

The Middle Ground
By MARION RUBINCA

FRESH CLIMAXES

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters. When she is 48 years old, Amy Talbot finds herself completely out of touch with the world. She has worked so hard all her life she has literally ceased to think. She finds this out when her eldest son Luther and his wife, Claire, return to the farm for a visit; and when her daughter Jane returns from medical school. The modern ideas of these young folks infect Amy, the youngest girl, who goes back to the city with Claire and Luther quarreling.

The others return too. Luther and Claire separate; Jane is in love with a young doctor who wants to marry her. Amy is studying for grand opera, and refuses to marry the ever-faithful Dick. Feeling her girls need her care, Mrs. Talbot goes to the city. Everything there shocks and terrifies her. Amy intends to marry the richest man she can find. Claire refuses to see Luther, now living with his sister. Jane is ready to throw aside everything for love. Donald Moore, the doctor, finally asks her to marry him and go to South America. Jane refuses.

Chapter 55

Amy Talbot had a curiously negative personality at this period of her development. At first she had been all active, bitter opposition to everything new that came into her life or into the lives of her children.

Now that she had decided not to disagree with anything they said or did, until she could once more win their confidence, she became neutral, negative. The children and all the guests were quite apt to go on talking as though she were not there.

Even Donald was affected by this change. She was no longer an active force against him. So he too, began, arguing with Jane, as though the mother were not present.

As for Mrs. Talbot, the situation had suddenly cleared and all her troubles were over, or rather, would be, as soon as Jane became sensible. She did not understand what was on the girl's mind.

Jane wanted to marry Donald. Donald, being poor and having strange radical ideas, did not want to marry Jane.

That was the situation.

Donald, somehow, had changed. He had asked Jane to marry him. And Jane had just refused!

"You're to go to this mining camp in South America for a year," she said. "That's all very well, but it means you lose even the small foothold you've made here in the city."

"It means my expenses for a year are paid, and that there is enough salary to bring me back here with about a thousand dollars. If the worst happens and the mines close down, I'll have to that to live on while I try to set up a new practise here."

"You know how far a thousand dollars will go toward buying you good clothes, paying a board bill, hiring an office, and keeping you until you find patients," Jane said. "If you had me to support too, while I tried to make my start, it would go only half as far."

Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am a young married lady, living in three rooms which form a little suite in the home of another woman. My things are very pretty and my friends say they never saw a more "charming little place." Only one thing annoys me.

The woman in whose house I live does a great deal of cooking and the odor from her food fills my rooms. In the evening when friends come in the smell of onions or fish embarrasses me. I have tried burning incense and it helps, but it is rather difficult to bring about the result I desire because my little burner goes out so easily. I have heard that the atmosphere of a room can be sweetened by scented boiling water. How is that done?

MRS. L. A. G.

To secure a spicy, fragrant odor, fill a flat, shallow basin with boiling water and put in a teaspoonful of cinnamon oil and the spicy juniper will be sent out by the steam. If it is possible to keep the vessel where it will simmer, but not boil, the steam, being longer retained, acts longer, and the whole suite of rooms may be perfumed.

Oil of lavender may be used in the same way, as may any of the pungent flavors, such as neroli, rhodium, etc. The only trouble with the method is that it is not especially attractive to look at, and so cannot be done in the presence of guests. However, a room once perfumed in this manner will retain the odor for several hours.

Suburban

The mother sat silent, looking from one to the other.

"Besides, you know you can succeed better without me—as a wife," Jane went on. "We've thrashed that all out dozens of times. We would be poor, and you would be miserable. Besides that, if you were married to me, you would begin to hate me. You would feel tied to me, and that would have the effect of making you want to get away. You can't help it. It's your nature."

Donald suddenly found himself in the position of begging Jane to marry him. Had Jane been the most skilled coquette, she could not have said anything better calculated to bring him to her point of view.

Donald in the enthusiasm of extreme youth, had seen that much was wrong with the world. It's social system was abominable, its political system not much better, its domestic system of tying two people together for life, was of hit-or-miss scheme that usually missed.

