

Two Husbands Wanted *by Hazel Deyo Batchelor*



SYNOPSIS

Polly Long, a little mannequin, falls in love with Ralph Halliday, a married man. Ralph is in love with his own wife, Lola, but they had drifted apart. John Blake is also in love with Lola, but Ralph's family have prevented the marriage. John and Polly become friendly and Polly is happy enough until her mother dies. She moves to a cheap apartment with Annette and in the meantime has gone on the stage, making good in a small way. She discovers that Ralph is married, and then Lola falls from an airplane, injuring her spine, and Ralph turns his attentions to his wife. Polly breaks her rose-colored glasses about love when she discovers Ralph has deceived her. Lola is not Ralph's sister, but his wife. So that she accepts on impulse John's offer of marriage with the future a mystery ahead.

INTSAILMENT FORTY-FOUR COMMENCEMENT

John and Polly took a train and the sun continued to shine. John's shabby suitcase was stowed away with Polly's pigskin traveling bag. The very intimacy of their luggage was appalling. Polly didn't let herself think of it at all. The whole thing terrified her. Each moment she felt more and more as if she must have made a mistake; and yet—and yet—there was something about the square-cut chin of John's something in the direct look of his level eyes gave her confidence. And when they reached the little farmhouse where they were to stay for their brief honeymoon, Polly felt a wave of feeling sweep up in her that was different from anything she had ever experienced.

She didn't love John—not that way—and he did not love her. And what surrounded this feeling in Polly was his fineness in understanding. Not one room to be shared, but two little rooms adjoining—two little, prim rooms, with rag rugs on the floor and bright patchwork quilts on the beds. And Polly's bag was put in her room and John's bag was put in his.

Polly had time to think over matters as she changed her clothes; and, although she tried not to think, her brain was teeming. That swift feeling that she had experienced for John! It was gone now, but she remembered it, like a clean white fire leaping up in her. Her feeling for Ralph was so different. It was warm and tremulously red. She had wanted Ralph to make love to her; he had been the hero of all romance to her. What was John?

"Don't think; don't think!" Polly kept telling herself, but how could she help thinking? So much had happened and the future for both herself and John seemed dim and mysterious.

But there was something sane and normal about that little room where

she was changing into her other clothes. It had a country look—a little bed held out inviting arms, the one small window looked out to a distant line of waving mountains. Polly's eyes fixed on them dreamily as she pinned the ruffle at the breast of her blue sweater. Then she put away her things, hesitated for just a moment to look around the small place and went down to join—her husband.

Different,—oh, very different—from Ralph, she thought, as she advanced toward him. Ralph always wore the most correct clothes. John's clothes seemed a little shabby, although they looked well on him. Anyway, Polly liked the way he looked, if she didn't love him; and, as he smiled down at her, she smiled back at him. They stood that way for a moment, with the late afternoon sun streaming through the old-fashioned windows. They walked in the woods.

The walk began silently, because after all, the situation was a bit strained. They were on their honeymoon and at such a time two people have enough to do and say.

But the sun was too sparkling to resist, Polly wrinkled her small nose and John laughed at her. The ice was broken.

They took a narrow trail through the woods, a trail that was strewn with pine needles. And John told her about himself, bits about his past.

"You see, dad never had much money," he said frankly, "so that when I went to college I had to be careful. I want you to know him sometime Polly; he's a great old chap." And then he added, "My mother is dead."

Polly said nothing and John went on talking. "There's something I want to tell you now. It may not be the time for it, but I want to be frank, although of course, you know it anyway."

"Lola!" thought Polly, with a sharp beat of her heart.

"When I first saw Lola," John went on, "she was like a fairy-tale princess come to life. I adored her. But I was poor and Ralph had money, and Lola took Ralph."

Polly remembered something then. She remembered sitting across a small table from Ralph and hearing him say something about his father having offered John money. The Hallidays had wanted Lola for Ralph. Just as if John would accept a money bribe to give her up, if Lola had wanted him enough to make the sacrifice! She had been going to ask John that very question. She wanted to know about the money offer. But she restrained herself and was glad later. Because as she knew John better she knew that he could do no unhand-ed thing, just as she had suspected it even from knowing him slightly. And so she did not interrupt. She watched John's face as he talked.

"It was a first man's love that I gave her, Polly. I want you to know

that. Here, let's sit down on this tree and talk the thing out."

And Polly listened to his talk of Lola and heard his sentences repeated in her own heart. Romance—dreams—a tremulous red flame. To John, Lola had been the white princess, gloriously beautiful with her golden hair. He did not say so, but Polly gathered that his love for her had not been unlike her own for Ralph, and although she did not know him well enough to talk about the dream pictures that flitted through her thoughts—Sir Lancelot—Elaine—she rather imagined John capable of dreaming dreams, too.

"Of course, she didn't love me enough; and that was the thing that cut at first. And then I knew that she did love me and didn't love Ralph, and yet she was willing to marry him for this money. Something began to creep in to hurt the adoration of my feeling for her when I realized that—and yet, in spite of everything I could do, I went on loving her."

