

Two Husbands Wanted

by Hazel Deyo Batchelor



SYNOPSIS

Polly Long, a mannequin in the establishment of Madame Therese, falls in love with Ralph Halliday. He is in love with his wife, Lola, but they are drifting apart, and he likes Polly's companionship. Polly and Ralph are engaged secretly and because it is more convenient for him to see her he persuades her mother to move from the dingy flat in Jersey City to a New York apartment. The Longs are comfortably settled when Annette, one of the models, follows Polly home. Mrs. Long takes a dislike to the girl. Ralph sees Lola off for Florida and Christmas comes and goes. Christmas night John Blake enters the story. There is a tragedy in his life. John is shocked because Ralph has not told Polly he is married. But he dare not push Ralph too far because of his own past. Polly goes on the stage as a chorus girl in "Brighter and Brighter," and makes a hit. The winter passes and Lola returns from Florida. At a dinner party one night some one mentions the end girl in the chorus as being particularly delectable. Ralph looks queer. Lola is resolved to see the play. Polly wants Ralph to make love to her as a lover should. Mrs. Long tells her to wait for the engagement to be announced.

INSTALLMENT THIRTEEN JOHN AND POLLY.

Polly was lunching with John Blake. This was the second time and she still liked him as well as she had liked him the night of the Christmas party! Of course, there was nothing romantic about it. Her feeling was not the feeling that she had for Ralph. No sulky blue eyes and crisp gold hair with John, but sombre eyes, and hair that was prematurely gray. Occasionally his look would light up as he became interested in something, and then the light would gutter out.

Polly watched the flame. It was like a candle.

They talked of the things nearest them, and Polly told him about her friends in the chorus, Dorothy and Cynthia.

The flame in John's eyes leaped. "Leaving to be married?"

"Yes."

"Rich, I suppose?"

"No, that's just it. I wish Ralph and I didn't have to wait. Sometimes I'm afraid that something will happen, after all. But if we were married it wouldn't make any difference to me about money. We'd make things go."

"And then you'd belong to each other."

"Yes." Very softly, barely breathing the word.

"And you'd be willing to suffer even poverty?"

"Of course."

"When is Lola getting married?"

His mouth twisted on the words, again

that flame like a candle flashed into his eyes.

"Is she getting married?"

"I heard rumors about it."

"I wonder why Ralph didn't tell me."

Polly hesitated. She wondered, too.

Why hadn't he told her, unless it was because he had wanted to keep the news as a surprise? She would ask him when she saw him again.

Polly was toying with ice cream and a small cup of coffee. John leaned toward her from across the table.

"You're troubled about something."

She shook her head violently.

"No, I'm not."

"If it would help you to tell me about it—"

Polly yearned to ask him questions, questions that she had already asked the little mother. It wasn't natural for a girl to be engaged ever secretly without any love-making. She wanted Ralph's arm around her, his lips on hers. Wasn't he her own true dream-knight?

"Won't you tell me?"

She put down her coffee cup a bit jerkily.

"It isn't decent to tell you. It wouldn't be fair."

"Polly, my heart is full of dark secrets, I want to share yours."

She flung discretion to the winds.

"It's Ralph. Oh, I don't care if Lola is engaged and he hasn't told me, that may be a good sign. But there's something else. He—he never tells me that he loves me. I thought lovers did that."

"They do."

"You mean that Ralph doesn't love me?"

"I didn't say that," he parried. "But let me ask you a question. Ralph kisses you of course?"

Polly shook her head. Her cheeks were scarlet.

"You mean he has never held you in his arms?"

"No."

As John looked at Polly it seemed incredible that such a state of affairs should exist and yet he knew she was telling the truth. No falsehood looked out of those big brown eyes. She was impatient for her lover and rightfully so.

"He kisses my hand and mother is always there. She tells me to be patient."

"Well."

"It's hard."

"I know, dear, life is hard for all of us, but if things come right in the end, we can't expect anything more can we?"