He knew of no happy marriages; his own mother had given her life as the result of her own miserable marriage. If he were ever very rich, he would have a wife as a luxury, a lovely domestic ornament, because he would have a beautiful home and such a place ran better if a woman had charge of it.

Most people were unhappily married. But then, most people would be just as unhappy even if they were not married. It simply made no difference. But as for himself—he had a big career ahead; matrimony was too expensive to go in for now.

And there was the other side of his character. All his life he had chafed under restraint. If anyone said "You shall not do this," immediately there was nothing he wanted to do more than that forbidden thing. He knew, now, that he would never care for another woman as he cared for Jane. But the instant he felt he should marry, he ceased to want to. He had no desire to look at any other woman, but he knew that so soon as he was married, other women would begin to interest him far more than his wife.

It was simply because the words "should" and "shouldn't" came into his affairs, and the old chafing against authority began.

Jane knew this, too. But Jane would have scored to play upon this weakness of his character. Yet, in her honesty, she did that very thing.

As soon as she refused to marry him, Donald was not so different from most men as he thought he was.

"You know that neither of us would restrict each other's liberty," he said. "If you felt tied to me, you could leave me any time. If I felt tied to you, I assure you I should leave you at once."

Mrs. Talbot gasped at this remark. It was anything but lover-like! Yet she liked his frankness when she thought of it afterward. Other men would protest they never would want to leave—but would go without caring or saying anything when they ceased to care!

She waited with beating heart for Jane's answer.

(Tomorrow—Threats)

Odd Fellows Will Give First Degree Friday

Whitewater Lodge J. O. O. F. will give the first degree to four candidates Friday night, says an announcement Tuesday. Other degrees may be included in the class later in the week.

The degree staff orchestra will go to Centerville Saturday night to play for a joint meeting of the Rebekahs and the subordinate lodge of Odd Fellows of that place.

The orchestra, an organization of 11 pieces, is the pride of the local lodge and has received commendation whenever it has appeared.

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Citizens' Mutual Meets
In Fiftieth Session

Members of the Citizens Mutual Fire Insurance company will hold their fiftieth annual meeting Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the assembly room of Adam H. Bartel's plant on South Eighth and B streets. Members alone, are eligible to attend this meeting.

President William F. Klopp will preside at a short business session. Immediately following the business session, President Klopp will turn the meeting over to Adam H. Bartel, who will serve as toastmaster. A special musical number will be played by the orchestra.

Gustave H. Heelscher, attorney of the company, and Rev. Frank A. Roell, of St. Andrew's Catholic church will deliver short addresses.

At the conclusion of Rev. Roell's talk, Mr. Bartel will turn the meeting over to John Zwissler, who will have charge of the luncheon and the general entertainment which will feature the conclusion of the evening's activities.

Inasmuch as the company has 1,226 members, only members will be permitted to attend the meeting, and if the room at Mr. Bartel's plant is not large enough for the guests, they will adjourn to a larger space.

Mr. Herbert Fields and family at their farm home west of Quakertown, Sunday. Then called on Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Leech and daughter Miss Linda, and Mr. and Mrs. George Holder in Dunlapsville in the evening....Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Nickels and daughter, Ruth Evelyn, and Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Nickels and son Quinton of near Alquina, were afternoon guests of Stanton Brothers at the Elms in Quakertown Sunday....Mr. Elmer Potter and family of Quakertown were guests of home folks, Mr. and Mrs. Will Potter, at Walnut Lane farm at Honeyman's Ford, Sunday....Mr. John M. Lafuze of Richmond, will leave for St. Petersburg, Fla., Wednesday, where he will spend a few weeks as guest of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac H. Shumaker, living in that sunny city.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Richardson and son Joseph, motored to Greenwood Sunday and spent the day with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Finch and daughters, Misses Bessie and Helen, at their country home....Mrs. J. M. Talbot and son Robert, and Mrs. C. E. Brookbank and daughter, Miss Freda, motored to Fairfield Sunday and took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Martin Groce and daughter Elizabeth Jean.

