

A BID FOR A BRIDE

By BLANCHE EARDLEY

Author of "Kitty Bell—Actress," "The Lady Killer," Etc.
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"I suppose you know, Miss Frant, that you are placing yourself in a very strange position in aiding and abetting a criminal who is a prisoner of the law?" the detective began sternly. "I must impress upon you to tell all you know concerning Mr. Hawke's escape."

Isobel broke into a low laugh. "I only know that I have helped him to get away—that he has escaped, and while you are down here he is getting away further! He knew you would think he had come down here into this trap," she went on contemptuously. "Clifford Hawke is not a fool if his followers are! You will never catch him—never!"

"I see," Mr. Scafe said quietly, "he had a very clever accomplice in you, miss."

She laughed.

Mr. Scafe bit his lip. It was no use wasting time talking to this handsome defiant creature. He had better hurry upstairs and give fresh and urgent instructions to his men.

As he turned away, Isobel's mocking laugh followed him.

"You can't get out the way you came down because the door in the bookcase has a trick catch, and I'm not going to tell you how I came down."

Mr. Scafe caught her white arm in exasperation.

"Be careful, madam!" he rapped savagely, "you are defeating the ends of justice by assisting this man. I command you, in the name of the law, to tell me the way out of this place!"

Isobel flung back her head with another low malicious laugh.

"Until I am sure that Clifford Hawke has had a good start I will not speak," she said. "You are both my prisoners. It is a case of the bitter bit, and I hope you will enjoy the novelty of your position!"

"And you really think I dare hope that she will see me, Lady Mary? It is so long now since I have heard

anything of her, except from you, that I am almost afraid lest the sight of me might bring back all the past horror and misery!"

Lady Mary gazed with sympathetic eyes at Jasper Tennant's handsome face. They were sitting in the drawing-room of her riverside house at Teddington, and watching the silver streak of the Thames as it flowed past the bottom of the garden.

"It was certainly a great shock," she said slowly, "but the most merciful thing of all was the motor accident that killed that unfortunate man and saved her from further disgrace. Poor Stella! I sometimes wondered whether she would ever shake off the memory of it all. Everything came together, really, her discovery that little Lottie was really her daughter by her sister, and then the death of Isobel Frant from an overdose of toothache mixture, as the papers called it, but we knew differently."

"I can't help feeling," Jasper said again, "that I was to blame for all this misery that has been brought upon her. If I had not begun my search for poor Alvy's husband, that man might not have burdened his soul with so many crimes."

"God knows best," Lady Mary said gently. "Out of much evil some good has sprung. The papers of poor Mr. Steinhart, telling that last interview with Clifford Hawke made clear poor Lottie's parentage, and she is also a rich young woman as well; and now the whole sad affair is slipping into the oblivion of yesterday. Twelve months is a long time."

"Have you heard from her?" Jasper asked.

"Yes; she and Lottie were in Venice when I heard last. They are both well."

Jasper frowned and pulled Fili's ears as she lay curled up on his knee. Lady Mary was taking care of the dog. "Cardew's from Lottie very often," he said slowly. "I think he is only waiting here till she comes back. He is a good fellow, though he is much older than little Lottie. I think she will be lucky to marry him."

Lady Mary laid her hand on his arm. "Patience, Jasper, patience," she murmured, "your luck will come, too, and your happiness as well, boy. Only give time for the wounds to be healed."

A servant crossed the lawn with an orange-tinted envelope on a salver. Lady Mary opened it quickly and then handed it to Jasper, who took it with trembling fingers.

It was dated a couple of hours ago, and was handed in at Paris: "Coming home with Lottie on Wednesday—Stella."

"There," Lady Mary smiled, "you see I was right. You and Mr. Cardew had better come and dine on Wednesday; I shall have her the whole day before you come."

And as he went back to the hotel where he was staying Jasper murmured to himself:

"Will she still care, I wonder? Oh, my dearest, I hope so."

Lady Mary was half dozing in an armchair near the drawing-room window. It was about ten o'clock, and the moon poured a silver light over the river and lawn, while the soft lap of the water lulled the sleeping senses into a deeper dream.

"Oh, Lady Mary," laughed a gay girlish voice, "we have been looking at you all this time, and you never woke. There can't be any magnetism in our glances, can there, Mark?"

The man laughed and let his hand rest tenderly on the girl's shoulder.

