

A Man in a Hurry

"Chief wants you at once, Miss Mordant," said the manager. He was mopping his forehead.

"I finished the sentence I was writing, took out my shorthand books and examined the points of my pencils. Finding one unsatisfactory, I sharpened it carefully. The chief flurried him."

"He usually is," I answered calmly. "He doesn't flurry me."

"He's worse than usual," the manager persisted. "The American mail came in five minutes ago. Four minutes ago he decided to go across to-morrow afternoon. For goodness sake, look sharp!"

"I am not looking sharp, Mr. Harnden," I rejoined. "But I am."

"I had already decided to accompany the chief to America."

"What do you think time is made for?" he snapped, when I entered. He is John Freeman, financier and millionaire. I am his secretary.

"I am ready," I said calmly, and seated myself in my usual place. "To Isaac and Co.," he began, and gabbled off letter after letter for twenty minutes. Then I looked up. "You're misquoting them," I remarked. "What they actually said was—"

"I know," he interrupted testily. "It's a bluff. Go on." But I shook my head.

"The bluff is too palpable," I told him. "Umph! Well, put it like this—"

And on he went for another quarter of an hour. Then I held up my hand. "Too quick for you!" he said triumphantly.

"Not at all," I contradicted. "But I must send this batch out to be transcribed if you want them done to-day. Other people aren't so quick as we are."

"I am not quite so quick as he is, but I always say that I am. It is one of our standing quarrels. There are several others. He threatens twice a week to dismiss me, but he doesn't mean it. I possess four qualities that he values, he informs me when in good humor. The qualities, according to him, are quickness (inferior to his own), intelligence (for a woman), honesty (without qualification), and impudence (I admit the first three. My impudence consists in correcting him when he is wrong. It is on account of this quality that he pays me as much as the assistant manager."

"Umph!" he growled. "I don't trust those girls of yours. You're to read them over, mind."

"Of course!" I said, tartly. He has no business to interfere in my department. "I never trust them—or you!" He is a very clever man, but he is careless over details, and I always check his facts and figures. "I don't know what you'll do without me in America."

"Like to come?" he inquired. "Yes," I said promptly. He looked at me for a few seconds under his eyebrows.

"Will you marry me?" he asked, abruptly.

The entry of a clerk for the letters gave me a few moments to recover from my astonishment and saved my reputation for promptness of decision. "I was really taken aback for once."

"No," I said, when the door closed. "Umph! Go on. Memorandum as to Flight Syndicate, in cipher, to be opened by the manager only, and only in emergency"—And on he rattled for another half hour, till I objected to a passage in a letter to Sharp and Sons, with whom he had a long standing dispute.

"It's all right," he said, impatiently. "It brings the matter to a head."

"That's the mistake," I answered. "You can't afford to wait. They can't. Why help them?"

"Right," he agreed. "Strike it won't you come into partnership?"

"Do you offer me a business partnership? You're a clever girl. Why partnership?" I inquired.

"I have used Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup for coughs and colds, and I have also found it to give instant relief. I also recommended it to one of my neighbors and she was more than pleased with the results."

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup 25 cts per bottle at all dealers. Put up in yellow wrapper, and three pine trees the trade mark. Refuse substitutes. There is only one Norway Pine Syrup and that one is Dr. Wood's.

"I don't care for a secretary to be so very good looking!"

"Umph!" he growled. "It's beastly awkward. You see, she wrote by the next mail, and wanted a specification of the lady. I had to say something. So I answered that she was tall, and had a good figure, and big, dark eyes. I prefer that sort, don't you?"

"No," I said. "I'm hanged if she didn't ask me for more particulars! Women are so confoundedly curious! That stumped me altogether. So I went into the room where you girls sat—when you used to sit with the rest—to get a model; and there you were!"

"What?" I cried. "Do you mean to tell me that was the reason that you gave me confidential work? And made me your secretary? And paid me a good salary? To use me as a model?"

"Not in the least," he said. "Not in the least! I don't care about your face." I gave him a look that seemed to startle him. "Your face is all right," he explained hastily. "I only meant that I didn't take any notice of it after the first time. At least, I noticed it, but—Look here, you needn't get savage. You know what I mean."

"I presume," I said stiffly, "you mean that you regarded me originally as a model, but that you advanced me, and made me your secretary on account of my work, and not on account of my appearance."

"Quite so," he said. "Quite so. In fact, I regarded your appearance as a drawback."

"Oh!" I cried furiously. "I don't care for a secretary to be so very good looking!"

"Oh-h!" I gasped. "As you are."

"Oh-h!" I was glad to find that he did not mean to be insulting. "In short you were so capable that I put up with your looks. Besides, they came in very well for the model. You are so beautiful!"

"Don't be absurd!" I begged. "So beautifully in accordance with the specification, I was going to say! You're tall. You haven't such a bad figure." The wretch! "You eyes—I suppose some fellow has told you about your eyes?"