He was amazed at Ralph's restraint, for certainly small Polly was delectable enough to tempt any man. But if some time he lost control of himself and did make love to her, what then?

Polly spoke suddenly, daringly.

"Do you know what? Sometime I'm going to put my arms around his neck and ask him to take me away with him. I'm going to ask him for a teeny little ring for loyalty and he'll hold me close to him and kiss me until I can't breathe."

"You mean you're going to tempt him."

"Yes I am."

"But suppose he isn't ready to take you away."

"He will be. He'll have to have me after that!"

John looked at Polly's soft mouth. He could well believe that no man who had once held her in his arms and kissed her lips would want to leave her. But Ralph was married and Polly didn't know that and he was unable to tell her about it.

The waiter broke in with their check turned over on a silver tray. John paid the bill and they rose to leave.

As they were passing through the lobby another girl entered the hotel. Both John and Polly saw her, but fortunately she did not see them.

"Wasn't that Ralph's sister?"

He didn't answer her. He seemed to have only strength enough to call a taxi and sink into it. Was the past always going to rise up and mock him. Was he always going to want what the fates withheld from him? It certainly looked that way.

Tomorrow—The Attack.

BOY DROWNED WHILE SKATING ON THE CANAAN

Starkey, N. B., Jan. 29—The body of Percy Wood, of Canaan Rapids, aged 18 years, was recovered from the Canaan River at Canaan yesterday morning.

The boy while skating with a party of young friends Friday night, went through the ice near the home of Robert L. Stewart. The accident occurred near the mouth of a small brook, the ice evidently being weakened. His companions went to the boy's aid and by means of poles tried to reach him where the ice had broken. He sank before they could get to him.

The victim of the accident is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Medley Wood of Canaan Rapids. Several brothers and sisters survive including Miss Olive Wood of Saint John.

BADLY INJURED WHILE SKATING

Chatham, Jan. 29—Walter Coughlan, son of Chief of Police Peter Coughlan, suffered a painful injury to his leg on Friday night when, while skating at the college rink, he fell, driving the heel of his left skate into his right leg just above the boot and severing a small artery. First aid was rendered which stopped the flow of blood and later medical aid arrived. The young man will be confined to his home for several days.

THE GOVERNMENT'S LIQUOR CONTROL POLICY IS WORKING WELL IN PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

(Willsons Monthly.)

Willsons Monthly, while it never questioned the sincerity of the great mass of prohibitionists who opposed the introduction of government control in Ontario, supported that measure as being truly in the interest of temperance. Surely sincere prohibitionists must now recognize that the measure even in the few months of its operation, has justified itself. The prediction freely made that when government stores were first opened there would be outbursts of lawlessness in the larger centres and excessive drinking throughout the province was not only not realized but the contrary proved to be the case. So in the seasonal Christmas and New Year's celebrations there has been no indication of abuse, and the confidence expressed by the Government in the sobriety of the people has been fully justified. The Liquor Control Act, indeed, seems to be doing what it was designed to do—promote temperance. After six months' experience of the Act, Mr. Ferguson has been able to report general improvement throughout the municipalities—a report substantiated by Mr. Hanna's statement that over the Christmas season there was no rush at any of the Ontario stores and by the Attorney-General's declaration that his department received no complaints and that even reports from the Border Cities were excellent. In Toronto, over the Christmas holiday week-end, only 62 persons were arrested for drunkenness as compared with 71 a year ago under the O. T. A. Of these, 25 were in the district commonly known as "the Ward."

But it is not from statistics that the real change can be measured. It is rather in the moderate character of seasonal activities. Already there is evidence of a return to the healthier attitude that preceded the introduction of the O. T. A. Not only in the larger seasonal festivities but in the smaller social gatherings, there is welcome evidence of a return to that desirable condition where moderation and restraint are recognized as admirable qualities. There is, too, a distinct improvement in public morals and a welcome absence of a certain hypocrisy in high and low places that was induced and fostered by arbitrary regulation in advance of public opinion. Whatever the situation may be today with regard to export traffic, there is a pronounced decline in domestic bootlegging activities. A year ago last December, when Ontario voted on government control, the province was saturated with illicit liquor—so much so that the market was being affected and prices were dropping. Although it is only some thirteen months ago, it is already difficult to remember how bad conditions really were. To recall them is to emphasize the distinct improvement already effected under government control.

