

SERIAL STORY

When a Man Marries

By MARY ROBERTS RINEHART

Author of *The Circular Staircase*, *The Man in Lower Ten*, etc.

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SYNOPSIS.

James Wilson or Jimmy as he is called by his friends, Jimmy was reticent and looked shorter than he really was. His ambition in life was to be taken seriously, but people steadily refused to do so, his art is considered a luke-warm, except to himself. If he asked people to dinner, everyone expected a frolic. Jimmy marries Bella Knowles; they live together a year and are divorced. Jimmy's friends arrange to celebrate the first anniversary of his divorce. The party is in full swing when Jimmy receives a telegram from his Aunt Selma, who will arrive in four hours to visit him and his wife. He neglects to tell her of his divorce. Jimmy takes Kit into his confidence, he tries to devise some way so that his aunt will not learn that he has no longer a wife. He suggests that Kit play the hostess for one night, be Mrs. Wilson on terms. Aunt Selma arrives and the deception works out as planned. Jim's Jap servant is taken ill. Bella, Jimmy's divorced wife, enters the house and asks Kit who is being taken away in the ambulance? Bella insists it is Jim. Kit tells her Jim is well and in the house. Harbison steps out on the porch and discovers a man taking a card on the door. He demands an explanation. The man points to the placard and Harbison sees the word "Smallpox" printed on it. He tells him the guests cannot leave the house until the quarantine is lifted. The guests suddenly realize their predicament, the women shed tears, the men consider it a good joke. The all important question arises as to who is to prepare the meals and perform the other household duties. Harbison finally solves the matter. After the lifting of the quarantine several letters are found in the mail box undelivered, one is addressed to Henry Llewellyn, Inc., Chicago, which was written by Harbison. He describes minutely of their incarceration, also of his infatuation for Mrs. Wilson. Aunt Selma is taken ill with a gripe. Betty acts as nurse. Harbison finds Kit sulking on the roof. She tells him that Jim has been treating her outrageously. Harbison fully believes that she is Mrs. Wilson, tells her that she doesn't mean the things she is saying about her husband. Kit starts downstairs, where suddenly she is grasped in the arms of a man who kisses her several times. She believes that Harbison did it and is humiliated.

CHAPTER X. (Continued.)

"Betty is making no end of a row," Max said, looking up from his game, "because the old lady upstairs insists on chloroform liniment. Betty says the smell makes her ill."

"And she can inhale Russian cigarettes," Anne said enviously, "and grolene fumes, without turning a hair. I call a revoke, Dal; you trumped spades on the second round."

Dal flung over three tricks with very bad grace, and Anne counted them with maddening deliberation.

"Game and rubber," she said.

"Watch Dal, Max; he will cheat in the score if he can. Kit, don't have another clam while I am in this house. I have eaten so many lately my waist rises and falls with the tide."

"You have a stunning color, Kit," Lollie said. "You are really quite superb. Who made that gown?"

"Where have you been hiding, duv klein?" Max whispered, under cover of showing me the evening paper, with a photograph of the house and a cross at the cellar window where we had tried to escape. "If one day in the house with you, Kit, put me in this condition, what will a month do?"

killed he would have withered away. When Jimmy proffered his hand, she looked at it icily. Of course, she could not refuse, with Mr. Harbison looking on.

"Rather negative," she said coldly. "The lines are obscured by cushions of flesh; no heart line at all, mentality small, self-indulgence and irritability very marked."

Jim held his palm up to the light and stared at it.

"Gad!" he said. "Hardly safe for me to go around without gloves, is it?"

It was all well enough for Jim to laugh, but he was horribly hurt. He stood around for a few minutes, talking to Anne, but as soon as he could he slid away and went to bed. He looked very badly the next morning, as though he had not slept, and his clothes quite hung on him. He was actually thinner. But that is ahead of the story.

