

The Soul Kiss

By GENEVIEVE ULMAR

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"Nine," spoke Adrian Pearce, indicating his floor to the elevator conductor.

"Eight, please," supplemented a mischief-eyed girl at his side. She had once done stenographic work for the young lawyer and they were on pleasant speaking terms. She emphasized the "please," and Adrian recognized an implied reproach, but he spoke, low enough for the conductor to hear.

"I said 'please' in my heart, Miss Adams, feeling duly grateful for the willing and pleasant service we all receive on the cars in this building. Do you know that I shake hands in spirit with every smiling person I meet? As upon any little tot who looks at me I bestow a mental hug and it brightens my day."

"And I am so far from babyhood!" mourned Myra Adams daintily, and left at her floor with a bewitching, though flirtatious laugh.

It was that evening that Myra mentioned Adrian to her closest friend, Adele Bartlett. There was a wide gap socially between the two girls, for Adele was an heiress, but their mothers had been close friends in their youth. Adele, sedate and lovely, for both her parents were dead, was very fond of her less fortunate favored friend, whose bright free ways showed a happy spirit under all circumstances.

"The only fault with Mr. Pearce," observed Myra, "is that he doesn't in the least know what flirting means. I think he is the finest gentleman I ever met. He has very little business, for they say he will never take a case unless his client is absolutely in the right. He is the soul of goodness and never seems to begrudge his services for the poor and distressed. He got me my present position."

"He must, indeed, be a model man," said Adele.

"You should know him, Adele," declared Myra; "you must know him. Somehow he is just your kind—a great thinker and so original. All he seems to care for is exerting a good influence."

But Adrian Pearce was neither uncanny nor an eccentric. There had been born in him a purity of impulse and thought that distinguished him from ordinary men. He was intuitively humane and law was to him justice sheer and simple. He was invited to the Bartlett house by Myra during a social function and there was a dreamy, satisfied expression in Adele's eyes after he had left.

Adele's fair cheeks paled and her lips tremored as Myra said one day: "Mr. Pearce is about to give up his office on account of unprofitable practice and is going to South America with some great railroad project," and when Adrian called that evening Adele found it difficult to conceal her vivid emotions. As he held her hand at parting his words bore an undertone of sadness. "I shall miss you greatly, Miss Bartlett," he said. "I shall not cease to think of you always. If I succeed I shall return."

"Oh, I so hope you will!" spoke Adele fervently, and his eyes lightened and expressed emotions that caused her to thrill and quiver. She sat alone after he had left, unable to cast off the spell his coming had evoked. In a dreamy mood akin to half somnolence she suddenly started up. To her overstrained senses it seemed as though an impalpable presence had entered the room and that she felt a soft caressing pressure upon her lips. She flushed and palpitated. Had this mysterious man in whom she was so interested, who sent his thoughts out after others to console, to cheer, wafled to her a true "soul kiss?"

A new life was born in her. She arose, ordered her automobile and followed out an urgent impulse. Only a few days before a friend, Mrs. Wynne, a widow, had told her of a just claim for a large amount she had against the wealthy former partner of her dead husband but had not the means to prosecute it. For hours Adele was closeted with this lady.

Adrian Pearce did not give up his office. There came to him the next day the widow friend of Adele. He had no knowledge of their mutual acquaintanceship. The case was placed in his hands and its merit involving a just claim aroused his truest interest and attention. He won the case and was the recipient of a large fee besides acquiring fixed professional prestige.

It was a few days after that when he entered his office to hear voices in the inner room. Mrs. Wynne was there, and Adele. He heard the latter say:

"I must hurry away, for if Mr. Pearce met me here with you he might suspect"—and just there she came face to face with the young lawyer and flushed crimson.

"I overheard you, Miss Bartlett," spoke Adrian gravely, gently. "You sent me this client and financed the case. I am glad I can repay you, but the noble motive that impelled you to aid a struggling lawyer to his place in life I can never forget."

She swayed unsteadily under his grateful glance. Then she returned it, and in her eyes there was something that told Adrian Pearce that to his moneyed gain and fame there had been added—love.

PALESTINE, TEXAS.

We are having rain and cold weather in this part of the country.

Messrs. Walter, Andrew and Willie Stell and their wives of Houston are the guests of their mother, Mrs. Nancy Stell. A dinner was given in their honor upon their mother's sixty-fifth birthday anniversary. It was indeed an enjoyable affair.

The various churches are having good attendance and doing a wonderful work.

The parsonage of Pilgrim Rest is nearly completed and adds much to the appearance of that beautiful hill. All the churches are planning big things for the year 1920.

Rev. S. N. Bolden is slowly improving after a very long spell of sickness.

