

BARGAIN BRIDE

by KATHARINE HAYLAND-TAYLOR

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BARRETT COLVIN, of New York after years abroad, falls in love with ELINOR STAFFORD. He is 35 and she is 21. Elinor comes from a home where her jealous scheming mother, LIDA STAFFORD, breaks up the romance by convincing Elinor that her husband is a heartless dirt.

Rich MISS ELLA SEXTON, Elmer's only child, and to the despair of the relatives, leaves her entire fortune to Barrett. She wants him to marry her and with VANCE CARTER. When Vance learns she will not divorce her husband, Barrett breaks up the romance. But well. It is uncertain whether the wounded man will live or die.

The boy is uncertain what he can do to aid the girl. He does not want Miss Elinor to marry and she has no way to give it back to the right.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

THE last thing Elinor wished that morning was the further strain of seeing Barrett Colvin. He had, with a blunt, inconsiderate strength she had not dreamed he possessed, overridden her suggestion that he should wait for the interview until her father was better. As she said those last words her voice caught.

"I must see you," Barrett repeated. "It is important for both of us."

"I don't see how it could be, Mr. Colvin."

There was a silence. He broke it by saying, "I'm coming to see you immediately. I'll only stay a few moments. Will you see that I am admitted? I'm only asking because it's really necessary."

"Yes, I'll see you for a few moments. Mr. Colvin," she promised after another brief silence.

"Thank you," she heard. She put down the telephone. Benson stood waiting and she knew by his dejected look that something else of a troublesome nature had come up.

"It's the druggist, Miss Elinor," Benson stated miserably. "He won't leave the medicine unless it is paid for."

Purse in hand, she hurried to the foyer where the delivery boy waited, a trifle insolent because of his instructions. She could still settle these small charges.

But the two nurses, the doctor, the endlessly sick patient—how would she manage to pay such bills? She had talked that morning to the one clerk in her father's decaying brokerage office. He had stammered that he needed his salary.

"But why for a year?" Elinor asked brokenly. She was oddly dizzy and disconcerted.

"Because," he answered, "a year will quiet any idle talk there may be. I don't want any one to know the reason for our marriage. The world would misunderstand."

It might possibly see me as a hero instead of a man who merely happens to be honest enough not to want to rob others.

She whispered, "I don't know—"

She held a finger against her lips, and he noticed that her hand was trembling. For a fleeting space, and against his reason, the old tenderness for her returned.

"All I'm asking," he said, "is that for a year you will, in public, conduct yourself as my wife. You will have to forego, for the time, the admiration to which you have been accustomed—"

She smiled a little at that, but he did not understand her smile.

"And in turn," he continued more weightily, "I give you my word that I will never raise my hand to touch you except before others. We may have to masquerade a little before others. You can have my word that you will be safe."

He saw her moisten her lips, hesitated.

Benson appeared in the broad doorway. "It's that Mr. Streeter again, Miss Stafford," he said apologetically. "He pushed past me and refuses to go. He says he must see you. He won't wait."

"A collector?" Barrett asked. Elinor nodded and his gaze followed the swallow on the rounded, soft column of her throat. For a moment she closed her eyes.

"I'll deal with him," said Barrett as a small, rotund man appeared in the door.

"Yes?" she prompted.

"A proposition that is—will be—

(To Be Continued)

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

BY KATHARINE HAYLAND-TAYLOR

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"OLD MOON IN THE NEW MOON'S ARMS."
FREQUENTLY WE SEE THE BRILLIANT NEW MOON HALF ENCLASPED IN THE DIMLY LIGHTED REMAINING PORTION! THE BRIGHT, NEW CRESCENT IS LIGHTED DIRECTLY BY THE RAYS OF THE SUN, WHILE THE DIM PART IS LIGHTED BY A REFLECTION OF THE SUNLIGHT ON THE EARTH.

ORIGINALLY THERE WERE NO POISONOUS SNAKES! THE PAROTID GLAND IS BUT A MODIFICATION OF THE NORMAL SALIVARY GLAND!

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THE FIG INDUSTRY OF SAVANNAH DEPENDS ON AN INSECT, THE BLASTOPHAGA! WITHOUT THE POLLEN CARRYING BY THIS INSECT, THE CROP FAILS.

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WE do not think of our earth as having much of the qualities of a mirror. Nevertheless, with a telescope one can study in detail those portions of the moon's surface that are illuminated only

by the sunlight reflected from the earth and the moon is about 240,000 miles away from us.

NEXT — What small animal helped make American history?

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WRIGLEY'S GUM

KEEP YOUR TASTE FRESH

INEXPENSIVE SATISFYING

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

—By Ahern

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