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Lady Marjorie's Love

"Not that Norah! That shall never be. I won't say that your must be mad to think of it, but I do say that I should be mad to let you do it. Worse than mad—a scamp, an idiot! Go back." He kindled. "Good Heaven, do you know what you say? Do you know what you are trying to do? This man—you force me to speak of him—has treated you as only a villain and a dastard could treat you and now, when your home waits for you, when your father waits for you, when love and forgiveness wait for you, you will fling them all away to go back to him! Are you utterly infatuated or are you mad indeed? You shall not go!"

"I must go! Don't force me, Gerard, to remind you that you have no right to say what I shall or shall not do!"

"It was true, and he knew it, but he had never expected to hear it from her lips. Pain, mortification, and impatience showed themselves in his face as he let her hands go. As he made the movement she caught his arm and clung to it, fondly, entreatingly.

"Oh, don't turn away from me, Gerard! After you have been so patient with me, so kind to me, don't be angry at last! You must let me go, dear, and let me go alone. And you must not tell our father, that you have seen me, not for a little while. It shall not be for long, and you must let me go. Promise me!"

Her voice, her tone, her look entreated, but there was a latent power of defiance in her to which he was not blind. And it was but too true that of right to control her he had none. He made a movement of angry irresolution.

"Noah, if I let you go back, if I let you do this, I shall feel that I'm acting like a scoundrel and a fool!"

"You will be doing the wisest and kindest thing that it is possible to do," she answered. She paused, her hands clenched as they dropped at her sides; a curious struggle was visible in her, a struggle that turned her white to the lips. "I was never a liar, Gerard!" she said slowly. "You knew it in the old days, believe it now. Let me go alone as I came; don't try to trace me; say nothing of having seen me. It was weak to come, I know, but I longed so to see you and hear a word of him! Do this for me and promise solemnly that in a few days—a week at most—you shall both know!"

"Shall know what? Where you are?"

"Yes, yes! That and more—more than I can tell you now!" she said agitatedly. "Only trust me, Gerard, for a few days as the greatest kindness you can do me!"

Her hands were on his breast as she pleaded, her uplifted eyes filled with heavy tears. He recalled that if she chose she had that fatal right to set him at nought, pitied her passionate distress even while she angered him, and did the only thing he could do—he yielded.

"If I must I must, Norah. I give you my word, since you will have it, but it is horribly against the grain."

"Yes, yes, I know, I know! I thank you a thousand times!" She kissed him. "When—when I see you again, Gerard," she said, glancing away, and with a break in her voice as her hand trembled timidly on his neck—"when—when I explain you may blame me less than you do now, perhaps. You may even think less harshly of—of him."

His gesture of repressed wrath, his darkened brow and bitten lip expressed denial strongly and plainly enough but he would not distress her with words of repudiation. A wistful melancholy smile that was not without a touch of sad humor and raillery flashed into Norah's beautiful face. She put her other hand on his shoulder.

"Ah, Gerard," she said gently, "you are such a good fellow! But when you are married, my dear, when you are happy with your wife as I hope with all my heart you may be, do you think she will love you just because you are a good fellow, kind and truthful and honest, and a man all through? No, no—oh, no! She will love you just because she loves you, just because she could not do other if she would, just as she would love you if she knew that her love was to be her misery! Ah, dear, I am a woman; don't be too hard on me! I know."

She dropped her hands, moving a pace away towards the window. Barrington did not answer; her words, her face, the pathetic ring in her voice had affected him profoundly, had even brought tears to his eyes and manlike, he did not care to let her see. He moved to her side in a moment, putting his arm affectionately round her shoulders, she putting her hand up to clasp his.

"She is very pretty, Gerard," she said quietly—"very, very pretty, and a dear, good, loving little creature I am sure! I saw her in the park today."

"Norah!" His quick start, his hot flush showed at once his intense surprise and his complete comprehension.

Norah faintly smiled again.

"If course I understand dear! When I first knew you were down here I thought of Lady Marjorie. Why you had come I knew, but I scarcely thought you would care to stay long without a reason. I knew how pretty she was. I—I had chanced to see her once, and so I thought I understood. Did I?"

"Perfectly!" His arm tightened on her shoulder. Each was speaking in a lighter tone than either had used yet. "So you saw her to-day?" he said curiously. "You did not speak?"

"Oh, yes! I don't supose I should have done so if I had had time to think, but I did so impulsively, on the spur of the moment. It did not matter, because she instantly supposed that I was here on business." She paused. "She told me, if that was the case, that I had better inquire at the house of M. Gerard Barrington, Mr. Chadburn's agent."

"Ah, just so!" His eyes looked down, hers up, and both smiled. "You would have done so, of course?" he questioned coolly.

"Had I enquired for any one, certainly. Lady Marjorie's directions

(To be Continued.)

The Young Wives' Tale
By RUTH CAMERON

Once upon a Time there were two Young Wives who Knew Best. That was not just their Opinion but the Truth. They were Women of Unusually Good Judgment and they really did happen to know better about Most Things than their Husbands.

Now one day the Husband of one of these Women came home with a Great Project. "My dear," he said, "I am going to Give up my Present Position and go into Business for Myself. I have had a Great Opening. I have been offered an Opportunity to become one of the Leading Members of a Company to grow Strawberries on the Banks of the Panama Canal."

At that the Wife Who Knew Best sat right up straight and she said, "John Henry, what are you Talking About? Indeed you are Not Going to give up your Perfectly Good Position for any such Nonsense."

"Now you don't know Anything about it," said John Henry. And he dug into his pockets, and he brought out some Envelopes, and he read off the Backs of the Envelopes some Incontrovertible Statistics of Fortunes which could be made by a Company to Grow Strawberries on the Banks of the Panama Canal.

After half an hour's argument Mrs. John Henry slammed the Door.

And the next day John Henry, in pursuance of his Rights as a Man and a Husband Gave up his Position.

By a Strange Coincidence the husband of the Other Wife Who Knew Best came home that same day and said, "My dear, I am not at al satisfied with my Position. I am going to Resign. I do not see any Opening Just Now, but I am sure a man of My Talents can soon find one."

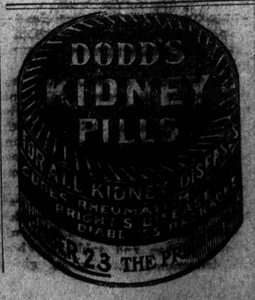
The Second Wife Who Knew Best thought of Rent and Babies' Shoes and of a Man down the Street who had been Out of York for Six Months and she started to say Something Quickly. Instead she Thought a Minute and then she said, "Yes, my dear, I don't feel that you are fully appreciated. But you know this is Presidential Year and Times are Hard. Don't you think there might be more Big Openings, the kind a Man of Your Talents ought to have, when Times are Better? However, my dear, you must use your Own Judgment. You Know Best about Such Things."

At that the Husband of the Second Wife Who Knew Best became thoughtful in his turn and he thought something on this wise. "My wife says I must use My Own Judgment and that I know Best. She is Right. I am the Head of this Family and I must be very Careful what I do. I will consider this Step Very Carefully as befits a Man Who Knows Best."

And the next day, waking up without the grouch which had made him dissatisfied, he quite forgot that he wanted to Resign His Position.

Moral—It's better to be right than President, but there are other things better still.

Ruth Cameron



The Trust and Guarantee Co., of Toronto have been appointed administrators of the estate of the late Robt W. Hadgraft late of the Township of Grimsby, who died on or about March 16th, 1913. The estate is inventoried at $2,265.18, and the heirs are the widow, three sons and a daughter residing in St. Catharines.

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