Strange words for small Polly to be hearing in the small woody place, with its fragrant smell of pine. Strange words for Polly, the wife, to be hearing about another woman!

"That day we saw her in the lobby of the hotel," John was saying, "you remember?"

And Polly did remember. She remembered John's white face in the taxicab; she remembered the taxicab driver bringing the aromatic spirits of ammonia from the drug store; she remembered her own terror.

But what talk for their first seconds, their first minutes, their first hours together! Polly kept thinking of this. Not that she wanted John to make love to her, but this talk of Lola did seem strange to her at such a time.

"There's nothing the matter with my heart, I know that," John went on, "but I came nearer to taking a flop right on the sidewalk just at seeing her unexpectedly—than I've ever come up against any actual physical danger in my life. It gave me a lot to think about, Polly. I had been neglecting work. Everything was Lola. I kept on thinking and dreaming about her, and that day, perhaps because you were with me, something changed in my feeling toward her. Something changed—it has never been the same!"

Tomorrow—The Wall Between.

Applicant—I want to take your course "French in fifteen minutes a day."

Instructor—But you're a native Frenchman aren't you?

Applicant—Yes but I want to talk to an American who learned it under your system.

Netty—Is Doris intellectual?

Letty—I should say not; she's got about a dozen beaus.

Assessment for Year 1928 Fixed at Sum of \$267,500

An Increase of \$1,000 Over Last Year—Victoria Hospital Grant Fixed at \$5,000—An Additional \$250 for the Victorian Order of Nurses—Tax Rate Not Likely to Be Greater Than Last Year.

The city council met in committee last evening and fixed the assessment for the ensuing year at \$267,500. The fact that the total is only \$1000 in excess of last year, an amount which will be more than offset by increased taxes from incomes is creditable to members of the council. Ald. Mitchell strove hard to keep the total the same as last year and made a motion to that effect which was voted down. His Worship the Mayor expressed the opinion that with increased assessable property and income in sight the rate per \$100 might be a shade less than last year.

Last year the city gave a grant of \$500 to the Victorian Order of Nurses. An application was made to have it increased to \$1000 and found a staunch supporter in Ald. Hay. He moved that the amount be fixed at \$1000 but his motion was voted down. He then moved that it be fixed at \$800, but once more the council said nay. Finally the Mayor appealed to the aldermen to make the amount \$750 and a majority of the aldermen supported the proposal.

A delegation composed of Mrs. W. D. Gunter and Mrs. J. H. McMurray appeared before the council and asked that no charge be made for the use of the Opera House for the Community Show put on last week.

The aldermen discussed the matter and decided not to comply with the request.

Those present at the meeting were His Worship the Mayor and Alds. Thompson, Smith, Goodspeed, Quinn, Hay, Ross, Currier, Mitchell and Jewett.

1928 Assessment.

After disposing of a feminine delegation which sought something for nothing the council proceeded to deal with the items of assessment for the ensuing year. There was some discussion on the item for schools, the amount asked for being \$4,900 greater than last year.

The Mayor pointed out that the appropriation in 1925 and 1926 had been larger than was necessary and there was a surplus of \$8,628. A conference had been held with members of the School Board and it was stated that they intended making expenditures during the year which would take care of the surplus.

Ald. Thompson moved that the assessment for school purposes be increased by \$2000 over last year.

The Mayor pointed out that school expenditures last year had totalled \$112,000. This year it was the intention to put new roofs on three of the school buildings.

Ald. Mitchell moved in amendment that the amount be the same as last year.

After some discussion Ald. Thompson's motion was put and carried. Alds. Mitchell and Smith voting nay.

The grant to Victoria Hospital was next taken up and discussed at some length.

It was pointed out by Alds. Ross and Goodspeed that the grant was based on an agreement entered into by the council with the trustees to pay for patients unable to pay for treatment.

Ald. Jewett thought that the number of patients who received treatment at the expense of the city would be materially reduced if the names were made public.

Ald. Mitchell said that they knew that free service was available and took advantage of it.

Ald. Goodspeed thought that those who did not go to hospital should help those who had to go.

Ald. Currier—When we go we have to pay.

Ald. Jewett said that some people who received assistance from the city were able to go to the movies.

The item which called for a slight increase finally passed.

Street Lighting.

The item of street lighting was next discussed and several of the

aldermen thought the service was costing too much.

Ald. Mitchell said that some people thought Odell's woods should be lighted.

It was finally decided to fix the amount at \$7000.

Ald. Currier said that it was estimated that \$22,000 would be sufficient for roads and streets and this amount was agreed to.

On the item of administration of Justice, Ald. Mitchell wanted to know if last years' expenditure of \$16,404.94 included the cost of the new cells at the police station.

His Worship replied that it did not.

The Victorian Order.

Ald. Hay, on the item of \$500 for Victorian Order of Nurses said that it was a worthy object and he had promised to work for an increased grant. He said that a car had been bought for the nurse last year, but she drove it herself.

