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## What Beautiful Women Have Done to Nat Goodwin

### The Sequel to the Classic Inquiry, "Why Do Beautiful Women Marry Nat Goodwin?"



Eliza Wethersby—Mrs. Goodwin No. 1.

Why do petticoats do these things to Nat Goodwin?—meaning the same party immortalized by that other question, now a classic: "Why do beautiful women marry Nat Goodwin?" Examination of the records in the light of recent events shows that marrying him is really the least that petticoats have done to Nat Goodwin.

For example, at this moment he is being sued for \$25,000 on account of a petticoat—for alienating its affections from its husband. But that is merely the sequel to the story of how this same petticoat so appealed to Nat Goodwin's well-known chivalrous valor that he risked, and nearly lost, his valuable life.

They were abroad a chartered launch off Rocky Point, near Santa Monica, Cal.—Nat Goodwin and Miss Marjorie Moreland. She had been a member of his theatrical companies for several years. She was comparatively young, and more than comparatively attractive. The latest beautiful woman who had married Nat Goodwin had divorced him. He was unattached, free to go forth and conquer some more.

Beyond the rocky beach, where the surf tumbled and thundered, was a cliff on which an old Indian's hut was perched. Miss Moreland experienced a sudden desire to visit the Indian. Captain Hyder, who was in command of the launch, forbade the young woman to attempt a landing. No boat could get through that surfline and land a passenger alive.

Then up rose Nat Goodwin, with the light of battle in one eye, while the other rested on the fair maid in distress, and volunteered to be her messenger to yonder red man. As for the surf—pooh, pooh! Captain Hyder's warnings were ignored. Goodwin jumped into the launch's skiff with a paddle in his hand and headed for the breakers. Promptly the breakers tossed him on the rocks with the skiff on top of him. He was badly injured, but was able after a while to grasp the line thrown to him by Captain Hyder, and was thus drawn aboard the launch and hurried back to Santa Monica and to St. Catherina's Hospital.

For several weeks reports from the hospital indicated that Nat Goodwin would never set foot upon the stage again. There were serious internal injuries, besides a severe wound in the region of the pelvis, affecting movement of the right leg. Beside his hospital cot, and later beside his bed in his Santa Monica home, Miss Moreland kept constant vigil.

She was still a guest at the Goodwin home when she heard that her husband—Charles Doughty, a real estate operator, of Baltimore—had sued her host, demanding \$25,000 for alienating her affections. Naturally she was much distressed. Here was Nat Goodwin nearly killed in a chivalrous act on her account, and now the husband whom she had left four years ago because he did not properly support her, was demanding a lot of his money—also on her account. Well, anyway, she had sued her husband for divorce.

Will Miss Marjorie Moreland, having freed herself by divorce, become Mrs. Nat Goodwin No. 5? Pleb-tushes and pooh-poohs on both sides. But that will be another story, anyway.

Strangely enough, in the light of subsequent happenings, all the influences of Nat Goodwin's first serious petticoat experience were good and useful to him in his career. During the eleven years of his married life with the beautiful and estimable English actress, Eliza Wethersby, ending with her death in 1888, he advanced from an obscure position to that of the foremost comedian on the American stage.

That same year began the petticoat deluge, upon and under whose foamy crest he has been floated into all sorts of complications, difficulties and notoriety ever since. He married Mrs. Nella Baker Pease, the divorced wife of a Buffalo (N. Y.) physician and society man. Less than three years later these things happened to Nat Goodwin:

Sued for divorce on the ground of abandonment.

A sensational struggle between them for possession of the handsome home on West End avenue, New York.

The house besieged by Nat Goodwin and his legal minions, in which his wife had fortified



Edna Goodrich—Mrs. Goodwin No. 4—Whose Financial Settlement with Mr. Goodwin When She Was Divorced, Took Away Much of His Property.

herself with her legal minions and plenty of provisions.

Doors broken down, assaults repulsed by both parties, police court inquiries.

Nat Goodwin divorced, after making a handsome cash settlement on wife No. 2.

Between the dates of this divorce, 1901, and his marriage to Maxine Elliott, 1898, there was no lawfully constituted petticoat guardian to protect Nat Goodwin from the voluminous swirl of petticoats entering necessarily into his professional and social life. As results, direct or indirect, were these disturbances of his physical and nervous organization and of his finances:

While Mr. Carter de Haven was sitting in a box at the Victoria Theatre one evening Nat Goodwin suddenly entered, unbidden, and stole Mr. De Haven's guest, Miss Flora Parker. Before departing with that lady to see her safely home, Goodwin startled the audience by promising to "lick De Haven good" if ever he met him in the street. Recovering from his daze, De Haven hurried uptown to Miss Parker's residence. He was just in time to find Goodwin leaving. Though a good many sizes smaller than the celebrated comedian, he challenged him to mortal combat then and there. But Goodwin, having a more important engagement elsewhere, got into his automobile and drove peaceably away. However, when Miss Parker heard of this outcome she tore up her contract to play

in Goodwin's company, and was said to have smashed and otherwise destroyed several of his valuable gifts to her.

When Nat Goodwin married Maxine Elliott, in 1898, she was an acknowledged beauty, but had not yet gained an assured position on the stage. He took her to Australia, where she appeared as his leading lady, with great success. On their return to this country there was no longer any question of her professional status. They went to London, where she added high social distinction to her reputation as an actress. They took a handsome residence not far from London, where Maxine Elliott soon became a celebrated hostess. Then these petticoat things happened to Nat Goodwin, according to his own published confession:

"One of these 'saphs' (a swagger member of the Guards) was persuaded to visit our humble from Saturday to Monday. He came, accompanied by one of the present Dukes of England (whose father, by the way, died owing me a paltry \$2,000 borrowed on the race track at Deuville, France.

