

Talk No. 1.

# THE WIFE

BY JANE PHELPS, AUTHOR OF "MARGARET GARRETT'S HUSBAND," AND OTHER NOTABLE STORIES.

Ruth hopes Kenyon Roberts will influence Brian for his good.

CHAPTER LXIII

Ruth laughed at Brian. The idea that he should imagine Rachel would want to go back when she had grieved for her, Ruth, ever since she was married.

"Just wait, Brian Hackett, until Rachel cooks chicken and corn fritters for you, and until you eat some of her hot corn bread for breakfast! You'll be as glad to have her—as I will. Of course you won't love her as I do."

"I should say not. Why should I love a big, fat darky when I have you to love?"

Kenyon Roberts and his wife had become very friendly with Ruth and Brian. In many ways it was good for them all, but especially for Brian. Mr. Roberts was very ambitious. He had determined to win success, if hard work would do it. So he told Brian. He was always out very early in the morning, and seldom left his office until after six. "When I don't have any business to attend to, I read up on law. I find a lot of Blackstone or which I am ignorant. And nowadays it is more necessary than ever to keep one's wits sharpened, at least it seems that way to me."

Ruth was delighted when he

talked that way to Brian. Much as she loved him, she knew his faults; and indulgence was one of them. If his pride could be awakened he might overcome it. She did all she could, and all she dared to say—he was so sensitive to criticism—so she hoped their friendship with the Roberts would help her in making Brian see the necessity for exercising his powers if he would succeed.

"What's going to be, will be," was one of his favorite quotations, or "If luck is coming my way it will come anyway," was another. Yet Brian was naturally clever, possessed a keen, more analytical mind than did Kenyon Roberts. Application was all he needed.

Mrs. Roberts and Ruth found many things in which they were interested in common. "Often they spent Saturday afternoon together at the museum or in some shops that carried goods interesting to them both: old tapestries, jades, etc. Ruth never worked on Saturday afternoons. Not at any time of year. When away, she usually suited herself, but Mr. Mandel had told her from the first that she need not return to the shop on Saturday. That after her luncheon she was free. So, often, Clara Roberts would meet her and they would lunch together, then spend the afternoon at a matinee, or

as I have said, in visiting places which entertained them.

Ruth had not seen Mollie King since the night she had her and Claude Beckly to dinner. Brian had been home early, they had been very happy. Rachel had arrived, and Brian was ready to agree that she could "cook all around Crawford."

Ruth had not been required to go out or town for some time. She was glad that it was so, as Brian was not apt to say so much about her work. In fact, for days at a time, neither of them mentioned it or her salary.

Mr. Mandel watched Ruth closely. He saw her happier, and was puzzled.

"I wonder if that fellow is winking up and treating her as he should," he said to himself, vaguely hoping that he wasn't. Pretty late in the day," he added.

They had been very busy at the shop. Large and important orders kept them all working very hard, each at his or her allotted task. But Arthur Mandel never was too busy to watch Ruth Hackett, covertly, of course.

One day he asked her to remain a moment, as she passed him on her way out.

"You look tired," he said, placing

a chair for her.

"I am, a little."

"You have done splendid work lately. Splendid! Your salary will be fifty dollars a week hereafter. Don't thank me. It was so nice to have her salary raised without asking for it. There were not many employers like Mr. Mandel. Ruth thought she should thank him. "You have earned it."

Ruth knew she was worth fifty dollars a week, yet she could not feel grateful because Arthur Mandel also had realized her worth. It was no nice to be appreciated. As she walked slowly home, she recalled how Brian smiled when she was raised before. Would he do so again? Had she better tell him? She decided. She knew his jealous nature and if she didn't tell him—hoping to save his feelings—and he found it out, he might feel she had something to hide; something she never dream it was to save his feelings; to keep him from feeling that she earned more than he did. That never would occur to him as a reason for not raising his or her raise.

(To be Continued.)



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Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Brantford, Brantford and Newmarket, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector, London.

CHAS. E. H. FISHER,  
Post Office Inspector,  
Post Office Inspector's Office, London, 25th October, 1918.

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of Farm Stock, Cattle and Sheep; Welby Atlas will sell for Mr. Claude Bowen at his residence situated on Concession No. 3, Lot 3 Township of Norfolk, 1 1/2 miles South of Walsbyville, 1-2 east, 1 mile West of Deaton, on Tuesday, November 5th, commencing at one o'clock sharp as follows:

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