Alds. Mitchell and Jewett thought that some people were too ambitious these days at the city's expense.

Ald. Hay moved, seconded by Ald. Quinn that the grant be increased to \$1000. He thought the health of the children of the city should not be sacrificed for a few dollars.

Ald. Mitchell thought it was un-

reasonable to ask that the grant be doubled.

Ald. Hay replied that during the early stage of the work it was helped on by donations but they were not now forthcoming.

Ald. Hay's motion to increase the grant was lost by a vote of 3 to 6.

A motion by Ald. Hay to increase the grant by \$300 was lost by the same vote.

Ald. Jewett finally moved that the grant be \$500 the same as last year which motion carried.

A motion that the grant to the Fredericton Tourist Committee be \$500, the same as last year was carried.

There was some further discussion over the grant to the Victorian Order of Nurses as the result of an appeal by the Mayor and Ald. Currier moved that the grant be \$750. This was seconded by Ald. Hay and carried by a vote of 5 to 4.

The Mayor said the assessment as compiled would mean an increase of \$1000 over last year.

Ald. Mitchell said that the amount should be the same.

His Worship said that while the assessment was increased by \$1000 in comparison with last year the rate of taxation should be slightly less.

After the totals had been compiled Ald. Mitchell moved, seconded by Ald. Jewett that the assessment be made the same as last year. The motion was lost by a vote of 6 to 3.

A motion by Ald. Ross that the assessment be \$267,500 was put and carried.

The items of the 1928 assessment together with those of last year are as follows:—

1927 Levy	Expenditure	Department	1928 Levy
\$110,725.00	\$110,725.00	Schools	\$112,725.00
54,404.20	54,404.20	Principal, Interest and Sinking Funds	56,299.64
3,000.00	4,581.54	Victoria Hospital	5,000.00
3,000.00	2,892.75	Maintenance of Public Health	3,000.00
7,500.00	7,135.61	Municipal Home	7,500.00
8,000.00	8,037.43	Street Light	7,000.00
13,000.00	11,623.50	Fire Department	12,000.00
20,000.00	25,009.46	Roads and Streets	22,000.00
4,000.00	2,511.41	Public Works	3,000.00
15,000.00	16,404.94	Administration of Justice	16,000.00
3,000.00	3,185.41	Permanent Sidewalks	3,000.00
24,870.80	33,421.48	City Government and Contingencies	15,975.36
			\$267,500.00

RICH DIAMOND FIELD FOUND IN CAPE COLONY

Capt Town, March 5—Another rich diamond field has been discovered to swell the wealth of South Africa. This revelation was made today in the Assembly by the Minister of Mines, F. W. Beyers, and although some knowledge of this field was made public several months ago it was not until recently that its richness was confirmed.

The diamond deposit lies in Namaqualand, in the northwest part of Cape Colony. "It was the biggest diamond field ever discovered anywhere," said Sir Davis Harris, member of the Assembly for Kimberley, director of the De Beers Consolidated Mines and Chairman of the Jagersmontein Estate and Diamond Mining Company.

Minister Beyers announced that it was the intention of the Government to declare the whole area, which contained 30,000 claims, as "state diggings." It was, he said, unthinkable for the Government to do otherwise, since this would mean forcing very large quantities of diamonds on the market, and that was most undesirable.

Describing the richness of the field, the Minister declared that he personally had picked up diamonds to the value of £600 (\$3,000) in one hour.

Fears were expressed by members of the Opposition that the overseas press would blaze forth the impression that South Africa was paved with diamonds. Mr. Beyers warned the House that such an impression was quite erroneous. Nevertheless he characterized the diamond fields in Namaqualand as an El Dorado unique in the history of the country.

Experts have already taken diamonds valued at £160,000 in a few weeks' hand picking, it was announced, from the 100 claims owned by the

AROOSTOOK POTATOES SELL AT \$3.50 BBL.

Presque Isle, Me., March 4—A rather quiet week in the Aroostook potato market closed tonight with no change, the price holding around \$3.50 a barrel. Haulings this week all over the county have been somewhat larger than last week but there is no general rush to let go of stock at the present prices. Estimates give around 8,000 carloads of marketable stock left in the county. Shipments today were around 150 carloads. Road conditions are fairly good.

QUICK CHOCOLATE FROSTING.

Add three tablespoons of cocoa to the sugar. When well blended add the milk. Extra liquid will be needed.

News comes from Palestine that mining operations have been started on the pillar of salt supposed to have been Lot's wife. That's the last move. Her reputation has already been greatly undermined.

If television becomes an established fact of common usage, it will be necessary for a man to set the stage carefully before calling up to announce he won't be able to get home to dinner.

Burke—What. You've burned only one ton of coal so far this winter? Mason—Yes the other five tons wouldn't burn.

Government. The output of the new diamond field will be controlled by the Government, which will employ a large force of diggers.

The Opposition of which former Premier Gen. J. C. Smuts is the leader, deprecated the principle of the diamond diggings being controlled by the state.