

# Two Husbands Wanted *by Hazel Deyo Batchelor*



### SYNOPSIS

When Polly Long, a little mannequin, falls in love with Ralph Halliday, a married man, things begin to happen. Ralph is in love with his wife, Lola, but they have drifted apart. John Blake is also in love with Lola, but Ralph's father and mother have prevented the marriage. John and Polly become friends and Polly is happy enough until her mother dies. She is on the stage at the time and she moves into a little flat uptown, which she shares with Annette. Lola is thrown from an airplane and has both legs broken; also there is something the matter with her spine. Ralph is half-crazy and Polly does not see him at all. Royal Hamilton takes Polly around, but she doesn't love him. She loves no one but Ralph.

INSTALLMENT THIRTY-ONE  
**ANNETTE IS THREATENED.**

Long, long days of lying flat on her back.

Long, long days of steadily growing whiter and whiter and frailer and frailer.

Of all people, Lola!

Lola, who had danced half the night Lola who couldn't fill her days with enough excitement.

She was beautiful in her illness.

Her hair had been cropped very close and it was brushed back boy-fashion from her white forehead. But she was so pale, and most of the time she drifted into sleep and out again kept under opiates because of the pain in her back.

Old Mr. and Mrs. Halliday worried. Ralph was showing the strain. He wanted to be with Lola constantly and it meant sitting up half the night to wait for a weary smile from her or perhaps a word or two.

Downstairs Mrs. Halliday sighed.

"Sometimes I wonder if we can ever interfere successfully with our children's lives, Richard."

Old Richard was slumped in his chair. He was bitter tonight. In a fashion he was a successful man, but he had been successful only financially. His children had slipped from his control.

Marian now—so young and Dorothy. Both dead when they should be alive and happily married. And now Ralph and Lola. It was the spirit of the time hanging like a dark cloud over the young people of today. Too much excitement, too much drinking. It was all wrong.

The Hallidays were not fanatics on the subject. They always had wine with dinner. But Lola and Ralph drank more than was good for them and so much of the stuff wasn't good. That's what kept them up to doing wild things. That's why Ralph had consented to let Lola go up for a night ride.

Not for the world, however, would they have blamed him. They were

sorry for him. And so they all waited, and Mrs. Halliday grieved, and wished for Lola and Ralph the temperance of small Polly.

Once she spoke about Polly to Ralph.

"Such a sweet child."

"Yes, she is. But just a sweet child that's all. There's no kick to her."

"Why, Ralph!"

"Yes, I mean it. I like a woman who is more companionable."

"You mean that Polly doesn't smoke and drink?"

"Well, she doesn't, but I wasn't thinking of that. Oh, I don't know, Mother, I love Lola. She's the only woman I'll ever love. I don't any one else."

"I wish Polly were happy."

"Oh, she will be, don't make any mistake about that. She'll marry."

"Not Royal Hamilton, I hope."

"He's rich."

"But he's too old for her and too worldly."

Ralph shrugged.

"Oh, Mother, Polly is on the stage. She knows a thing or two even if she doesn't smoke or drink."

"I wish she'd marry John."

"Well John doesn't love her. He's still crazy about Lola. I'm sorry that you ever interfered there, Mother."

"But, dear, we know that Lola was essential to your happiness and besides John has no money. He isn't making a great deal now."

"Money isn't everything."

Ralph laughed. Not everything but it was a great deal.

His last evening with Lola had cost him \$50.

Six dollars for dinner, eleven for theater seats and the rest for the ride in the airplane. There was no need of squandering money and he had taken Lola down to Long Island that night only because he had wanted to please her. He would have preferred being alone with her. Sweet Lola of the golden hair and blue eyes.

Why, he was almost ready to bless the accident because it had driven her into his arms. He had the privilege of holding her and of touching his lips to the slender, blue-veined fingers.

The next minute he cursed himself for such a thought.

