

The Middle Ground  
By MARION RUBINCAK

## TRYING TO UNDERSTAND.

Chapter 48.

"You see, if we had a lot of money," Jane went on, "we could have a big house—big enough at least so we could get away from each other now and then."

"Married people oughtn't want to get away from each other," Mr. Talbot interposed.

Jane straightened up, with a little impatient sigh.

"That's just it, mother," she said. "That's just the trouble with your point of view and ours. You put everything down by what people ought to do, or ought not to do."

"How else can you?"

"You can't judge them that way," Jane went on. "You have to take them as you find them. People ought to live nice, peaceful moral lives—but they don't. They ought to sleep with their windows open, and take lots of baths and exercise to keep themselves fit—but they don't. You mustn't blame them, you must take them the way they come."

She went on after a pause—

"Most married people are unhappy because they see too much of each other. I quite agree with Donald about that. When you have a love house that in itself is pleasant, and efficient servants to keep it nicely at all times—then they don't. They ought to sleep with their windows open, and take lots of baths and exercise to keep themselves fit—but they don't. You mustn't blame them, you must take them the way they come."

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"That's why most marriages go wrong. People see too much of each other. They don't let each other alone. Then Donald would feel that it was expected of him to provide a nice home for me, and he would feel badly because he couldn't—the are so many reasons why he is against marriage."

"Do you want to marry him?" Mrs. Talbot asked suddenly.

Jane nodded her head, slow tears dangerously near her eyes, fastened so her mother would not see as though her mother would notice. "I'm old-fashioned enough to want it, really," she answered. "But it can't be, so why talk of it?"

"But if Donald is in love without?"

"That's what makes it quite alright for him," Jane said. "He knows we both know—that we are very much in love. He will never be in love with another woman, and I know—just as surely as though I could—will never love another man. I couldn't—"

Again she paused, brown eyesrimmed as she thought of her love. "There is no one in the world like Donald," she said softly. "So that would be the difference? I can, whether we married or not? Then this thing is to be really in love."

"Do you mean that you would like with him?" Mrs. Talbot hardly red the question.

"Listen, mother. You heard me say the other night that she was going to marry a rich man, the best she could find. She says she is going to do it deliberately, eyes open to make a career for herself, when she is in love with the man or not. Now, do you think that is right?"

"There was a long silence.

"I want her to marry Dick," Mrs. Talbot said suddenly.

"That's not the question. I'll put it another way. Which of these women do you think was bad—My Tait, who married for a home, because it was that or go out and work that little girl at home who fell in love, and, as father says, we wrong?"

Mrs. Talbot thought.

"Neither was good—I suppose I have more respect for the women who really was in love, though. She does seem to have given up something—then your father would never agree."

Jane drew a long breath.

"Six months ago you would never have said that. Perhaps, after a you will be able to understand—"

"I will never understand that what is wrong is right. It is wicked—no marry."

"Even if the other thing is to all my life easing my heart for a man I love—so go on—will you know how narrow and faded a our old maid's are. Look at the living near us at home! It's my why can't I live it as I want—if I not, hurt others?"

It was a cry from a hungry heart. Mrs. Talbot was surprised at its intensity.

"But Jane," she cried—you have not going to go with him You haven't—"

Tomorrow—The Faithful Dick.

## Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am 18 years old and taking dancing lessons and want to go to the private dances. How can I have a chance to go, as I do care to go to the public dances and don't seem to know any of the fellows who attend private dances. I thank you.

Perhaps your dancing teacher will help you out of your difficulty if you present the matter and explain your trouble.

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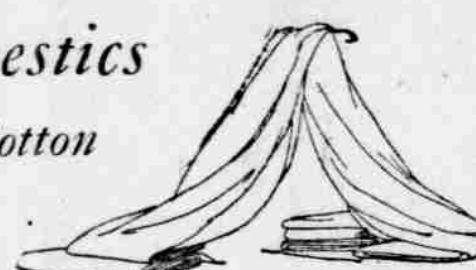
## January "Distribution Drive"

A sale that is more than an ordinary CLEARANCE SALE—a determined effort to help clear the way for the dawning NATIONAL PROSPERITY

—BARGAINS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT  
—BE ON HAND EARLY TO SHARE IN THESE MANY SAVINGS

There is just one big thing to be done by the merchants and people of this country in order to clear the way for the greatest prosperity that our nation has ever known. Nothing stands in the way of full production by factories everywhere except the merchandise now on hand in stores throughout the United States.

In this sale we are doing our part by reducing prices to the very lowest—much below the prices we can afford to sell them. We consider it our part in the work of bringing prosperity back. Following is the remarkable array of extraordinary offerings that we have created to inaugurate our January Distribution Drive.

Domestics  
and Cotton  
Dress  
Goods

The lowest prices in cotton goods for many years. Savings in every department. It will repay you well to stock up on necessities during these Sale Days.

With a steady to rising cotton market, these prices will not be duplicated for many months to come.

Hoppe Muslin, the well-known brand, special, yard ..... **15c**

Special Bleached Muslin, soft finish, reduced to, yard ..... **12½c**

Unbleached Muslin, good weight, special, per yard ..... **10c**

Lonsdale and Hill Muslin, 25c value, extra fine count and finish, special during this sale ..... **18c**

Cheesecloth, a special quality, yd. wide at **8c**

20c Unbleached Muslin extra fine quality, reduced to, yard ..... **15c**

All-Silk Japanese Pongee, 12mm weight, regular \$1.29 value, special for this sale ..... **98c**

All Silk Pongee, excellent for draperies; special at ..... **75c**

Silk Shirtings, large assortment of stripes, Roman and pin stripes, special ..... **98c**

Messaline, yard wide, all light shades, regular \$2 value ..... **81.59**

Crepe Poplin, special per yard ..... **81.50**

Silk Poplins, reduced for this sale to ..... **89c**

Plain Taffetas, a special group worth \$2.25 and \$2, special ..... **81.59**

Silk Tricote, in brown, blue, white, jade and American Beauty, special per yard ..... **2.98**

Lot of 35c and 30c Dress Gingham, special ..... **25c**

Outings, dark and light patterns, good quality, special ..... **15c**

Yard Wide Outings, light patterns and plain white, regular 22c and 25c values, special at ..... **17c**

Lot of Percales, light and dark patterns, specially reduced to ..... **19c**

Lot of Dress Ginghams, values 25c and 29c, now yard ..... **19c**

Pepperel Sheetings at reduced prices during this January Sale

Unbleached ..... **55c**  
Bleached ..... **57c**  
9½ width ..... **60c**  
10½ width ..... **65c**  
60-inch width ..... **50c**

Apron Gingham, good quality, checks in blue and white, green and white; red and white, brown and white, black and white, special ..... **15c**

Cotton Poplins, regular 35c values, special at ..... **25c**

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