

The Mask of Blindness

By GERALD THORNE

(Copyright, 1919, by the Western Newspaper Union.)

She had never loved Anson Burdett in a true sense, and such a thing as becoming his wife had never entered her thoughts, yet, when misfortune came upon him, there was born in the nature of Lella Raleigh pity, mingled with mistaken duty, that amazed her mother and sisters.

"I shall make any sacrifice necessary as a friend," she told them. "If poor Anson is to go through life helpless, blind, and asks me to share his troubles I will marry him at his bidding."

"Lella, you talk wild!" scolded her sister, Adelaide. "You never really cared for Anson. He has no claim upon you. It is sheer folly."

"But I feel so sorry for him," said Lella. "He certainly paid me more attention than he did to other girls."

"And out of an impulse of sympathy you would tie yourself to a man unable to make even a living? Lella, this is all sentiment," declared her mother.

Nothing more was said at the time, but Mrs. Raleigh knew that Lella was a person who always acted upon her convictions, though neither romantic nor heroic. Intensely loyal to her friends, sympathetic and tender-hearted, Lella had exaggerated her sense of duty towards a man who had never spoken to her one word of love.

A strange condition of affairs had come about. There was an athletic club in Rossmore to which nearly every young man in the town belonged. It had been started and mainly supported by Wilton Porter, who had been left quite a fortune. Burdett, too, was a member, and one day, while practicing with the Indian club, Porter lost his grasp on one of them, and it whirled through the air with terrific force. Burdett stood directly in the path of the flying missile. It landed squarely between his eyes, he went down like a shot and the shocked and horrified Porter went through twenty-four hours of crushing anxiety, remaining at the hospital whither Burdett was conveyed until the physician assured him that the patient would live. Porter's heart sank, however, as he was told that it looked as though the nerves of the eyes had been paralyzed and Anson Burdett might be blind for life.

A high caliber, sensitive young man, all the joy of life seemed to have departed for Porter. He gave up all of his time to the cure of Burdett.

"Hopelessly blind, perhaps," reported an expert oculist, "although the case is of a variety that has seen some remarkable cures, but through time alone."

In the meantime Porter had become acquainted with Lella Raleigh. From the first he was attracted by her and, although he knew that she and Burdett were friendly, he never suspected that there was any mutual affection between them.

Lella kept secret even from her mother and sisters that, while she was not as yet engaged to Burdett, there was a tacit understanding between them that some day they would marry. She, however, had become disappointed in Burdett. A position had been offered by a manufacturing concern out of sympathy for his affliction, where he could answer calls at a telephone. "I don't have to drudge," he told Lella, audaciously. "Porter has plenty of money and is acting princely about it. He took away my sight—let him pay for it."

One day Burdett called upon Lella and asked her to marry him. He told her that he had an opportunity to secure a pretty little farm in Florida, where they could enjoy life without anxiety. He asked her to think it over and give her answer the next day. That same afternoon Wilbur Porter appeared and laid his heart at her feet.

"It is too late," said Lella simply, and after the disappointed suitor had gone away she hurried to her room and wept all the long night, though she scarcely knew why. Burdett called upon her the next morning, irrationally eager and excited.

"We must get married at once, Lella," he said. "See," and he drew a packet of bank bills from his pocket. "There is five thousand dollars, and all ours. I am going to buy the farm at once and—"

"Why where did you get all that money?" inquired Lella.

"From Porter. I went to him last evening and told him what I wanted, and he said he would do anything to make me comfortable and happy with you."

"But you can't do any work on a farm," she said.

"Oh, yes, I can. Lella, I'm going to tell you a secret. I have been able to see for over a month. I just pretended not to since then, to work this scheme on Porter."

She stood facing him, trembling from head to foot. He fairly shriveled as she denounced his petty meanness, as she told him that if he did not at once return the money to Porter she would expose him to the world. Then she left him and he, even more despicable than she had dreamed, thinking more of the money than himself, disappeared that same day with his ill-gotten gains.

The truth came out, as it was bound to, and after a while Wilbur Porter renewed his appeal for Lella's love. It had already been his—longer before than he realized.

ALLIANCE GREENHOUSE IS BIG INSTITUTION

(Continued from Page 1.) of architecture of its kind. The walls are cemented up for several feet, and over ten tons of glass went into the building. Inside may be found plants and flowers of every kind in profusion. Hardly an inch of space is wasted. Even the paths between the flower boxes are lined with potted plants, some full grown, others beginning to penetrate the soil. Below the boxes are planted mushrooms—a new venture in Alliance, although Mr. Tatro has had remarkable success in other places with them.