One night he leaned over her and she scarcely seemed to breathe. He wondered if there were anything in psychology. Perhaps he could will her to live.

He knelt down by the bed and concentrated on her. But her golden lashes did not flicker up, and her hands when he touched her wrists were cold.

Ralph did not realize that Lola was intensely active. Without her health she didn't want to live, and she was impatient.

Sleep was all that seemed to matter, sleep, sleep—sleep.

She would count sheep jumping over a garden wall, but that was no longer effective.

Children counted sheep. But for Lola there was the blessed drifting off after the opiate had been administered. All she wanted to do was to forget that life had so many problems.

It was true that she was selfish. She didn't want Ralph herself and not only that but she was making his father and mother desperately unhappy. They couldn't understand her restlessness.

To them, Ralph seemed altogether worth while. Of course, he was their son, and they weren't unduly prejudiced. Ralph was a good boy and he adored his wife. Why couldn't Lola love him?

In the meantime, Polly was working hard and playing hard and Annette was still walking on as a mannequin at Madame Theresa.

The lights flamed on the sullenness of her small face. Madame spoke to her about it.

"What's the matter, Annette? You look like a thundercloud. You'll have to do better, or we'll get some one else."

To be Continued

**BUTTERMILK GRIDDLE CAKES.**

2 cups flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1-2 teaspoon soda  
3 tablespoons sugar  
3 tablespoons melted shortening  
1 1-2 cups buttermilk or sour milk  
1 egg  
Mix and sift dry ingredients. Beat egg, add milk and stir slowly into first mixture. Beat thoroughly and add melted shortening.

**CAUGHT BAD COLD  
WHILE OUT PLAYING  
NOT PROPERLY DRESSED**

Mrs. L. Mantie, Millet, Alta., writes: "My youngest child had a very bad cold which she got by going out playing in a strong, cold wind not properly dressed."

"She got so hoarse she could hardly speak, and her throat and chest were very sore."

"I used everything available, but she received no relief until, finally, I secured a bottle of

**Dr. Wood's  
Norway  
Pine  
Syrup**

and the first few doses certainly did her good. It is wonderful how it can help so quickly."

"Dr. Wood's" Norway Pine Syrup is 35c. a bottle, large family size 60c. put up only by The T. Milbarn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

## SOME PRESS COMMENTS ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS WHICH WERE BROUGHT DOWN FRIDAY

Ottawa, Feb. 19—Commenting on retirement of the debt. The Minister met this point when he said he would welcome any workable plan, but believed that until Canada is nearer the pre-war rate of taxation annual reduction of taxes was as important as reduction of debt. In this opinion he will be supported by those who like himself, are prepared to view things in their proper perspective."

**Mail and Empire**

The Toronto Mail and Empire (Conservative) in part says:

"If there are any surprises in the budget that was submitted to the House of Commons yesterday, none of them can be set down to any change on the part of the Minister of Finance. He keeps moving steadily in one direction. The Robb budgets are all of one type. One after another they have tapered down the rates of taxation. Again the income tax is reduced, the sales tax has been lowered, and the changes that have been made in the customs duties are all by way of reductions. There is a limitation, however, on the benefits of the British preference of the intermediate tariff and of treaty tariff rates to goods of which 50 per cent of the value must hereafter be conferred in the Empire or in the foreign country whence imported. Mr. Robb has certain distinct objects of which the chief one is increase in revenues which object he pursues by reducing customs duties in such a way as to show himself solicitous for the welfare of natural industries whose imports will be increased and the revenue made more abundant. Even his reduction of direct taxes do not cause a marked waning of the total receipts. A surplus is the grand objective towards which his fiscal arrangements are planned and out of surpluses he provides for debt reduction. On the latter point he had some remarks to make yesterday afternoon. By way of notice of Mr. Bennett's Mr. Guthrie's and Mr. Matthew's call last session for the adoption of a policy of debt retirement, he said that he had no specific plan for a sinking fund, but placed his reliance upon the showing of a surplus in the face of tax reduction."

