

A SWEETHEART AT THIRTY

The Story of a Woman's Transformation
BY MARION RUBINCAM

JANE

Chapter 53

Life resumed its normal course. After the wedding we settled down to quiet and to comparative leisure. The actual routine of work was harder, because there was one pair of hands less, but there was also less work.

"And Laura wasn't so much use this last year," Esther summed it up a few days after the ceremony. "First she worried so as to whether she'd get him or not that she did half the jobs wrong. And then when she did get him she was so busy over her own sewing that she hadn't much time for plain dishwashing and weeding."

Still, there was one room less to clean and care for, one less to cook for—though in our huge family that made no appreciable difference. We were simply not so concerned with Laura's eternal embroidering and the making of her trousseau.

"Well, I got one of my children safely married," Esther remarked with deep satisfaction. She was cutting up four chickens for dinner that, standing by the kitchen table with a cleaver in one hand and a long knife on the chopping board. The wind through the open window blew the loose ends of her hair about her face, and whipped up a torn ruffle on her working dress. She looked, curiously, like a methodical Fury hewing up victims for the sacrifice.

"Laura being the oldest, she ought to go first," she went on. "Of course, I always hoped I'd get you married off before any of them—you ought to 'a been married 15 years ago with growing children yourself by this time. But I won't say anything about that any more."

This was delivered with great emphasis while Esther removed another section of the chicken and laid it aside.

"I spouse James will go next," she went on. "Well, James' wife has got to live here and help me, for Violet'll never be any good around a farmhouse. Besides, James is needed here on the place." Her cleaver came down on the poor carcass of the chicken as she ended.

With one blow she settled the destiny of the chicken, and her son. Again the idea of Esther as a sort of heartless Fury came to my mind.

"Violet'll marry some fool, I s'pose," she went on, throwing the meat into the pot of boiling water on the stove. "And you'll encourage her to do it. But it won't be that Pearsons boy, I'll see to that. I guess I'll make some dumplings for this. These chickens is pretty skimpy."

I went to the pantry to get her the flour. After all, why answer her?

There are some women whose personalities are so dominant that they actually stamp themselves upon everyone they touch. Esther was this sort. She had moulded Laura into a replica of herself. James was her next victim. I wondered whether the rebellion in Violet and myself would carry us safely away from her.

I thought for a time that James would escape. But this summer I had begun to see him gradually ceasing to struggle against it. I saw it plainly that very day.

Violet, hunting eggs from a nest concealed in the barn, called to me excitedly. I followed her to the haymow—and there, down under the hay, she showed me James' workshop.

"I just ran across it by accident," she said. "You see, there's six feet of space between the sloping roof of the carriage house and the ceiling of it. I think Father was going to store things in it; that is why he had the ceiling put on. James has sawed off some boards where the joins the barn at the haymow, and made hinges from leather straps, so he can get through—and no one suspects it's a door at all. Besides, it is covered by hay most of the time. I should think he'd suffocate wading his way through."

James had allowed for that, however, by placing boards over a sort of tunnel he had made through the hay—probably while they were putting it in earlier in the summer. This kept the weight of the hay from the little space he had managed to leave between the big mow and the wall of the barn. I remembered that James had piled it up in the barn, while the hired men threw it from the wagon. So he had plenty of opportunity to make this secret little passage.

I followed Violet through. It was suffocating, as she said, and hot, and the curious choking dust came down on us as we disturbed the hay pushing our way past it. Violet opened the door—two large boards so cleverly fastened that only a sharp-eyed person could tell they were not part of the wooden wall.

We stepped into what the boy evidently had as his work shop. He had covered up every possible crack with paper, b'z there was a lantern, with a shade so the light would fall only on one place—

"He works here at night, and the place is so well built that light wouldn't get through," Vi explained. "I thought I heard him go out of the house one night after we went to bed. But suppose he broke the lantern—he'd be trapped in here. He couldn't

Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson: While I was in another city this fall I met a man for whom I care a great deal. He asked me to write when I arrived home, which I did. He answered several of my letters, and in his last one asked for my picture, saying he would send me one. I sent him a picture. Since then he has not answered. Should I write and ask why he has not written and ask for the return of my picture and letters? He is in the army. Could any of his duties delay him in writing? ANXIOUS.