Max came to me while the others were sitting around drinking night-caps and asked me in a low tone if he could see me in the den. He wanted to ask me something. Dal overheard. "Ask her here," he said. "We all know what it is, Max. Go ahead and we'll coach you."

"Will you coach me?" I asked, for Mr. Harbison was listening.

"The woman does not need it," Dal retorted. And then, because Max looked angry enough really to propose to me right there, I got up hastily and went into the den. Max followed, and closing the door, stood with his back against it.

"Contrary to the general belief, Kit," he began, "I did not intend to ask you to marry me."

I breathed easier. He took a couple of steps toward me and stood with his arms folded, looking down at me.

"I'm not at all sure, in fact, that I shall ever propose to you," he went on unpleasantly.

"You have already done it twice. You are not going to take those back, are you, Max?" I asked, looking up at him.

But Max was not to be cajoled. He came close and stood with his hand on the back of my chair. "What happened on the roof tonight?" he demanded hoarsely.

"I do not think it would interest you," I retorted, coloring in spite of myself.

"Not interest me! I am shut in this blasted house; I have to see the only woman I ever loved—really loved," he supplemented, as he caught my eye, "pretend she is another man's wife. Then I sit back and watch her using every art—all her beauty—to make still another man love her, a man

who thinks she is a married woman. If Harbison were worth the trouble, I would tell him the whole story, Aunt Selma be—obliterated!"

I sat up suddenly.

"If Harbison were worth the trouble!" I repeated. What did he mean? Had he seen—

"I mean just this," Max said slowly. "There is only one unaccommodated member of this household: Only one person, save Flannigan, who was locked in the furnace room, one person who was awake and around the house when Anne's jewels went, only one person in the house, also, who would have any motive for the theft."

"Motive?" I asked dully.

"Poverty," Max threw at me. "Oh, I mean comparative poverty, of course. Who is this fellow, anyhow? Dal knew him at school, traveled with him through India. On the strength of that he brings him here, quarters him with decent people, and wonders when they are systematically robbed!"

"You are unjust!" I said, rising and facing him. "I do not like Mr. Harbison—I hate him, if you want to know. But as to his being a thief, I think it quite as likely that you took the necklace."



Max threw his cigarette into the fire angrily.

"So that is how it is!" he mocked. "If either of us is the thief, it is I! You do hate him, don't you?"

I left him there, flushed with irritation, and joined the others. Just as I entered the room, Betty burst through the hall door like a cyclone, and collapsed into a chair. "She's a mean, cantankerous old woman!" she declared, feeling for her handkerchief.

"You can take care of your own Aunt Selma, Jim Wilson. I will never go near her again."

"What did you do? Poison her?" Dallas asked with interest.

"G—got camphor in her eyes," sniffed Betty. "You never—heard such a noise. I wouldn't be a trained nurse for anything in the world. She—she called me a hussy!"

"You're not going to give her up, are you, Betty?" Jim asked imploringly. But Betty was, and said so plainly.

"Anyhow, she won't have me back,"

she finished, "and she has sent for—guess!"

"Have mercy!" Dal cried, dropping to his knees. "Oh, fair ministering angel, she has not sent for me!"

"No," Betty said maliciously. "She wants Bella—she's crazy about her."

CHAPTER XI.

I Make a Discovery.

Really, I have left Aunt Selma rather out of it, but she was important as a cause, not as a result; at least at first. She came out strong later. I believe she was a very nice old woman, with strong likes and prejudices, which she was perfectly willing to pay for. At least, I only presume she had likes: I know she had prejudices.

Nobody ever understood why Bella consented to take Betty's place with Aunt Selma. As for me, I was too much engrossed with my own affairs to pay the invalid much attention. Once or twice during the day I had stopped in to see her, and had been received frigidly and with marked disapproval. I was in disgrace, of course, after the scene in the dining room the night before. I had stood like a naughty child, just inside the door, and replied meekly when she said the pillows were overstuffed, and why didn't I have the linen slips rinsed in starch water? She laid the blame of her illness on me, as I have said before, and she made Jim read to her in the afternoon from a book she carried with her, "Coals of Fire on the Domestic Hearth," marking places for me to read.