"Lots of fellows," I said cheerfully. "Did you like any of them?" he asked sharply.

"Several!" I stated. "Umph! I don't mean 'liking' exactly. Did you—did you—I mean—er—sentiment, you know?"

"Really, Mr. Freeman! Of course not! What did you say about me in your letters?"

"What didn't I say!" He growled. "I described your voice—you know—and your cleverness; and your—er—manners!"

"My impudence?" I suggested. "No-o. You are, of course, but—but I left out the drawbacks."

"The letters must have been short ones," I observed, feelingly. "No," he said. "No. You see I put in all the good qualities I could think of. I daresay you possess some of them, but—"

"I should not advise you to take them on trust!" I said, grimly. "Really, Mr. Freeman, you have taken an unpardonable liberty. However, it doesn't much matter. Your mother is not likely to see me, and if she did she would not be likely to recognize me from your fanciful description."

"Ah!" he said. "But, you see, I sent her your photo."

"My photo! Well! How did you get it?"

"It was the group, the ladies of the office, with you at the head of them. I got a photographer to take you out separately and touch you up a bit."

"Touch me up!" I had not sent my shorthand books out. I believe I'd have thrown them at him. "Anyhow, he made you look very nice. So I bought a dozen—"

"A dozen!"

"I thought she'd like to send some to her friends, and I wanted one or two myself—for purposes of description, you see."

"I don't see," I said furiously. "You are a beast."

"Beauty and the beast," he agreed. "A good, old-fashioned ending. Don't you think—Well, you mustn't look so disagreeable. There was no reason why I shouldn't have one of your photos. We were very good friends. You said yourself that you liked me."

"I did," I said, "but after this!—Besides, I only meant as an employer."

"Nonsense!" he retorted. "If you like anybody you like him; and you can't stop liking him just because you don't like something that he does. We're friends, right enough. What's the use of trying to bluff one another? You know very well that we are."

"I admitted," I said, "I suppose we are. I'll see you when you come back from America. I shall have had time to cool down by then."

He growled. "Do you mean to say you're not coming?"

"Is that final?"

"Absolutely final."

He growled again. "I don't know what I shall do without you," he complained. "I was thinking of doing that deal with the Amalgamated Metal Syndicate. You have always taken such an interest in it. You worked out that if we got—What was the figure?"

"It all depended," I said, eagerly. "There are nine sets of figures, and—You mustn't do it without me. Really, you mustn't. It's the one thing I know better than you do. I do, really, Mr. Freeman."

"Yes," he agreed, "you do!"

It was the first time he had ever admitted that I knew more than he. "Then wait till you come back. I did so want to have a hand in that. Really, do. You must wait."

"Wait!" he cried. "Did I ever wait for anything?"

"No," I agreed. "But this is really my business." I had made out the original suggestion, as well as worked it out.

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And if you wait to consider, you will probably recall that your cold was contracted when the bowels were in a sluggish condition.

You will be unable to find a medicine so well suited for the purpose of preventing and curing colds as Dr. A. W. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, because of their wonderfully prompt and thorough action on the liver, kidneys and bowels.

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How many women there are that get no refreshment from sleep. They wake in the morning and feel tired than when they went to bed.

They have a dizzy sensation in the head, the heart palpitates; they are irritable and nervous, weak and worn out, and the lightest household duties during the day seem to be a drag and a burden.

MILBURN'S HEART AND NERVE PILLS are the very remedy that weak, nervous, tired out, sickly women need to restore them the blessings of good health.

They give sound, restful sleep, tone up the nerves, strengthen the heart, and make rich blood. Mrs. C. McDonald, Portage la Prairie, Man., writes: "I was troubled with shortness of breath, palpitation of the heart and weak spells. I got four boxes of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, and after taking them I was completely cured."

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"Then come over and do it," he said. "You shall have a free hand. I'll let you conduct the negotiations, even."

"Oh!" I cried. "How—how good of you. I—really it is a great compliment, Mr. Freeman."

He sat up straight and looked at me. "It is an absolutely honest and well deserved one, Miss Mordant," he said. "I consider you perfectly competent to do that business. Will you?"

I considered with my chin on my hand. I wanted to go to America, and I simply itched to have a finger in the deal with the Syndicate.

"Oh, well!" I said at last. "If it's the original suggestion, as well as applied, Bridget, a cousin, a squeeze me instantly present when the senses are deliriously used as an anesthetic; art of quibbling with God; an Angus place to place through space?)"

The would be clown plies his craft. Poor wit, flat sarcasm. Only low, "then you might see a clear notion of the world. Proffered to leave it out—A Pope's teen hundred pages, purporting to contingencies." It is a pet maxim about that too," he asserted.

"s have!" But you seem to have admitted that I know more than he. "Quite so," he said. "Quite so. In the least! I don't care about religion; it's nothing to me. I'm an enthusiast in preaching to priests and peo-Italians are naturally a lovable and Still it is hard to account of the both by their teachness and their pub-These many years are becoming lar means that are M M M M M M M M M M a matter of business I'll come with pleasure. Will you promise that you will not let me hear a word of anything but business?"