Me may have been transferred to another post, and for that reason, he won't answer. It might be well to write him a letter asking why he has not written, and requesting him to return your letters and picture. Perhaps you acted too hastily in sending your picture to a man with whom you were not very well acquainted.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: Please publish the names of some new books that would be appropriate for a young lady to give to a gentleman friend for Christmas.

We do not publish lists of books, but you will have no trouble in getting a book by going to a local bookstore and telling them you want a book for a gentleman friend.

noon and evening. Members and their families are to take part.

Ben Hur.

Nineteen candidates were initiated into the Ben Hur lodge Thursday night. A large delegation of lodge members was present from Dayton. A social time was enjoyed following the initiation. A dance will be held next Thursday night.

Elks.

Four candidates were voted upon at the Elks Lodge Thursday night. Initiation of candidates will be held before the new year.

Wife's Chicken Strays;

Costs Husband \$22

"Some chicken!" said the husband of Mrs. Sophia Shuler, 29 South Second street, as he paid fines of \$1 and costs for provoke, and \$1 and costs for trespass, that were assessed against his wife in police court Friday morning, a total of \$22. Mrs. Shuler was arraigned before Mayor Zimmerman on a complaint filed by Mrs. Mary Barker who lives next door.

The testimony showed that a chicken belonging to Mrs. Shuler had strayed into her neighbor's yard and a neighborhood quarrel had resulted. Other actions of the defendant were alleged to have brought the matter to such a point as to lead to a court action.

GET \$2,000 AT ANDERSON.

ANDERSON, Ind., Dec. 17.—Thieves entered the Fair store here tonight between 6 and 7:15 o'clock and escaped with \$2,000 in cash and checks after they succeeded in jimmying open the safe. The store which is in the heart of the business district, was entered through a basement door.

An eminent medical authority says that in only one case out of 15 are both eyes in good condition.

get out except through the hay—and if that caught fire!"

She stopped, her face white as we looked about us—faint daylight came through one place on the wall where a board had been loosened for air. A newspaper hung near by—James covered up every spot where he lit his light, apparently.

Around the room were wheels, bolts, screws, any number of tools, part of a motor and odds and ends that meant nothing to us. A book on mechanical engineering, one called "Simple Inventions of the Century"—one on motors, another on electricity, and some magazines on machinery were piled on a shelf.

We did not know then what was to come of our discovery!

(Tomorrow—A Tangled Web.)

City Lodges

K. of P.

O. C. Coffman has been elected lodge secretary of the insurance department to succeed John C. Darnell, who died recently.

Delegates from Cambridge City, Centerville and Fountain City attended a meeting of the local Knights of Pythias at the temple Thursday night. The rank of "Esquire" was conferred upon a class of candidates. The next county meeting to be held by the lodges will be on Jan. 13 in Greenfork.

Eagles.

Gus Johananian, lodge secretary of the Eagles, has been named as representative of the lodge to the Chamber of Commerce.

A drill team is being organized and trained, and it was said Friday that the team will be ready by the first meeting night in January. The lodge has been without a team for about two years.

There will be no Christmas tree for the children of the city, given by the Eagles this year. The usual custom of contributing a sum of money to charitable organizations will be followed, however.

The building committee which is considering plans for extensions to the present lodging on South Seventh street, will report next Tuesday night.

Moose.

Howard Brooks, who for five years and a half served the Moose lodge as secretary, was presented an emblem ring and charm at the last meeting. W. B. Fansher has succeeded Mr. Brooks as secretary.

Open house will be observed by the lodge New Year's day. A dinner will be served at noon, and a musical program is being planned for the afternoon.

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Friday Musical Program

Give Out First Presbyterian

Dr. J. J. Rae, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, announced Friday the complete musical program at both morning and evening services Sunday. The Rev. Rae will preach a short sermon at both services.

Morning.