She sent for me that night, just as I had taken off my gown; so I threw on a dressing gown and went in. To my horror, Jim was already there. At a gesture from Aunt Selma, he closed the door into the hall and tiptoed back beside the bed, where he sat staring at the figures on the silk comfort.

Aunt Selma's first words were: "Where's that fliberty-gibbet?"

Jim looked at me.

"She must mean Betty," I explained. "She has gone to bed, I think."

"Don't—let—her—in—this—room—again," she said, with awful emphasis. "She is an infamous creature."

"Oh, come now, Aunt Selma," Jim broke in; "she's foolish, perhaps, but she's a nice little thing." Aunt Selma's face was a curious study. Then she raised herself on her elbow, and taking a flat chamois-skin bag from under her pillow, held it out.

"My cameo broochpin," she said solemnly; "my cuffbuttons with gold rims and storks painted on china in the middle; my watch, that has put me to bed and got me up for forty years, and my money—\$510.40!—taken with the doors locked under my nose." Which was ambiguous, but forcible.

"But, good gracious, Miss Car—Aunt Selma!" I exclaimed, "you don't think Betty Mercer took those things?"

"No," she said grimly; "I think I probably got up in my sleep and lighted the fire with them, or sent 'em out for a walk." Then she stuffed the bag away and sat up resolutely in bed.

"Have you made up?" she demanded, looking from one to the other of us. "Bella, don't tell me you still persist in that nonsense."

"What nonsense?" I asked, getting ready to run.

"That you do not love him."

"Him?"

"James," she snapped irritably. "Do you suppose I mean the policeman?" I looked over at Jimmy. She had got me by the hand, and Jimmy was making frantic gestures to tell her the whole thing and be done with it. But I had gone too far. The mill of the gods had crushed me already, and I didn't propose to be drawn out hideously mangled and held up as an example for the next two or three weeks, although it was clear enough that Aunt Selma disapproved of me thoroughly, and would have been glad enough to find that no tie save the board of health held us together. And then Bella came in, and you wouldn't have known her. She had put on a straight white woolen wrapper, and she had her hair in two long braids down her back. She looked like a nice wide-eyed little girl in her teens, and she had some lobster salad and a glass of port on a tray. When she saw the situation she put the things down and had the nastiness to stay and listen.

"I'm not blind," Aunt Selma said, with one eye on the tray. "You two silly children adore each other; I saw some things last night."

Bella took a step forward; then she stopped and shrugged her shoulders. Jim was purple.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Alone.

"What we must do," thundered the politician, walking rapidly down the street beside his bored acquaintance, "what we Englishmen must do is to put our foot down firmly on these foreign imports." And to show that he could practise as well as preach, at that moment he put his foot down on the skin of an imported banana; and his friend walked on alone.—London Globe.

Hardly Complimentary.

A widow not 100 miles from Bishop Auckland had been in the habit of giving any old boots she had to spare to a customer for his wife. Not having had any for some time, he called and asked the widow if she had any boots, adding: "Ye see, my missus hes such great, lang, ugly, splattering feet, that Aw canna get a pair to fit her only yours, an' she saw weer them comfortable."—Exchange.

Alias, No.

Fig—You should pay as you go.

Fog—My landlady won't let me.

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Wouldn't it be nice within a week or so to begin to say goodbye forever to the scalding, dribbling, straining, or too frequent passage of urine; the forehead and the back-of-the-head aches; the stitches and pains in the back; the growing muscle weakness; spots before the eyes; eyelids or ankles; leg cramps; unnatural short breath; sleeplessness and the despondency?