"They all came down on this particular Saturday in conjunction with Mme. Melba and Haddon Chambers. We had a lovely time—that is, I presume, they did, as Maxine insisted, on my entertaining the guests with my supposedly funny stories. Generally, after telling each story my portion of the feast was either cold or confiscated by the butler.

"Very little attention was paid to me, anyway.



Maxine Elliott—Mrs. Goodwin No. 3—Whom Mr. Goodwin Was Unfortunate in Losing.

only when reciting anecdotes, and the first of every month, when the bills became due.

"The guests expected Melba to sing. She didn't. So they strolled about the grounds in pairs. Being on particularly good terms with the butler, I selected him for my companion. When we chanced to stop before the open window of the drawing room I happened to overhear the remark:

"How could you possibly have married such a vulgar little person?"

"Being terribly self-conscious at all times, I said to my butler:

"Louis, that's me that chocolate soldier is referring to. Listen, and we'll have a warrior's opinion of a Theatrical." We heard the following dialogue:

"She—Do you think him vulgar?"

"He—Not necessarily vulgar, but an awful accent.

"She—Well, no one ever accused him of an American accent; he was educated in Boston. Don't you think him rather amusing?"

Everybody remembers how they drifted apart, with charming apparent amiability and

pleasant remarks about each other. They were not divorced until 1908. But already other petticoats were looming to the fore. Two of them were so potent in 1906 that Goodwin planned to evade the direful results of professional jealousy by presenting "The Genulus and the Model," with two leading ladies—Miss Alexandra Carlisle and Miss Edna Goodrich. In London Miss Carlisle had won a triumph in a Maxine Elliott part.

And now look what she did to Nat Goodwin—actually let him pick Edna Goodrich for his No. 4.

They married, and they parted. She said Nat Goodwin had too many chins. Then she proceeded to do to him as follows, to wit:

Sued him for divorce, alleging that he had played Romeo to the Juliet of Miss Maud Lannon in the "Tent Life" at Delmar Garden,



Mr. Nat Goodwin Who Has Had Such Unfortunate Experiences with Beautiful Women.

St. Louis. However, her sister, Miss Julia Lannon, also a member of the Delmar Garden chorus, testified that she was present all the time and nothing of the sort happened.

Demanding one-half of all his earthly possessions under a trust deed executed in England three months before the marriage by way of proof that Nat Goodwin intended to "stick" this time.

Compelled him to sue to break the trust deed, which otherwise would rob him of half of his income for life.

Divorced him and got a settlement in full, amounting to \$150,000 in cash and \$500,000 in real estate.

During the Edna Goodrich regime many things happened to Nat Goodwin which, perhaps, otherwise he would have escaped. When the Goodwin-Goodrich publicity was at its height a young man calling himself John E. Goodwin suddenly declared himself to be the comedian's long lost son. But Nat Goodwin objected strenuously, and the objection seems to have been sustained.

When he attempted to act as a peace-maker between his chauffeur and a ninety-pound jockey named Miller, the little jockey never gave him a chance to talk peace at all, but presently walked off with all the honors of war.

However, it is a pleasure to record that when Miss Avenelle Ferguson, a very pretty bather at Santa Monica Beach, vaded out beyond her depth and shrieked loudly for help, it was Nat Goodwin who dashed through the breakers and brought her safely ashore clasped to his manly bosom. Alas! Nat Goodwin was too well known at Santa Monica to chance to play the modest hero.



Miss Marjorie Moreland, the Beautiful Actress for Whom Nat Goodwin Risked His Life to Deliver a Message.

### Partial List of Casualties and the Beauties Involved

- Eliza Wethersby regime: From obscurity to wealth and fame.
- Nella Baker Pease, wife No. 2: He is charged with abandonment. Lays siege to his New York house, which she has fortified and provisioned. Sorties and assaults—police court inquiries. Handsome cash settlement—divorced.
- Miss Flora Parker—interlude: Stole her from Actor Carter de Haven's theatre box. Audience hears him promise to "lick De Haven good." Gets opportunity, but rides away in his automobile. Miss Parker tears up his contract and destroys his presents.
- Petticoat causes unknown: Fist and champagne bottle combat with a Philadelphia critic. Ordered to pay a Chicago playwright \$10,000 because his play, "Ambition" is so much like the other's "In Congress."
- Maxine Elliott, wife No. 3: His wife becomes an English hostess—at his expense. Captures as a noble guest an English Duke whose father died owing him \$2,000 borrowed money. Entertains Melba—but she won't sing. Has to tell his guests funny stories while the butler confiscates his food and drink. Promenading with his butler, overhears guests call him vulgar, but amusing. Drifted apart—divorced.
- Alexandra Carlisle—interlude: Lets him make a London star of her. Lets him pick out Edna Goodrich for No. 4.
- Edna Goodrich, wife No. 4: Makes a trust deed (pre-nuptial) giving her an equal share in all his wealth. Married—divorced—she says he has too many chins.
- Miss Maud Lannon—interlude: Divorce complaint says she played Juliet to his Romeo between chorus performances at Delmar Garden, St. Louis.
- Miss Julia Lannon—as witness: She was there all the time, and Maud and Nat did nothing of the kind. Divorce granted—he sues to break pre-nuptial trust deed. Wife No. 4 goes free with \$815,000 of his property. Beaten up by a ninety-pound jockey just for trying to act as peace-maker.
- Miss Avenelle Ferguson—interlude: Involved in much needless publicity because he rescued her from drowning at Santa Monica beach.
- Miss Marjorie Moreland—? ? ? Nearly killed in a dash of chivalry for her sake. Sued by her husband, who wants \$25,000 compensation for her alienated affections.