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## ROYAL YEAST CAKES

### The Mystery of Rutledge Hall

—OR—  
"The Cloud With a Silver Lining"

CHAPTER XXV.

Sidney told her gently, glossing over Stephen's displeasure and her own pain at displacing him; but the deep, unutterable sorrow which looked out of the heavy dark eyes touched Christine through the thick armour of her own sorrow. She drew Sidney's face down to hers with her little hot hands, and kissed her in silence with her dry lips, and had not Sidney, free and unstained, the bitterness of controlled herself by a strong effort, she would have broken down in tears. As it was, she could not speak for some minutes.

"Do you know, Christine," she said at last, trying to speak playfully, "that I am so sorry an invalid, I have to remain at home from a fancy-bait tea, and tell them to bring in some of which I should have been literally wine and biscuits, and to get ready the shining light—I wish I had some more substantial refreshment, to let you see my dress, dear—it was for Dr. Anderson will have come a lovely! Well, as I was saying, as you are so much of an invalid—no one would believe it who saw those red cheeks and bright eyes, though no one will be at all surprised if a doctor should come to see you and spend some time with you here. You would not be surprised either, dear, would you?"

Christine looked at her in some bewilderment before she understood her meaning; then, realizing it, she, even as Sidney had done, began to tremble exceedingly.

"Yes, a new clever doctor," Sidney went on, in her soft pathetic voice, "who will do you good—so much good, dear!—and who wants to see you at your best and brightest, and who will tell you that there are many happy years in store for you yet, and that there are other lands besides England where people can be very happy, and where trouble and sorrow are all forgotten."

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home from the hall, which all had looked forward to so eagerly—was unceremoniously waiting in her mistress's dressing-room to conduct the doctor to his patient. Sidney had requested her to perform this duty, thinking it would be better that she should see more of Frank in his disguise than any of the other servants, as, if anything happened, it would be his duty to keep the secret faithfully.

As the hour fixed for her brother's arrival drew near, Christine's excitement rose to fever-heat. She could not keep still. Again and again she would leave her seat and drag her feeble steps across the room to the window, to look out into the night, to see if he were coming; and then, seeing the thick heavy snow which prevented any outlook, she would turn away shivering, and Sidney would support her, half swooning back to her seat. It was a piteous, almost a terrible sight to see the poor girl's suffering and anxiety; and more than once Sidney regretted bitterly that she had consented to contrive an interview, fearing, and with some justice, that her friend's strength would prove unequal to such a strain.

Very gently and tenderly she soothed her, hiding her own anxiety, and finding brave and cheerful words to keep up Christine's falling courage. Sidney's own suffering was teaching her many a wise and useful lesson. She was daily growing gentler; and more patient, with a larger and wider sympathy for others, a truer tenderness, a greater charity. If the day should ever come when she and Stephen Daunt should stand heart to heart in true and perfect union and sympathy—in that union and trust which makes the only true marriage—he would win a nobler woman, a wife far more worthy of his tenderness than the girl he had wooed and won.

"Will mine never come?" shrilled he was saying, in her tearful broken voice. "Oh, Frank, where are you, I wonder? Lost in the snow perhaps!" "Nine o'clock will be here in a few moments, dear. See—it wants only ten minutes to the hour now; and, as for being lost in the snow, that is an absurd idea, Christine, because no doubt Frank will take a fly from the station."

"I suppose he has come and they have sent him away," suggested the poor girl, in her agony of suspense. "Oh, no, dear! I gave Tom orders, and Bessie is waiting to show him in here."

"But, oh, Sidney," and the little fragile fingers seized Sidney's arm with nervous force, and the frightened eyes were raised eagerly to her face—"if he should be recognized—it—"

"Christie, is it likely that he would run that risk?" Sidney said, hurriedly pouring out some wine and forcing it through the pale lips, for the dread her friend had expressed seemed to have deprived her of all her strength. "My dear, if you do not try to compose yourself, you will only distress Frank terribly, and render yourself quite unfit to talk to him and cheer him as your duty is to-night."

"Cheer him? How can I?" (To be continued.)



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## SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

### THE COMMONEST LOVE TRIANGLE.

What a lot of heart it does take for a man and his wife and his mother to live happily in one house! We are always hearing of the hearing of the story these days, but common by that phrase is, I think, the commonest love triangle in the world—his wife and his mother—a the two ends.