**Toronto Star**

The Toronto Daily Star (Liberal) says:

"Another Robb Budget goes forth to the country to run the usual course of arousing criticism that will end in complete approval as it exemplifies its merits."

"The textile industries will have fault to find, but there has been, by the tariff board, a most complete inquiry into all phases of their case. The claims they make and the conditions they disclose, and the present alterations in the tariff represent the changes that the government believes can be made in the public interest without injury to those industries. They are, too, certain concessions that will be of value to the mills, while the net effect will be reduced prices to the consuming public. This budget like its predecessors, will smooth the pace of trade."

"The reduction in the sales tax from 4 to 3 per cent and the lopping of another 10 per cent off the income tax are the tariff changes that naturally attract most popular interest."

"The changes announced in budget are all in the way of tax reduction and tariff reduction—and 'tariff' of course means 'tax' and nothing else. The trend is downward. The tax on incomes is to be less. The tax on sales is to be less. The customs duties, were ever changed, are to be a shade less. There has

been careful analysis before action—the fishing, mining, salt, printing, road making, and certain other industries are to be, in this way and in that, less hampered by taxes—less interfered with and levied upon as they purchased abroad materials, supplies or indispensable machinery not procurable here at home. The budget is consistent with the previous Robb budgets, and continues on the successful course of the former ones."

**Toronto Telegram**

The Toronto Evening Telegram (Independent) says:

"Is there one tariff change in the Robb Budget that means a job capable of employing a Canadian boy in Canada or bringing an exiled Canadian back from the United States."

"Two industries pampered by the tariff reduction of the Robb budget are the newspaper industry and the mining industry."

"A country does not get the benefit that country should get from the extraction of precious metals from that country's resources unless country builds all the equipment of the great mining companies."

"A country pampers and favors the capitalists interested in the operation of newspaper properties if these capitalists are allowed to escape the payment of even a revenue tariff on their presses and other equipment."

"The extension of Canadian industry is sentenced to death and doomed to immediate execution in the terms of the Robb budget."

"The exercising of the Canadian industry is let go on suspended sentence in the terms of the Robb budget."

"Canadian industry cannot expand under the tariff uncertainties of James A. Robb budgets and the destructive activity of Dr. W. H. Moore and Dr. Moore's associate chiropradists of Cobdenism."

"Canadian industry will not expand, and can only exist until the Robb budget preceding the next general election destroys the investments of Canadian money and Canadian industry and take the wages out of the pay envelope of Canadian workers and the bread out of the mouths of the workers' children in order to buy free trade votes on the prairies of the West."

**Montreal La Presse.**

La Presse: "The whole population practically, benefits by these tax reductions, which logically tend to reduce the cost of living, while the relief given to corporations cannot help giving great elasticity to capital initiative."

"It seems at first sight, that the object sought was to reduce as much as possible the current selling price (of textiles) by reduction of tax or increase of preference, or else, again, by free entry of certain classes of raw materials or machinery."

"In summary, the country has every right to rejoice at the official testimony concerning so satisfactory a financial situation which allows the Finance Minister to gratify the tax payer with such substantial fiscal reductions, valued at about 19 million."

**La Patrie, Conservative, says—**

"The minister of Finances adopts the principal of putting in front the reduction of taxes and of the national debt that is a sound policy. It remains to be seen, whether a more generous reduction in taxes, giving a more vigorous impulsion to national production, would not have the effect of bringing about a still more rapid reduction of the debt."

But, such as they are, the results shown us are excellent. They reveal that we are gradually coming out of the embarrassing situation in which we found ourselves after the war, and that the load weighing on the taxpayer's shoulders is being reduced. On the whole Mr. Robb's budget is of a nature to cause real satisfaction and to strengthen confidence in the future."

Marriage today seems to be largely a game of progressive discontent. It's off with the old and on with the new discord.