"What's the use of promising?" he said, gloomily. "When my mother sees you, she mustn't see me."

"She mustn't see me, if she has to be carried—Bless her! I've called that I'm taking my wife."

"Really!" I cried. "It is preposterous. Do you mean to say that I'll jump at your offer and marry you on the spot?"

"You always decide quickly," he muttered. "I have! But you seem to have assumed that I could only decide in one way. You didn't provide for contingencies." It is a pet maxim of his.

"Oh, yes, I did! I know if you wouldn't, some one else would."

"I rose with dignity."

"Then you can take—some one else," I said. "Perhaps you would like to have all the girls in, and make a choice."

I meant this for sarcasm, but he did not seem to see it.

"You might send in the tall ones," he said. "If they're tolerable figures and eyes!"

I moved to the door. "You can send for them yourself," I said. "I give you a month's notice. I'm not going to stay here and take orders from Beatrice Webb."

"Umph!" he said. "Why Miss Webb in particular?"

"She is in accordance with specifications," I said, frigidly. "she is tall—taller than I. She has a good figure—not merely tolerable. Her eyes are larger than mine, and darker. She is quite nice, and quite me looking, and I think she will marry you. You see—I looked at him artlessly—she is very stupid!"

"Women ought to be," he said, cheerfully. "If she comes up to specifications in other respects, I really think she might do for me. But I'm afraid she wouldn't do for my mother. There are one or two things I mentioned about—about the lady that my mother would notice directly."

He looked at me as if he expected me to ask questions. I felt it was undignified for me to do so, but my curiosity was greater than my signity.

"Yes," I asked, sulkily. "In the first place I said she was very fond of me. My mother would be very particular about that."

"May I ask why you thought that I should satisfy her in that respect?"

"You wouldn't marry me if you weren't."

"No; nor unless you were—but that doesn't matter. What else did you say?"

"I said that I was awfully fond of—of her."

"Mr. Freeman!"

"My mother would be very particular about that," he asserted. "If I pretended that I liked Miss What-you-call-her, the old lady would find me out in half a minute."

"Then," I said, "what would be the use of taking me?"

He jumped up from the table.

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lived by humorous and homely allusions and even personal application of the moral to be taught, ever proved to be most effective in holding the interest. Some of his discourses still remain to us and it is with considerable interest that we discover among them a sermon dealing entirely with the subject of widows; another on the question of gaudy dress among girls; another on husbands. From a glance at these sermons, it is sufficiently clear that human nature is much the same today as it was six hundred years ago and that, consequently, the same sermons addressed to widows, over-dressed girls or neglectful husbands, would avail at this day even as they did then.

It is especially to be noted that there was an entire absence in the Friar's sermons of anything like controversy. The discourses were essentially for the people and in that consisted their novelty and caused them to be quoted by hearers long years after the preacher had passed to his reward. Nearly all preaching before that time, as, indeed, to a large extent at the present time, had been doctrinal and of such a kind as to be of little interest to the uneducated. The Friar took care to speak of those who were listening to him, and to make his discourse so personal, that his hearers could not fail to carry away the lesson. And he by no means confined his preaching to peasants. When he came among the tradesmen and citizens of great towns, he would take as his subject matters concerning petty fraud, artifice and lying at which tradesmen have been accustomed to wink since trade came into fashion.

In dealing with the rich, Friar Berthold always broached those subjects which struck most deeply home. So successful was he in combating the evils of over-dressing among the fashionable women of Germany, that the purveyors of rich clothing, the wealthy classes, in one city, on one occasion, sent him a deputation asking him, on the consideration of a sum of money, to leave the city. Drink and the senseless spending of money were in those days the curse of the wealthy classes, and it was by showing his hearers the opposite side of the picture, the poverty which prevailed among the lower orders, that he effected most of his conversions. He was at one time asked by a reigning prince from what source he drew his inspiration. "From reading," he answered, "from a knowledge of the Bible and from knowing among the people, men, women and children. It is my practice to go down if necessary to those whom I wish to raise up. Consequently, in order to make my sermons effective, I must study before hand the conditions and circumstances in which the objects of my discourse live. I take no account of the art of oratory, since I subordinate everything to my desire to win over souls to God. The law of God is my criterion, not the law of historic. My sermons are not for the audience, but for the cause of humanity."

Nothing looks more ugly than to see a person whose hands are covered over with warts. Why have these disfigurements on your person when a sure remover of all warts, corns, etc., can be found in Holloway's Corn Cure.

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James McAn, 28 Chabollier Squ. Arlette Madore, 2 Beaver Hall Hill. Miss Scanlan, 68 Bligny st.

Miss Elms, 375 Wellington st. Mrs. Stoute, 149 Dorchester st.

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