

The Road to Happiness.

By TEMPLE BAILEY.

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Margaret, with her eyes on the heavy sky that hung over the stubby fields, sang softly:

"Falling leaf and fading tree,
Lines of white on a sullen sea."

She stopped and turned to Meredith with an impulsive gesture.

"This is the end," she said.

His somber eyes met hers.

"I can't see it," he stormed. "We love each other. Why shouldn't we be happy?"

"Ah, but there is the other girl!" she reminded him.

"Yes, the other girl," he said. "I'd be jealous of that letter if I were you. He gets one every day."

A wave of scarlet swept over the girl's face. "Jealous!" she stammered. "Oh, no!"

But when the little man had gone she broke down and sobbed.

"I am jealous," she told Meredith.

"I am dreadfully, dreadfully jealous."

"And yet you won't marry me."

"No."

"You want me to marry a woman I don't care for, to whom I am engaged simply because I had known her all my life and had drifted into it, and you want to make me miserable and to make her miserable just because you are afraid it will be dishonorable for me to go back on my word?"

"But she loves you, and she isn't strong."

His face softened.

"No; she isn't strong, and she has a sweet nature. If I had never met you I should have jogged along with her and there would have been no heights of happiness. I should have dwelt always in the plain."

He stopped abruptly. "But what is the use of thinking about that? It's our last day together, Margaret. Let us forget everything but that we are together."

"Then we'll ride," she said. "I'll go back to the house and get my hat, and we will go over the hills and far away."

He stuffed his letters into his pocket. "You haven't read—hers," Margaret reminded him.

"Another time," he said briefly, and they went to get ready.

Their ride that day was a thing to live in a man's memory. The hillsides were glowing in russet and orange and green. The lake as they passed it was as blue as a sapphire, and the blackbirds were flocking in the golden fields.

They talked little, but they lived in

tensely in those few hours. Now and then she ventured a little plan for his future or for hers. But he would stop her always, and then he would urge their horses on and on until they went like the wind.

At last twilight came, and they stopped at a wayside inn for supper. They ate little.

"I can't," Margaret whispered when he insisted. "I am thinking of tomorrow."

When the waiter came with their bill, Meredith, reaching for his pocketbook, brought out with it the unopened letter of the morning. As it lay on the table Margaret studied the postmark.

"How does it happen," she asked suddenly, "that she is in New York? I thought you were to meet her in Denver."

He caught the letter out of her hand. "New York?" he repeated and tore

that heard once you can never forget." His eyes followed her as she rose and walked to the gate. She wore a loose tan coat and tan shoes, and her brown hair was waved and puffed into a shining coiffure.

"Oh, you beauty," he whispered, "you beauty!"

"Hush!" she warned, and they heard the beat of a horse's hoofs.

The mail wagon of the rural delivery carrier was protected from sun and rain by a white umbrella, under which the little man sat like a frog on a toadstool.

"Come," he said abruptly; "we must go."

It open.

As he read his face changed, whitened and was suddenly illuminated.

"Margaret," he said, with a quick intake of breath, "Margaret."

"What is it?" she asked, startled.

"Helen is married—to some one she met this summer."

Across the table they stared at each other, stunned by this sudden fulfillment of their hearts' desire. Meredith, catching curious eyes upon them, rose.

"Come," he said abruptly; "we must go."

The stars were out as they mounted their horses, and the road lay like a silver path before them. In the darkness Meredith leaned over and drew him to the lady of his heart.

"Dear," he whispered tensely, "it is the road to happiness."

Check Your Passion.

An old man was once walking with a little boy. They came across four shrubs. The old man said to his youthful companion:

"Pull up the least one."

He obeyed with ease.

"Now the next."

He obeyed, but it did not come so easily.

"And the third."

It took all his strength to move its roots, but he succeeded.

"Now the fourth."

In vain the lad put forth all his strength. He only made the leaves tremble. He could not move the roots. They had gone strongly into the earth, and no effort could dislodge them.

Then the wise old man said to the ardent youth:

"This, my son, is just what happens with our passions. When they are young and weak one may by a little watchfulness over self and the help of a little self denial easily tear them up, but if we let them cast their roots deep into our souls there is no human power can uproot them. For this reason, my child, watch well over the first movements of your soul and study by acts of virtue to keep your passions well in check."

Reading in Bed.

Reading in bed, like most luxuries, can be overdone. In fact, there seems to be only one excuse for this fascinating way of ending the day. Certain people find that their worries accumulate in their brains after bedtime. Their nerves are at high tension, and their minds are actively at work trying to solve problems that should have been left behind in the city.

Going to bed with the brain in such a state means that with nothing to distract the thoughts, hearing nothing and seeing nothing in the darkness, imagination has full sway and hours of wakefulness may be the result. Such a man, we think, will find half an hour's reading in bed a great help.

With careful attention paid to the quality and position of the light so that without flickering it shines over the shoulder and directly on to the page the much maligned habit of reading in bed has sometimes a very beneficial effect on a tired and overwakened brain—Family Doctor.

They talked little, but they lived in

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The Mathematical Mind.

A literary worker who wished to do a large amount of reading by proxy advertised for an assistant capable of digesting the contents of a tremendous quantity of books in a very short while. While weighing each applicant's qualifications for rapid assimilative reading he inquired carefully into his mathematical acquirements. He finally chose the man who was most skillful at untangling arithmetical problems. "On the surface that seems an unnecessary accomplishment in this case," he said, "but experience has taught me that anybody who is expert in figures can read any kind of literature put before him with greater accuracy and speed than the person lacking in mathematical acumen." —New York Times.

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