

A SWEETHEART AT THIRTY

The Story of a Woman's Transformation
BY MARION RUBINCAM

THE TURNING.

Chapter 39.
I washed the dishes and straightened the living room. Helen showed me how to manicure my nails the week before, and I wanted to do it myself this evening.

I noticed the improvement in my hands from the first week or so in town. I had been doing little hard work, and in addition, I had learned to protect my hands. Now I was learning to care for my nails—the little details of creams and poultice and bleachers for stains and other things that most women know, and that do count tremendously in improving their appearance.

Helen came in later, when her restaurant was closed for the evening. "Your hands do look years younger," she commented approvingly, when I showed her the results of my home-done manicure. "You know, I've a theory that the various parts of our bodies are all separate individuals and die of neglect. If you neglect your hair it falls out; if you don't take care of your skin, it shrivels up; if your hands aren't treated with proper respect and attention, they grow old before their time."

She held out one of her large bony hands and examined it.

"You have pretty fingers and a nicely shaped hand," she went on. "It is soft and feminine and shows all the sweetness and refinement that you possess. Now my hand shows my awful common sense and my intensely practical nature."

"Where's VI?" she asked suddenly.

I told her. "That's a bad crowd for her to be

Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am a girl twenty-one years old. I met a boy of the same age at a dance who wanted to take me home. He kissed me several times without asking me. He has never come since, but seems very nice when I meet him. Do you think he cares for me? BLUE EYES.

The boy does not care for you. Doubtless he lost his respect for you when he found you let him kiss you.

Dear Mrs. Thompson I am a boy of twenty-five years. I live on a farm, have no brothers or sisters and am lonesome. I have many girl friends, but I can't learn to love any of them.

I work hard and am getting tired of this country life. I would go to a city where I could have a good time, but I don't like to leave the folks alone to do all the work, for I love them dearly.

Please tell me what to do and how I can be happy.

HAPPY LONESOME. I like your attitude. Out of love and loyalty to your father and mother you have decided to remain on the farm, but at the same time you expect to be happy and not play the martyr.

If you could buy an automobile, that would help immensely. Then you could drive to town to theaters and entertainments. In time you would increase the number of your friends, and might meet a girl for whom you would learn to care.

Your summer vacation should be a big item in your life. It would be easier for your parents to spare you two or three weeks even in their busy season than to lose you altogether. I do not anticipate quite as much trouble in hiring farm help this coming summer. Probably you could get someone to stay with them while you went away.

Try to get as much diversion as you need. To live on a farm does not mean that you should bury yourself there, if you can afford to do otherwise.

Farming is such a worth while occupation. Has it ever occurred to you that you are earning your way through life, while many city men are trying to get along on bluff? Honest work and an effort to do what you think is right will bring you happiness.

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with!" she commented. "They won't affect her, for she is too sweet and sane in her point of view. But they will make her unhappy, and they will affect Bud."

Her words increased my own fears.

Violet, like most women, had an infinite capacity for sacrifice. She would give up anything, even her point of view, for the man she loved. Against her instincts and her better judgment, she was accepting these people whom she disliked. How far would her love carry her, against her common sense?

I was to find out that night.

For I was so worried over the whole situation that I could not sleep. I went to bed and lay there reading for a while, and enjoying the wonderful luxury of a book and a reading lamp—Esther would have considered such luxury positively immoral. The door into the living room was not quite closed, and the light there was turned low.

Presently I heard them coming in. I knew something was wrong.

"I mean that, I simply won't go out with those people again."

Violet's voice was low and excited. In spite of her agitation she remembered that I might be asleep and did not want to disturb me.

"But Vi, they are perfectly all right. Of course Toots hasn't any brains, but she's a good dancer and a good little sport."

"She's rude and vulgar and—"

"And Pete's all right. You can't say a word against him. He's put me on all sorts of good things."

"He makes you spend more money than you can—"

"He shows me how to make more money, too." Bud was trying to be patient, but his voice showed he was losing his temper.

