

Dot Miller Put on Her Paint and Marched on but Kay Beatty Found Her Own Soul

By Walter D. Hickman

IGH class hotel lobby workers they were—these ladies of the evening.

Why were men, who attend conventions at Atlantic City, made for if not to pay hotel bills for such ladies?



Edna Hibbard

That was the logic or rather the excuse of Dot Miller, one of those slinky, but cute little intimate playmates with any man on a second's notice. Kay Beatty, on the other hand, went "cruising" with Dot, but Kay discovered that in honest work there was love and a chance for happiness. Kay stepped from the curbstone of a cheap one night coming district into the studio of talent and means. He knew that in every woman there was a soul or a something which if developed and given a free chance would cause the human ship to steer a straight course. He was right, but it takes four acts in "Ladies of the Evening" to prove his theory. Kay found her soul, beauty, love and work. Dot put on more war paint on her face, annexed a rich daddy and dug gold by the pound out of the old "dog." Dot kept marching on from one fur coat to another as long as she had a rich daddy.

That is the story, just between us, of "Ladies of the Evening," a David Belasco production, which flourished in New York for many months last season.

Here is a play that tackles a problem of commercialized sex. The tragedy and comedy of such situations have both been handled in a truthful manner. It is the object of this play to amuse and the "ladies" do that and at the same time several "tons" of thought creep into one's being as the play unfolds itself.

Dot Miller is just one of those "things," those human good fellows, who are just good for nothing. But Dot Miller is human. She is alive. She is the mistress of her own person tent show. She is the berries. She knows the glang and the tricks which will land men with more money than brains. She is the "old cats" herself. She is a rotter, but a "good fellow" of definite "occupa-

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tion." She is life. Dot goes marching on to the grave and is satisfied just as long as her apartment bill is paid and she has a new fur coat and a few other little items when she wants it.

Kay Beatty, on the other hand, is a woman who rises above her "profession." From a hard woman of the street and any hotel she becomes a woman in every sense of the term. Kay goes marching on to glory, protected by a great, clean love and a real purpose.

As cleverly as have the two characters been created for theatrical purposes, just as cleverly are they acted by both Beth Merrill as Kay Beatty and by Edna Hibbard as Dot Miller. Both of these women are equally great in this play. I saw this show in New York last summer and I know that Belasco has sent us the real article and the cast is giving a magnificent performance here.

John Carmody and Frank Forbes as the watch salesmen from Waterbury, Conn., are gems as types of the characters they play. These two have the two big comedy parts in the third act with the assistance of Edna Hibbard.

Dudley Hawley as Calvin King, Vernon Steele as Tom Standish and Leslie Austen as Jerry Strong have their roles which established or rather renewed their reputation on Broadway. When Belasco promises the real article, he gives just that. From a production standpoint, "Ladies of the Evening" is one of those fine Belasco accomplishments.

For wise fun, for a dash of mental scarlet clothed in a fine cobweb case made of humor, I recommend "Ladies of the Evening" to those who agree that all jokes do not come out of the yearly almanac. At English's today and Saturday.

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IN

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O. Henry Comedy, "FAILURE"

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LONDON LOCKED IN DENSE FOG

Shipping Paralyzed—Races Off—One Killed.

By United Press

LONDON, Dec. 4.—London today was locked in a heavy fog which delayed traffic and caused several collisions ashore and on the water. It has settled down last night

suddenly, leaving theater-goers to grope their way while motor cars, trams and busses crept slowly in long caravans through the thoroughfares.

One man was killed in a collision. Races were postponed. Channel shipping was disorganized and the steamer Buckworth from Antwerp for Santa Domingo collided with the Losovsky, and was seriously damaged though she is trying to reach Dungeness.

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