"Not in mine, dearest, but there is in yours," he said.

"You see I am old, dear," Lady Mary laughed, "and I have not the incentive to keep awake that you younger people have."

Lottie laughed shyly. In the past year the girl had gained in grace and daintiness, and her pretty, capricious treatment of her sober lover made Lady Mary and Jasper laugh.

The shadow that had blotted the sunshine from Stella's eyes had rested lightly on Lottie, and they could not but be glad that she had found a good husband to take the place of the unnatural man who had been her father, and who had plotted even against her young life.

"Would her own dearly-loved protect her a similar joy?" she wondered.

In the meantime Stella and Jasper were sitting side by side in the punt under an overhanging tree. Presently Jasper spoke, and his voice was harsh with restrained passion.

"Stella, darling—I did not mean to say this now, but I can't wait, my darling. I love you, I love you. Is there any hope for me?"

The girl turned her face to his, and beneath the soft light of the moon it shone with strange new beauty. The past year of grief and shame was wiped away and it was again the face of the girl whom Fate had led him to cross the unconscious figure of Lottie.

"Dear," she whispered, "I have never changed, never, Jasper. I am yours if you still want me, dearest."

He folded her in his arms.

"Want you? I have yearned for you, my darling, and now I have found my paradise at last."

"We must tell Aunt Mary," Stella whispered presently through her tears; "she will be so happy."

"God bless you," Jasper replied. "He has given you to me at last!"

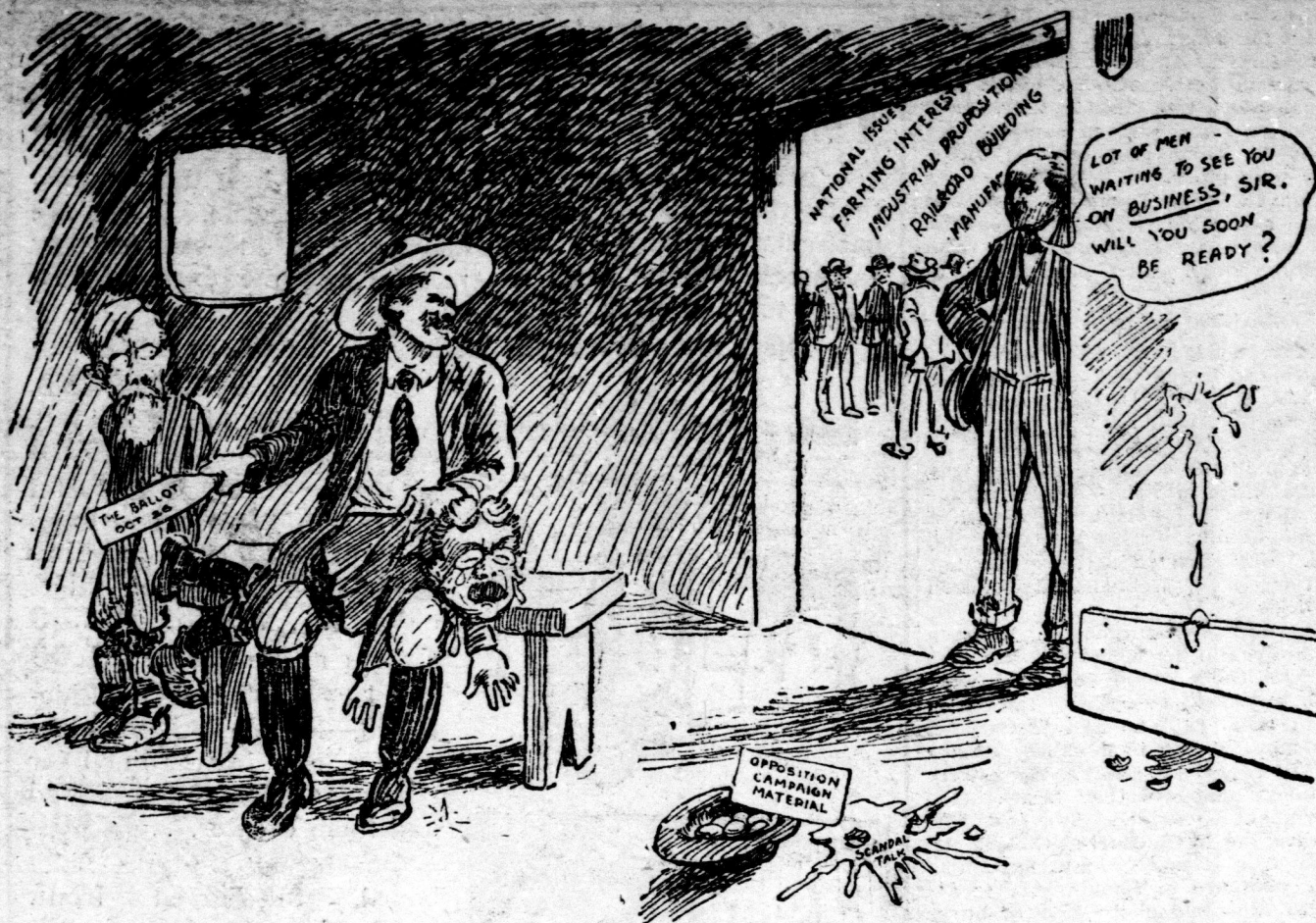
"Amen!" she murmured softly, and then once more the lovers' lips met in a long kiss of joy and understanding.