Rev. H. McKenah was in town today and will move to his new home in El Paso.

Rev. Cowen expects his congregation to do big things this year.

Rev. Henry of Corsicana was in town on business today.

Messrs. Arby Chatman and Frank Johnson of Oakwood were in town last week.

Rev. Lude Muckelroy of Oakwood preached at Antioch Baptist church Sunday to a crowded house.

Rev. William White of Jewett was a visitor here Sunday.

Mrs. Rachel Melvin visited the city this week returning home Friday.

The Plaza Cafe is doing business in first class style. Call and see them.

Mr. A. Turne, has gone out of business which fact we regret.

Mr. William Smith and Miss Surilla Bridges were married on the first day of the year. We wish them a happy and prosperous life.

Little Miss Mattie Lee Williamson died last week.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gordon, a boy. Mother and son are doing well.

The year 1919 has gone into history. Come and let us make 1920 a more prosperous year. Take a new resolution to stand by the Negro business better than you ever did before. Help to build a race by standing closer together and uniting our forces. You well know that "Together we stand and divided we fall." When a kingdom is divided within itself, that kingdom will fall. Seeing that, why not come over and help us to get together and build a race.

LA GRANGE, TEXAS.

Mrs. Ada Oaks left last Wednesday to spend a few weeks visiting friends in Arizona.

Mesdames Easter Phearse and Laura Wilson have returned from visiting relatives in San Antonio.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Charley Warren on New Year's day a fine baby boy.

Messrs. Robert Sanders, John Henry Brown, Mack Williams, Mrs. Ada B. Price, Miss Juanita Sawnen, after

spending the holidays here with relatives, returned to Houston last Sunday.

Mr. James Petty and Mrs. Mary Dodson of San Antonio and Mrs. Alice Johnson of Elgin visited relatives here during the holidays.

Lulavine, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Williams, died of congestion of the brain, at the family residence, Wednesday night. Interment was made in the cemetery here, Thursday, January 1, Revs. R. D. Coffee and S. A. Tillman officiating.

Miss Harriett Allen Litting returned home Sunday after visiting her mother during the holidays.

Mr. Thomas P. Pavel of East Berner visited relatives here for a few days.

Our sick: Mrs. Polle Smith, Salie Scott, Mrs. Jennie Breeding and Horace Randolph.

During the special session of the La Grange district executive board held here December 30th last, Rev. C. D. Cunningham Manor, was elected district missionary for La Grange association. Profs. W. J. Mann, G. A. Randolph, Revs. George T. Burley, S. C. Smith, T. R. Ruffin and J. G. Grant attended the meeting of the executive board.

Rev. A. M. Mason, P. C. of St. James M. E. church arrived with his wife last Sunday and held regular services during the day.

Lieutenant C. C. Taylor, W. S. R. Galveston, will give a moving picture show of the "Negro in the World War" at the A. M. E. church here next Monday night.

SIoux CITY, IOWA.

Sioux City Lodge G. U. O. of O. F. 4655 will initiate three candidates at their meeting, January 22.

New Prospect Lodge No. 17 K. of P. at their lodge meeting on Thursday night last, elected the following officers: C. C. Percy Sommeer, V. C. W. Smith, prelate; W. M. Collins, M. of F.; R. F. Conan, M. of E.; C. A. Gross, K. of R., and Ed Griffey, M. of A.

The evening choir of Malone A. M. E. church is rendering some very excellent music under the leadership of Mrs. Phallia Boyd.

Rev. P. M. Lewis has fully recovered from his fall down cellar at the parsonage, 513 1/2 Main street.

The services at Malone A. M. E. church Sunday were very well attended. Sunday, January 11, the Rev. Lewis preached a very interesting sermon. Collection, -23.00.

The auditing committee of Sioux City lodge No. 4655 G. U. of O. F. reported 1919 to have been the banner year in the history of the lodge. The committee, Rasburn Curtis, Gus Harrison and K. A. Mitchell.

Presiding Elder, Rev. Thomas B. Storall will hold his second quarterly meeting at Malone A. M. E. church, Sunday, February 1.

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Other bonds	137,000.00
Cash and due from banks	5,173,865.55
Customers' acceptances	150,000.00
	\$20,460,885.55

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$ 1,000,000.00
Surplus	500,000.00
Undivided profit	406,225.19
National bank notes	50,000.00
	\$2,406,225.19

DEPOSITS:

Banks and bankers	\$ 3,341,956.45	14,640,608.68
Individual deposits	11,298,652.23	3,714,651.68
Bills payable and rediscounts with Federal Reserve Bank		150,000.00
Liability for customers' acceptances		
	\$20,460,885.55	

DEPOSITS DECEMBER 31, 1918, \$12,571,972.59

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