

A SWEETHEART AT THIRTY

The Story of a Woman's Transformation

BY MARION RUBINCAM

Chapter 47
ESTHER'S IDEAS.

"It's Providence, that's what it is," said Esther, shaking a pillow vigorously.

"What is Providence?" I asked, smoothing the sheet carefully and tucking in all the corners methodically, as Esther liked.

For reply she murmured some words which would be impossible to set down as she gave them. What she said was:

"It's Providence that Sarah's sister died, and she found that other fellow cut West some place."

But as she was holding a fat pillow tightly between her teeth, and pulling on a pillow case, her words were very much garbled.

I saw that Esther was about to express her opinion concerning Mark and myself, and there was nothing to do but let her have it out. I pulled the white counterpane up neatly, and began folding the blanket carefully at the foot of the bed.

It had been a hot and busy week. The farm work alone was more than enough for us. Jim had enough hired men now, but two of them lived with us, and that meant extra beds to make up, two more rooms to be kept clean, and two more to cook for.

Having accustomed myself to the small amounts of marketing necessary for Violet and myself during the winter, I used to stare in amazement at the huge roasts that went into the oven for the midday dinner—and that were completely demolished before the meal was over. Jim was always what Esther called a "hearty feeder," and James came home ravenous. The hired men always ate enormously. We had meat three times a day—at least, they did. Violet and I—I suppose having trained our appetites differently during the winter—ate, as Esther said, "like sparrows." But I think we were the healthier for it.

We really worked so hard that there was little time for long conversation. Mark came once again that week, but I managed not to see him alone. Then he went back to his own home. This morning we heard he was coming back again in a few days, and that started Esther on the subject.

"Providence!" she re-affirmed, shaking the pillow hard and then setting it erect upon the head of the bed. "I can see the hand of Providence as plain! You was fool enough to let him get away when you was young, I don't know whether you could have gotten him back last summer or not. I guess you could, he really did ask you to marry him, didn't he?" she gave me a shrewd glance out of her little greenish eyes.

"He wanted a housekeeper that's what it amounted to," I replied, gathering up the soiled sheets and going off to another bedroom.

Esther followed behind me, pretending to help do the room work—my special task. We stripped the covers from the bed, and began putting on fresh linen, still fragrant from its long sunbath when it was bleached on the grass.

"Well, he'll be more romantic this time," she predicted. "Even a man of 40 has romance in him I suppose—though Lord knows, Jim got over his romantic notions soon enough after we married."

She shook out another pillow, and

reigned supreme, then name your club "The Bluebird Club."

Blue and gold, black and yellow and light green and pink are the three favorite combinations for club colors.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am a freshman at a commercial high school. Could I go to college after graduating from there? If I change to high school, would I be promoted? Would you advise me to change?

FRESHMAN.

You should attend an academic high school if you wish to attend college. You would not be promoted, but would no doubt be placed in the same class in the academic school as in the commercial. If you have an opportunity to go to college do not allow any thing to interfere.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: Please print some way I can get rid of blackheads, as I have a lot of trouble with them on my nose and chin. I also have enlarged pores. How can I reduce them?

I THANK YOU.

To cure blackheads make an ointment of one ounce of soap liniment and one ounce of ether: mix. At night scrub the face thoroughly with hot water, using a complexion or other soft brush. After wiping, apply the mixture to each of the spots and let it remain on over night. Wash off in

"Course we all thought you were a hopeless old maid," she said with her usual frankness. "But now I got hopes of you. I dunno what you did to yourself this winter—maybe you needed a change of air, or something. But you used to look older than me, and now you look younger, I don't think you even look as old as you are. Course you got gray hairs, I can see them, but your hair somehow has more color."

"And of course," she went on, "Laura and I both think your clothes silly and affected, but they do make you look younger, there's no denying that. And as I says to Laura, after all it don't matter what she does to herself now, she can wear things with skirts that hike and show her ankles, and she can toddle about on high heels when she ought to be wearing common sense shoes at her age, and she can smear her face all up with creams and such truck—but it's all right, I says, as long as she gets him."

"Esther!" I cried in anger. "What are you talking about?"

"Mark, of course," she said, her eyes growing round in surprise. "You had these sentimental ideas about not taking him because he didn't love you. Now you are making yourself look young again, so's he'll fall in love. And he'll do it too, if you treat him nice. As I said, it was Providence made Sarah's relation die out West and sent her out there to marry that other man. Otherwise, she'd have Mark and you'd been too late."

Tomorrow—An Ugly Suspicion.

Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson: Could you suggest a name and colors for a club of ten girls?

ANXIOUS.

Why not call yourselves "The Magpies," if you all enjoy chattering; if you think the girls have wisdom, call your club "The Owls"; if happiness

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the morning with hot water. Continue until the spots have disappeared. Then twice a week wash the face with this mixture, removing the liquid at once by rinsing with clear water. For enlarged pores, wipe over each with a little alcohol.

HAYS LIKELY

(Continued from Page One) but Hays confines himself to organization.

In that line his activity is prodigious. He will be engaged in an important conference in Indianapolis. At 11:30 p.m. he will adjourn the conference to meet at two the following afternoon. Then he will take the midnight train to Chicago, keep an engagement with someone, breakfast, take the five hour train back to Indianapolis, and resume the conference as per schedule.

He will call you up on the long distance telephone at such extraordinary hours that many folks doubt whether he ever sleeps at all. He will keep an engagement at Portland, Maine, on

Monday, in New York on Tuesday, in Chicago on Wednesday, and so on across the continent—all the time

keeping a stenographer busy on the

train and making innumerable engagements by long distance and telegraph.

What is even more engaging than ability, Hays has character. It is not usual to find an elder in the Presbyterian church and a successful politician in and the same 100 pounds of flesh. Anybody who has had contact with the management of the recent campaign knows that as a politician Hays does nothing inconsistent with being a Presbyterian elder.

Whether as a Presbyterian elder he does anything inconsistent with being a member of the Presbyterian church of Sullivan, Ind., can say.

It is one of the engaging things about Will Hays, and one of the things that has made him useful and successful in his job, that he is typical of Sullivan, Indiana, one of those small cities of 10,000 population or less lying considerable distance from any big city. Serving as the county seat of a rural farming population—the kind of town in which the best of Indiana is to be found.

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