Just now another greenhouse is in process of erection—a more or less temporary structure, which will be used as a propagating house. The average man or woman who patronizes a florist doesn't realize that every plant must be planted and transplanted two or three times; that the flowers he is buying today were planned for over a year ago. Preparations are constantly being made to care for future business. Just now thousands of lilies are being grown for Christmas and Easter use.

It's a revelation to go through the greenhouse. There are tulips from Holland, and the bulbs and plants of dozens of other varieties. There is a glorious collection of chrysanthemums in almost every known color. The carnation collection is especially beautiful. We saw for the first time a yellow carnation. Mr. Tatro has just nineteen of these plants, and wouldn't part with one of them for the world, although he sells the flowers at the regular price. There are over five thousand carnations at the greenhouse now, and three thousand more will be put in the new greenhouse when it is completed. The varieties include White Enchantress, Pink Enchantress, Yellow Prince, Mrs. C. W. Ward and others.

There are thirty thousand bulbs at the greenhouse, narcissus, daffodil, tulip and hyacinth, all of which will be forced so they will be ready for spring.

Another side of the business is the growing of radishes, lettuce, tomatoes and other vegetables for table consumption. Radishes and lettuce are sown every few days. There are over four hundred plants of head lettuce now in the hotbeds.

Of course, it is apparent that Alliance cannot use the entire output of the Alliance Floral company. Shipments are made to a good many towns in this section of the state, and a considerable business has been built up. However, those who live in the city are always given the first consideration. The company is primarily an Alliance concern, and it is Mr. Tatro's desire that it serve Alliance people before all others.

The following from the Nebraska State Journal concerns a former Alliance resident: "Miss Wilma Wood, former state university student, who is engaged in reconstruction work, has received special recommendation from the surgeon general of the United States army. Miss Wood, who before entering Reed college for training in reconstruction work, was teaching physical education at the University of Montana at Missoula, is mentioned by a Missoula paper as one of two nurses from there to receive praise. 'The local nurses named,' says the account, 'are Miss Ellen Hemmick and Miss Wilma Wood, both of whom were assigned to Wort Des Moines, Iowa, after completing their training. Not only did the Montana women furnished from Reed college rank high from physical and educational standpoints, but also from that of personality, the surgeon-general declares.'"



It Has Always Been Our Aim

To give to the bereaved the most in service and equipment for their investment. Three licensed embalmers and full equipment await your call, day or night.

Geo. D. Darling

MOTOR AMBULANCE
Day or Night.
Phones—Day, 139; Night 8, 299, 933.

W. R. HARPER, Prop.

HARPER'S

W. R. HARPER, Prop.

SHOP EARLY—STORE CLOSSES AT 9.00 P. M. SATURDAY



SATURDAY COAT DAY

Continuing the smashing Sales Event that is the talk of the entire city

\$34.50

Values to \$59.50

TWO GREAT GROUPS OF COATS AT TWO VERY LOW PRICES FOR SUCH EXCEPTIONAL STYLE AND WORTH

\$49.50

Values to \$74.50

"Coat sales have come and gone and if such a coat sale as this would go on forever there would be but one coat house in Alliance," exclaimed an enthusiastic little woman in attendance upon our great purchase coat sale.

Every woman who compares values voices a similar opinion. Have you compared? Saturday the sale will be at its height—may we suggest your attendance? It's a money-saving proposition of the first magnitude.

Fur Collar Coats—Self Collar Coats
Pile Fabric Coats—Novelty Fabric Coats

Including Silvertone, Bolivia Cloth, Broadcloth, Silvertip, Pom Pom, in Taupe, Reindeer, Brown, Navy, Beet, Gray, Copen, Oxford, Plum, Foch, Wistaria and Black.

SATURDAY—A Dress Selling Event

TWO SPECIAL PRICE GROUPS OF INTEREST TO EVERY WOMAN WHO APPRECIATES VALUE—

\$23.75 and \$33.75

Dresses Worth Up to \$49.50 Dresses Worth Up to \$59.50

Beautiful styles for afternoon and street wear. Satin, Georgette, Velvet, Serges, Tricotine, Tricolette, Duvetyn and combination effects, many stunningly trimmed with Fringe, Beads, Chenille, Tucks, Embroidery, Angora and buttons. Short or long sleeves.

PAY CASH

WE do not have any charge account. Why pay more for your Merchandise and pay for bad accounts. Our Merchandise is selling at Less than Wholesale Prices Today. Two expert salesmen to help you select it—Mr. Back and Mr. Ehinger.

WOMEN'S WEARING APPAREL—ENTIRE MIDDLE SECTION

WE SELL FOR CASH

HARPER'S
Big Store Cash Store

COMPARE OUR VALUES ALWAYS