A Letter Friend has written me recently about such a situation. "There are times," she writes, "when I think my husband cares more for his mother than he does for me, for whenever I criticize her he always defends her and finds justification for her. He will never admit that anything she does to me is wrong."

He Probably Defends The Absent. I wonder if that proves anything. Except perhaps that he is that rather decent kind of man whose instinct is to defend the person who is absent and cannot defend himself of herself. I shouldn't be a bit surprised if, could she listen in when his mother criticizes her, that wife would hear her husband defending her in just the same way he defends his mother when she attacks her.

It seems to me that in a case like this, the greatest strength lies with the party who does the least attacking. In the first place a man looks for peace in his home and he can't help feeling antagonism against the person who appears to be the aggressor in disturbances that affect that peace. Then, again, the attacker generally shows herself in an ungracious and unbecoming light, and even if she has had considerable provocation that does not modify the light if the provocation has not been open or anything that was personally annoying to the husband.

A Psychic Victory. Also a man generally sympathizes with a woman whose feelings have been hurt (that is, unless he hurt them himself) and if a wife flames up and says sharp things to her mother-in-law and the mother retires into hurt silence, the real winner in that battle is not the one left in possession of the field.

I once knew a woman who had a very competent but very domineering mother-in-law living with her, one of those women who have competently ordered their own homes and are keen to do the same with their son's. At first the wife used to protest vigorously to her husband against the mother's domineering ways, but she soon saw that she was losing his sympathy by her constant complaints. So she adopted a new tack, she made up her mind to so maneuver things that his mother's bossiness interfered

plaints and attacks. That's not the way to strengthen your position. Let the other person do the unkind and ungracious things, if it's love and tenderness you're after, and not merely your own way.



Thrice Bereaved

Patrick Smyth, trimmer, of the Grimsby trawler Cambodia, was drowned when the vessel ran ashore during a fog on the coast of Norway. A sister of Smyth's fiancée said that he was the third sweetheart she had lost at sea. The first, a mine-sweeper, was blown up during the war and the second was washed overboard during a gale.

### Boys' Adventure

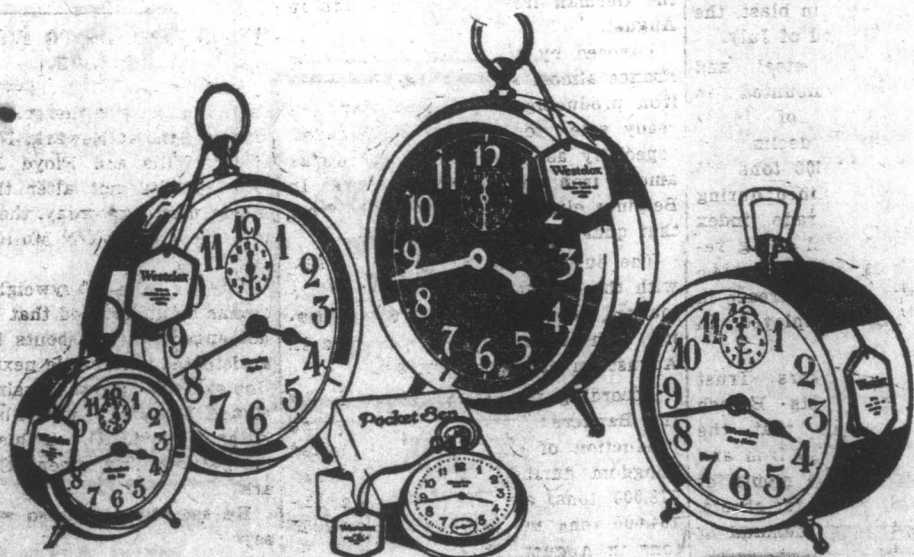
LOST IN UNDERGROUND SAND WORKINGS.

Four boys of Glass Houghton, near Castleford, Yorkshire, whose ages ranged from 11 to 19 years, were rescued from old underground sand-workings, having been lost for 22 hours.

During the whole period after their loss was discovered organized parties were searching in the old workings. The fathers of two of the boys were in the workings all night, and their mothers waited outside.

The lads said they tried to keep themselves cheerful by singing. "Yes! We have no bananas" and "Show me the way to go home." After a sleep they took turns at "leading," holding each others' hands and trying to find the way out, but they discovered they were going over the same ground again.

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