MUNCIE Saturday....Mr. and Mrs. Willbur Elwell and daughter spent Thursday in Richmond....On account of

MURIEL McCORMICK FOLLOWS FOOTSTEPS OF PARENTS IN PHILANTHROPIC WORK



Miss Muriel McCormick, left; Mrs. R. T. Crane, Jr., chairman of the concert committee, and Mrs. John Borden.

While people are wondering what Muriel McCormick's future plans are now that her mother and father are divorced she is going about her usual activities without showing a marked preference for either parent. She seems bound to follow the footsteps of her parents in philanthropic work. With Mrs. R. T. Crane, Jr., and Mrs. John Borden of Chicago, she is sponsoring a concert to be staged in Chicago January 10 to lift the \$10,000 deficit resulting from the 1921 activities of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society.

MUNCIE Saturday....Mr. and Mrs. Willbur Elwell and daughter spent Thursday in Richmond....On account of

the revival services at the Methodist church there will be no moving picture shows until the revival closes....Frank Callaway went to Dayton Sunday morning to spend a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Emory Baker....Mrs. Alice Gresh visited Mr. and Mrs. Horace Hurst at Hillhurst a few days the first of the week....Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Swearingen of Mooreland spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hess....Dr. and Mrs. Squier of Richmond attended the funeral of Janet Doty Sunday....Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ferris and family were dinner guests of Mrs. Eva Thornburg and daughter Sunday....Earl Crawford is spending the week at Indianapolis....Dayton Warren was home from Columbus, Ohio, to spend Sunday....Mr. and Mrs. Benton Wissler and family and Mrs. Omer Kerlin and son, John, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kerlin....Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Beeson and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Newman formed a theatre party to Richmond Saturday....Stillwell Wilson has returned from Dayton, Ohio, where he visited his brother, John Severe, and family for several weeks....The Nazarenes are holding revival services at the Friends' church....Mr. and Mrs. Lute Lantz and son are visiting Mrs. Anna Hittle at Indianapolis....The Straightway class of the Christian Sunday school taught by Earl Crawford has challenged the Ruth Circle taught by Mrs. Lida Warren to an at-

tendance contest for three months. The challenge has been accepted.

FOUNTAIN CITY, Ind.—Mrs. John Wright of Greenfield is visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. B. Lovin....Rev. C. O. Reynolds and family entertained in honor of Mr. Reynolds' birthday, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ranck, Margaret Thomas and Albert Swain....Mr. and Mrs. Milton Hodgin entertained at Sunday dinner Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Reeve, of Lyndon....Mr. and Mrs. Robert Collins had as guests Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. William Collins and daughter and Arthur Collins and family....Mrs. Charles Spender and son, Forrest, attended church services in Richmond Sunday evening....Mr. and Mrs. Ross Macey and daughter Thelma spent Sunday in Richmond....Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pitts and family of New Garden....Mr. and Mrs. Clay

A. J. BUNDY
PHOTOS
722 MAIN ST. RICHMOND, IND.

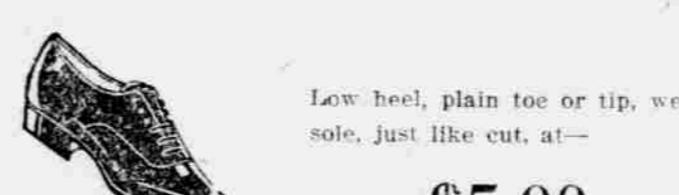
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ton Woolman spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reynolds, of Richmond....Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hiatt entertained Miss Dorothy Walton, of Dublin, Sunday....Mrs. Charles Spender and son, Forrest, attended a funeral at Whitehouse Sunday afternoon....Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Macey were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Macey....Miss Mary Richardson entertained Mrs. Anna L. Davis of Richmond, Sunday....Hurbert Brown entertained Merrill Wright at dinner, Sunday....Roswell Huff spent

Sunday with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. O. N. Huff.

CABLE LANDING AT MIAMI
MAY BE PERMITTED BY U. S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—Negotiations for a settlement of the differences between the American government and the Western Union Telegraph company over the landing at Miami, Fla., of a cable from Barbados, have proceeded to a point where it is understood a solution may be reached and subject to certain conditions, the landing permitted.

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