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of Canada Limited**

GOODYEAR BLDG., TORONTO, ONT. 23

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You do things in your own way—you two," he added queerly.

I laughed. Lillian Yarbin tried hard to understand. I doubt if she ever tried so hard to understand anything. She watched me often with a queer expanding smile and a steady intent look in her eye—then she would slap her hands together and shake her head.

"But she's here and you're here, and you are dying for each other—"

That was as far as she could go.

There was a fineness about Yarbin. It seemed to keep him from speaking. But then he never told his own history. I often wondered if Teck and Morgan waited to come into Tropicania with Orion.

Now that I was improving so rapidly, a letter came every day. I wrote of Yuan Kang Su and Huntoon—how strangely dear they were—of Yarbin, Maonachie and the old Master. A man's friends—the ships that come and go from his harbor, and are so welcome. These brought profits to me, dearer than the sands of the Calderon. A man's fleet of friends—honors a man brings a woman. I often think of lying beached and broken at evening, and quietly hurrying in from far seas—the brothers of the fleet. . . . I told Mary Romany of the messages we must carry to St. Louis and up the Yellow River, pilgrimages together.

"Yes, there was a light upon the last days—hours with Romany, with Maonachie, a dinner with Yarbin and his Lillian; a strange but intimate association that brought out values from the depths of the six miners who had remained against every desire of their hearts. Then, alone with my thoughts—hours and hours of gratefulness and restoration.

Mornings and evenings across the mountain-side from Mary Romany's terrace to mine—the mute waving of hands.

Once, as I was going to her father's tent, she was just coming forth. She was startled, smiled; for an instant searched my face as a mother searches the face of her son, home from his first far voyage. On she passed—head bowed in the perfect olive glow. Nothing had I missed, the seam at her shoulder, the white at her temples, nor grace, nor glory. . . . And I did not go to the old Master's tent after that, but up the mountain to the end of all trails, where the air began to nip from the snows—alone, to realize, as I might, the mystery and beauty of a loving woman.

Near the end of all possible ascending (the glacier far above was like an uncut diamond set in rusted iron) I found a spring, and traced it to the source, ice-cold and pure. The air had sharpness from that ice-jewel, but brave fronds were about the Spring, and a network of vines and creepers. There I stood in the dimness—and the source became a shrine to me. For a moment I touched Realities; for a moment I had vision and human kindness—an excellent stamina from the high source of good things. And this has remained with me: that Mary Romany and I were one; that even if I knew her no more as now, we were one; that flesh is but a tithe of the meaning of a great love. And a continuous lustre has remained from that realization, a fresh fineness of patience, a new mastery of self.

I parted the network of vines at last; and beheld with a strength of eye that I had not known before—the Jovian vista across Lost Valley, and the great Aondean peaks beyond, their imperial contours, monster ice-packs; and in that inter-stellar stillness, I knew then that one might learn easily to hear his soul.

That night I wrote a note, and told of the realizations, and the shrine of them, the high gushing Spring. And that night, I told Maonachie the secret of happiness; at least I caught myself declaring devoutly: " . . . and when you have found her—go away for a Year. Say to her, that you go to search for a flower of pure spirit, that takes root amid loving and dreaming and waiting." . . . Queerly tucked away among the sentences of a letter I received the next dusk was a line—that sometime I should find her there at the Spring.

There remained but three days of the Year. I had passed the afternoon with the old Master. Poise and peace

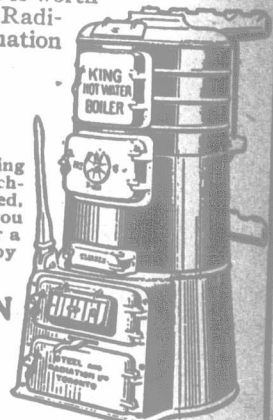
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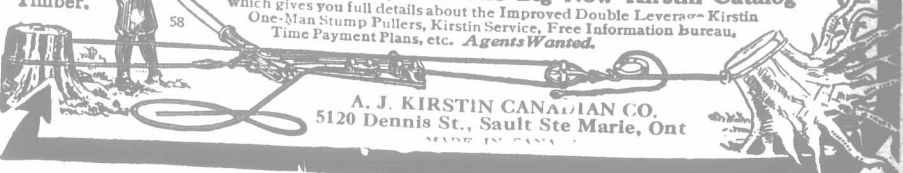
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