Conditions a Year Ago.

"A little over a year ago, a correspondent of Willsons Monthly made a practical investigation of conditions in Toronto and Hamilton and in communities along the Toronto-Hamilton highway. His inquiries showed decisively that, despite the activities of all who were charged with enforcement of the law, the number of bootleggers had shown a steady increase since 1916. His information was gathered directly from bootleggers. According to their estimates, there were at that time approximately 3,000 bootleggers in Toronto and 1,000 in Hamilton. In both cities the number of "speak-easies," to use an American phrase, or "blind pigs," to employ a more familiar expression, was at least equal to the number of bootleggers. In Toronto, along the highway, in Hamilton, natives and foreigners were waxing fat on the liquor traffic, which was carried on not only in "dives" in private houses, in road-houses, and in hotels, but in tobacco shops, in "bogus" drug-stores, in garage service stations, in little shops disguised under commercial names, and, in fact, under almost every conceivable guise. Further than this, this condition was not peculiar to the cities and the highway mentioned but was common to practically every community of any size in the province.

Appreciating the fact that the very strength of the above statement might prove its weakness, tending to create suspicion that such conditions could exist, our correspondent talked to bootleggers of various nationalities and of innumerable establishments, big and little, and their verdict was the same. There were so many bootleggers that the market was nearly saturated. The foreign ones did not phrase it that way. They simply shrugged their shoulders and asked why it was that good Scotch whiskey, which was selling illicitly at from \$100 to \$110 a case when importation was first prohibited was then selling at from \$55 to \$60 a case. Our correspondent in his statement to us, continued:—

There are men who started bootlegging five or six years ago who are now worth anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000. There are others who, attracted by the immense profits, have made good livings. There are still others who started comparatively recently who have just made a bare living because of the increasing competition." He said further that—

Thousands of Bootleggers.

There is a street in Toronto half a mile long where there are nearly 30 bootleggers—one to every 100 feet of frontage. There is a place near Mimico where there was one hotel before 1916 when the O. T. A. was introduced where there are now 19 bootleggers. There is a small block in Hamilton where there are 25 bootleggers on one street, nearly one to a house. There are houses in both Toronto and Hamilton that have not one garage for one car or two cars, but garage space for five and six cars, not one side-drive but two side-drives and a rear entrance as well."

"The history of the Ontario Temperance Act," he continued, "as gathered from those has demonstrated its increasing failure. They do not argue the matter at length. They simply say that competition is so keen that their profits are being affected. They point out that the case-price of Scotch has dropped, that the case-price of rye has dropped, and that there are more new brands on the market today than there ever were. The present supply is tremendous. As one of the big bootleggers in one of the cities said: 'Once we were few and we had little and made much money, now we are thousands and we have much and make little. A lot of the supply is good, but some of it is bad. The poison ones, they hurt the reputation of we good ones. It is too bad.'

"Could there be a more significant statement? So much for the increase of the supply. What of those who supply it? Once they were largely foreigners. Now natives are in it. Among them are men who hold respectable places in their communities. But that is not the worst. No big bootlegger peddles his own liquor. He supplies the brains, the organization, and the money, but boys do actual selling—boys from 20 to 25. Call them young men: The fact is the same. They are the youth of the country, lured from the counter of the store or the bench of the factory by the attraction of easy money—more money than they could earn in double and treble the time from any legitimate industry.

Contaminating the Young.

