he was particularly fitted to undertake such a study and he was asked by the Imperial Government to do so. The Imperial Government obtained from the Canadian Government leave of absence for such study and from Fredericton Dr. Tothill was called to London for a conference with the directors of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology before proceeding to Fiji. This part is not mentioned in the letter but is included here as a bit of history of interest to Fredericton people. Coconut Growing. Continuing with Dr. Tothill's letter, he stated that while coconuts grow on the shores of most tropical countries, the Purple Coconut Moth existed at no other place except the island of Viti Levu. The hope of controlling it by parasitism, therefore, depended on the introduction of parasites of some related insect which might attack the caterpillars thus bringing about a relationship at that time non-existent in nature. Such a related insect subject to parasitism had been discovered in the Malady Peninsula and two unsuccessful attempts made to introduce the parasites to Fiji before Dr. Tothill undertook the solution of the problem. Movement of Insects. The movement of parasitic insects from Europe to America has been effected frequently, the transport being carried out during the dormant stage of the insect when it can be handled in cold storage. The movement of a tropical insect which cannot survive in cold storage or survive confinement in the hold of a ship over nearly six thousand miles of ocean between the Malay Peninsula and Fiji presented a biological problem of no mean order. This was made more difficult because no regular line of steamers plied be

tween Malay and Fiji, and transport could only be effected by occasional freight steamers of uncertain speed and sailing data. An assistant was sent to the Malay Peninsula, where the government of the Federated Malay States gave every possible assistance in furthering the project. After some months of search, a small colony of caterpillars called "Artona", affected with parasites, was discovered. This information was cabled to Fiji and from these arrangements were made for shipment by a steamer supposed to sail on a certain date. The letter then gives some very interesting details of the difficulties encountered in arranging for shipment when all communication had to be by long-distance cable from Fiji to the Malay Peninsula, to London and London to the Malay Peninsula. Steamer Delayed. The steamer which was to carry the shipment was delayed a week on the voyage to Singapore while assisting a vessel in distress. This delay made it more difficult to find caterpillars in a right condition of parasitism for shipment. Arrangements were made to ship by a steamer which would have to stop at Australia for coal, entailing a loss of several days' time. The Federated Malay States government provided special train service to rush seventeen cases of growing palm trees, on which the parasitized caterpillars had been placed, to Singapore in time for the sailing of this vessel. Since they could not be carried in the hold of a vessel, provision had to be made for shipment on the deck. At the last moment it was learned in Singapore that another steamer belonging to the same company was due to leave the Port of Surabaya for Fiji direct on the same day that the steamer "Clan MacWhirter" was to leave Singapore and go by way of Australia. This information was cabled to Fiji. The managing director of the line in London was cabled to and arrangements made to hold the vessel in the Port of Surabaya and to divert the steamer "Clan MacWhirter" to that port for transhipment of the cases of palm trees. This was done, and as the letter mentions, the two vessels came together in the Port of Surabaya and the transhipment was effected in the middle of the night, the "Clan MacKay" then sailing immediately for Fiji. Twenty-three days were spent on the voyage, and on arrival in Fiji the entomologists were overjoyed to find three hundred living parasitic flies in the cases of palm trees. They were more overjoyed when these flies accepted coconut moth caterpillars as hosts and began to deposit eggs. Flies Died Off. An effort was made by insectary breeding to increase the original 300 to 1000 before liberating any, in order that strong colonies might be put out. Twice the stock was increased to nearly the one-thousand mark, but on both occasions for some then unknown reason the flies died off rapidly. Many tests were made for bacterial diseases, blood poisoning, etc., but the cause remained obscure for weeks. At length it was found in a ray of direct sunlight striking the cages at a certain hour, causing superheating of the host and death of the parasite. Following this discovery, no further trouble was found in building up the colony to 35,000 flies, which were then distributed in different parts of the infested area. These flies established themselves rapidly on the host caterpillars, and, as Dr. Tothill states in his letter, "within six months had spread or been carried throughout the entire infested area and had brought the Purple Moth Caterpillar under apparent control." Continuing the letter, he says: "Writing now, eighteen months later, it is clear that the control is permanent and that a sufficient number of alternative hosts exist in Fiji for the parasite to maintain itself even when the Purple Moth Caterpillar is extremely rare, as it is at present. Only two years ago the Purple Moth Caterpillar could be found at any time of the year in numbers on carry-over trees, and in countless millions in the outbreak areas. The change wrought is so great that it is doubtful if a visiting entomologist looking for Purple Moth Caterpillars could find any in a three months' tour of the island, unless directed to some (Continued on Page 7.)