Organ, pastoral; Dinelli; anthem, "Star of the Orient"; Shelley; anthem, "Behold I bring you Good Tidings"; Lyman; organ, "The Shepherds"; Salome; solo, "The Christmas Message"; Dressler, Mrs. L. E. Harter; violin obbligato, Miss Mary Jones; organ, "March of the Magi"; Dubois.

Evening.

Organ number, "Oh Holy Night"; Adam; jubilate, "Amen"; Kinder. The choir will then render a cantata, "Star of Bethlehem"; Harker.

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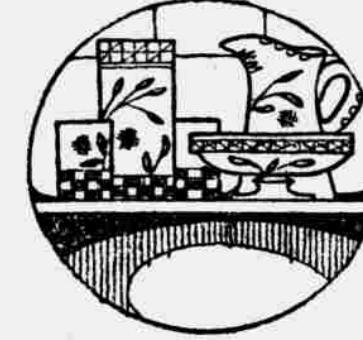
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SAMUEL J. DUNLAP

SUED FOR DIVORCE

EATON, O., Dec. 17.—Samuel J.

Dunlap, well-known farmer of Dixon township, southwest of Eaton, is being sued by his wife, Virgie Fleisch Dunlap, in common pleas court, and for custody of their two children. They were married in February, 1902, and have two daughters, Gertrude, 15, and Clara Jeannette, 12. The suit was filed Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Dunlap charges gross neglect, in that her husband left their home frequently and remained away several days at a time and when he did return he was not in fit condition to do his farm work. She alleges he did not inform her where he was going when he left home and did not inform her when he returned where he had been. She also complains that she accompanied her husband several

times to Richmond, Ind., and that he would take their automobile for his own use and she would have to hire a conveyance to get to her home.

Two restraining orders asked for by Mrs. Dunlap in connection with her divorce complaint were granted by Judge A. C. Risinger. One restrains her husband from disposing of any of his property or property devised to her in the will of her late father,

Michael Fleisch, of which he is trustee. The other order restrains the husband from coming upon his wife's farm or to her home, or interfering in any manner with her or the children. Both orders were granted without any bond. John V. Dye is attorney for Mrs. Dunlap.

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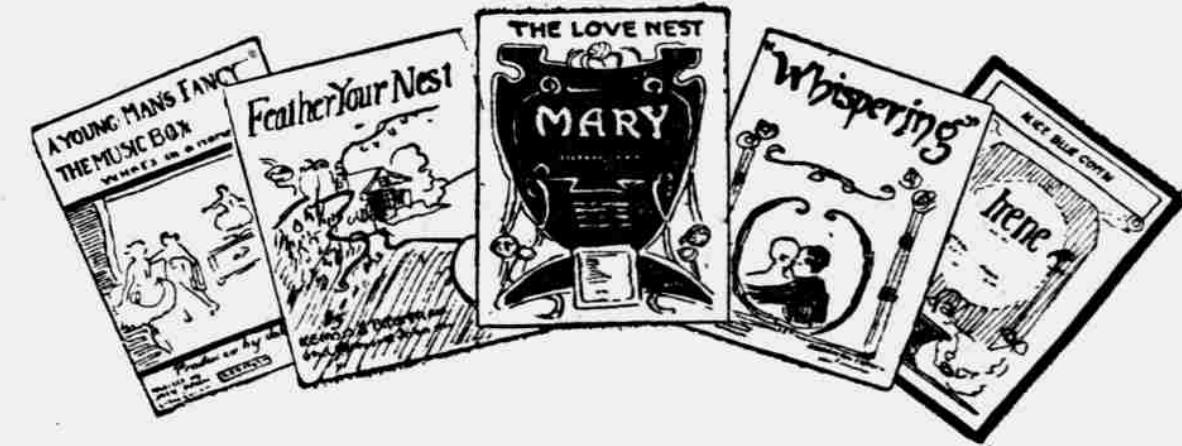
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"In the Land of Rice and Tea"
"I'm in Heaven When I'm in My Mother's Arms"
"I Love You Sunday"

"I'll Be With You in Apple Blossom Time"
"In Old Manila"
"Japanese Sandman"
"Margie"
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