These are facts. Ask any man whom you know has bought a bottle of bootleg liquor, or paid fifty cents for a drink of bootleg liquor, who served him, a man or a boy. Listen to his answer. The contamination of the young is proceeding at a pace in this country undreamed of by those who do not know the facts. The contamination begins with their entrance into the illicit liquor business, either selling or buying. Their association with the business brings them into contact with bad company. They learn contempt for the law. How far can contempt for the law proceed before it leads to criminality? Ask any student of criminology."

"Why is it," our correspondent went on, "that the output of the native brewers and distillers has increased so enormously within the last few years? Why is it that the tobacco shop sell flasks where only jewelers used to? Why is it that home-brew utensils and products are seen today in so many shop windows, and seen more and more as the O. T. A. grows older?"

As an example of the extent to which the bootlegging evil was spreading in residential areas, our correspondent cited the following: "Two

runners' from a Toronto bootlegging establishment visited one apartment house recently. When they called, four doors in the apartment house opened. The runners told me the story. 'They thought we were looking for a drink,' they explained. 'They were all bootleggers'. In many larger cities there are now hundreds of people who buy a half a dozen or a dozen bottles from a bootlegger and bootleg it themselves, not by the bottle but at fifty cents a glass. The percentage of profit is tremendous. There are 26 ounces in a wine quart. One ounce constitutes a fifty-cent drink. That is at the rate of \$13 a bottle, and a bootleg bottle of Scotch sells for \$8."

Such were conditions a year ago. They are distinctly better now; and—if Government control continues to be enforced as Mr. Hanna and the Government have enforced it for the last six months—there will be further improvement.

LIBERAL WOMEN WILL CONVENE AT OTTAWA

Ottawa, Jan. 29—Liberal women from all parts of Canada will gather in Ottawa on April 17 and 18 to launch permanently their Dominion organization. All the provinces will be represented from the largest cities to rural districts. There is to be a gala political banquet at which the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King will be the guest of honor and principal speaker. A program of social entertainment is being planned.

Leading Liberal women at Ottawa and the wives of cabinet ministers are making arrangements for the national convention.

The main business of the meetings will be the efficient formation of a national body strongly constituted and officered. Prominently Liberal women from the various provinces will deliver addresses.

There is no intention on the part of Liberal women to form a women's party national leaders state. The April meetings are for the purpose of consolidating all organizations of Liberal women and of forming further organizations in all districts of the Dominion.

Then there is an occasional man who is so good he doesn't amount to anything.

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FIRE ALARM LOCATION IN THE CITY

- 6 Argyle and York sts.
- 7 Victoria Hospital.
- 8 Children's Aid Home.
- 12 Westmorland and Aberdeen Sts.
- 13 Northumberland and Saunders Sts.
- 14 Brunswick and Smythe Sts.
- 15 Charlotte and Smythe Sts.
- 16 George and Northumberland Sts.
- 17 King and Northumberland Sts.
- 21 Queen and York Sts.
- 23 York and George Sts.
- 24 Queen and Westmorland Sts.
- 25 Brunswick and Westmorland Sts.
- 26 Charlotte and Westmorland Sts.
- 27 King and York Sts.
- 28 Saunders and York Sts.
- 31 Queen and Regent Sts.
- 32 Needham and Regent Sts.
- 34 Queen and Carleton Sts.
- 35 Brunswick and Carleton Sts.
- 36 Charlotte and Carleton Sts.
- 37 George and Regent Sts.
- 38 King and Regent Sts.
- 43 St. John and Aberdeen Sts.
- 44 Queen and St. John Sts.
- 45 Brunswick and St. John Sts.
- 46 Brunswick and St. John Sts.
- 46 Charlotte and St. John Sts.
- 51 King and Church Sts.
- 52 George and Church Sts.
- 53 Union and Church Sts.
- 54 Shore St. and University Ave.
- 55 Brunswick St. and University Ave.
- 56 Lansdowne St. and Waterloo Row.
- 57 Grey St. and University Ave.
- 112 Smythe and Aberdeen Sts.
- 113 Argyle and Northumberland Sts.