"I don't mean his extravagance. Nor yours, for you can do as you like with your own money. But it hurts me to have you waste it and I'd rather you did not waste it on me, that's all."

I could guess the strain the girl was under.

"But that wasn't why you broke up the party tonight. What if I did have my arm around Toots in the cab? It meant nothing, and she's—well, she expects that sort of thing. Really, it didn't mean a thing to either of us."

"You kissed her."

"Well, I know. I didn't want to."

But she was sitting next to me and we all laughing and cutting up, and

she well, she held up her face for me."

"I know; I saw her." Violet's voice was scathing.

"But there's no harm in that—Lord, there were six of us in that cab," his voice rose a little angrily. "Your sweet little country girl attitude is all very well, and I like it, and you know it. But don't carry it to extremes, Violet. This crowd likes to cut up and have good time. If you want to be a wet blanket on a party—"

"But!" Something in the girl's voice stopped him. Violet had taken another one of her sudden leaps to maturity—a flash which transformed her for a time from a sweet little girl to a wise and grown-up woman.

Listen, Bud. I don't mind how much you kiss Toots if you like her. And it wasn't for that reason that I broke up the party. But of course, when you kissed her, Pete turned around and waited for his answer.

"You're perfectly right, Vi," he said, and his voice was entirely different.

"We all got excited and silly. I'm sorry. I didn't realize—I'd half kill him if he kissed you against your will. I'm awfully sorry."

Then he went. A long time afterwards Vi told me he kissed her hand as he left. I only knew then that I found her in a little heap on the floor, sobing hysterically, with her lips pressed against the hand that Bud had kissed.

Tomorrow—Bud's New Friend.

News of the Counties

CAMBRIDGE CITY, Nov. 30.—John Thurman, who lived in Mt. Auburn, while wheeling a wheelbarrow up the road on the Dublin pike, was struck by an automobile and severely injured Saturday night about 7 o'clock. He is in a critical condition. He formerly was a Cambridge resident, and the family is well known here.

GREENSFORK, Ind., Dec. 1.—Herschel Nicholson, student at Earlham college, Richmond, was hunting in his neighborhood Saturday. Shortly before starting on the return trip to Richmond, he decided to change coats, and set his gun down to do so. When he finished the act, he failed to pick up the gun, but left it lying in the road, and drove off. The gun was found by Professor Palmer of the Greensfork High school, who reported the find to Postmaster John Ellis. Ellis notified Herschel.

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Indiana Brevities

FORT WAYNE—Trustees of the Indiana School for Feeble-Minded Youths have asked the legislative visiting committee for appropriations amounting to \$800,000. Needs of the school were carefully surveyed.

LAPORTE—Governor James M. Cox of Ohio, defeated candidate for the presidency, will be asked to address a meeting of Democrats of this city and county at a big Jackson day celebration, Jan. 8. Covers will be laid for about 400 persons.

LAWRENCEBURG—Serious injuries were received by Robert E. Carver, 53 years old, a carpenter foreman for the Vang Construction company, when he was thrown from an electric speeder making a turn on a railroad track near where he was employed in bridge construction.

LAPORTE—Miss Gertrude Travis, 22 years old, was found dead in the bath room of the house in which she roomed. She was cut under the chin, but no weapons were found. She is the daughter of Charles Travis, of Millcreek, Ind.

CLINTON—Frank Randolph, 19 years old, son of E. E. Randolph, county commissioner for the second district, was almost instantly killed when the horse he was riding stumbled and fell, crushing the youth's chest. He was on his way to high school, where he was a senior.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—President Wilson, in response to an invitation from the League of Nations council has agreed to use his good offices and

to proffer his "personal mediation" to a representative he may designate, to end the hostilities that are now being waged against the Armenian people. In accepting the league's invitation, the president, writing to President Paul Hymans, says he makes his offer available through the league council to suggest to him any avenue through which it should be addressed.

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