The love had endured the long, dark way, and now had brought them into the broad way of happiness.

The End.

AN OTTAWA SUICIDE.

Ottawa, Oct. 23.—Leon Labelle, second-hand dealer of Ottawa, took his life this morning. He shot himself through the head with a revolver. He was sixty-five years old.



JACK CANUCK — IN A MINUTE, LAURIER. I CAUGHT THESE YOUNG LOAFERS THROWING STALE EGGS ALL OVER THE PLACE. IT WON'T TAKE LONG.

LIST OF POLLING PLACES WITH THE BOUNDARIES

Interesting Information for Those Who Are Entitled to a Vote—
Monday's Elections for the Dominion House.

The polling sub-divisions of the city with their boundaries are given herewith for the convenience of voters:

Ward One.

Polling Sub-division No. 1.—Bounded on the north by the south side of Dundas street, on the east by the west side of Richmond street, on the south by the north side of King street, and on the west by the River Thames, at the city hall.

No. 2.—Bounded on the north by the south side of Dundas street, on the east by the west side of Wellington street, on the south by the north side of King street, and on the west by the east side of Richmond street, at Mrs. Reeves' house, 254 King street.

No. 3.—Bounded on the north by the south side of King street, on the east by the west side of Richmond street, on the south by the north track of the Grand Trunk Railway, and on the west by the River Thames, at store, 334 Ridout street.

No. 4.—Bounded on the north by the south side of King street, on the east by the west side of Wellington street, on the south by the north side of Horton street, and on the west by the east side of Richmond street, at Patrick Gray's house, 198 York street.

No. 5.—Bounded on the north by the south side of King street, on the east by the west side of Wellington street, on the south by the north side of Horton street, and on the west by the east side of Richmond street, at J. Baynes' house, 297 Horton street.

No. 6.—Bounded on the north by the south side of King street, on the east by the west side of Wellington street, on the south by the north side of Horton street, and on the west by the east side of Richmond street, at J. Baynes' house, 297 Horton street.

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street to King street and the north side of King street from Maitland street to Burwell street and the east side of Burwell street from King to Dundas street, at H. L. Cater's house, 501 King street.

No. 3.—Bounded on the north by the south side of Bathurst street, on the east by the west side of Maitland street, on the south by the north side of Simcoe street and on the west by the east side of Wellington street, at Mrs. James Hussey's house, 214 Colborne street.

No. 4.—Bounded on the north by the south side of York street, on the east by the west side of Adelaide street, on the south by the north side of the Hamilton road from Adelaide street to William street, the west side of William street from Hamilton road to Simcoe street and the north side of Simcoe street from William street to the Maitland street and on the west by the east side of Maitland street, at Billwood's barber shop, 115 Hamilton road.

No. 5.—Bounded on the north by the south side of Simcoe street, on the east by the west side of Colborne street, on the south by the north side of Ottawa street, on the west by the east side of Wellington street, at Mrs. O'Byrne's, 312 Grey street.

No. 6.—Bounded on the north by the south side of Simcoe street from Colborne street to William street and the east side of William street from Simcoe street to the Hamilton road and the Hamilton road from William street to Adelaide street, on the east by the west side of Adelaide street, on the south by the north side of Hill street, at Mrs. O'Byrne's, 312 Grey street.

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