I have a recipe for those troubles that you can depend on, and if you want to make a QUICK RECOVERY, you ought to write and get a copy of it. Many a doctor would charge you \$2.50 just for writing this prescription, but I have it and will be glad to send it to you entirely free. Just drop me a line like this: Dr. A. E. Robinson, K-365 Luck Building, Detroit, Mich., and I will send it by return mail in a plain envelope. As you will see when you get it, this recipe contains only pure, harmless remedies, but it has great healing and pain-conquering power.

It will quickly show its power once you use it, so I think you had better see what it is without delay. I will send you a copy free—you can use it and cure yourself at home.

How He Averted a Duel.

The following is told of former Senator Joe Blackburn of Kentucky:

In the days of his youth the Kentuckian was asked by a friend to second him in a duel. He consented, and at sunrise the parties met at the appointed place. Now, it was this Kentuckian's duty to say the last words touching the terms of the duel. But, although he faithfully performed this duty, the duel never took place.

A murmur of "Why not?" invariably goes around whenever this story is told, whereupon the answer is as follows: "For a very simple reason. When Joe finished speaking it was too dark for a duel."—Harper's Magazine.

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the

Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*. In Use For Over 30 Years. The Kind You Have Always Bought.

Comparison.

"What do you think of the idea of an extra session of congress?"

"Well," replied Farmer Corntoast, "some extra sessions is like some extra newspapers. They ain't enough in 'em to justify the hollerin'."

Severe Critic.

Alice—I like Tom immensely and he's very much the gentleman; but he does like to talk about himself!

Grace—Yes, dear, your knight hath a thousand I's.—Puck.

Household troubles: Headache, Toothache, Earache, Stomach ache. Hamlin's Wizard Oil cures these aches and pains so why don't you keep a bottle in the house.

It has always appeared to me that good manners are almost as valuable an asset in commercial as in diplomatic affairs.—Lord Cromer.

USE ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE

The Antiseptic powder to be shaken into the shoes for tired, aching feet. It takes the sting out of corns and bunions and makes walking a delight. Sold everywhere. See *Refuse substitutes*. For FREE trial package, address A. B. Gilman, Le Roy, N.Y.

"The heart is a small thing, but dearest heart matters; it is not sufficient for a kite's dinner, yet the world is not sufficient for it.—Hugo.

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A Real Treat.

"What ye eatin'?"

"A dime's worth o' salt wid some peanuts in it."—Judge.

Better general health is sure to follow the use of the natural Herb laxative, Garfield Tea. It corrects constipation.

What we are doing speaks with greater force than what we are saying.—Royston.

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WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR IT.



BAKER BRIGGS—I understand that Mr. Briggs, your wife's late husband, made everything over to her?

Henpecklett—Yes, and now she's making everything over to me.

Eggscasting.

Dr. J. S. Elack, the English food expert, said in a recent lecture in Duluth: "The secret of health is two meals a day with an occasional fast. But people won't avail themselves of this superb secret. It is too unpleasant—like the fresh egg."

"A gentleman, after cutting the top off a soft-boiled egg, summoned the waiter and said: 'Waiter, take this egg back to the kitchen, wring its neck, and grill it for me.'"

His interest.

"You are going to interest yourself in this reform enterprise?"

"Certainly," replied Senator Sorghum.

"But I thought it was unfavorable to your friends."

"It is. And I'm going to interest myself in it far enough to let me offer suggestions that will render it impractical."

It is the rally of loyal allies which helps most to win a good cause to victory.

Many who used to smoke 10c cigars now buy Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c.

It's no use a church advertising the Bible when it is dodging its bills.

The Fountain Head of Life Is The Stomach

A man who has a weak and impaired stomach and who does not properly digest his food will soon find that his blood has become weak and impoverished, and that his whole body is improperly and insufficiently nourished.

Dr. PIERCE'S GOLDEN MEDICAL DISCOVERY makes the stomach strong, promotes the flow of digestive juices, restores the lost appetite, makes assimilation perfect, invigorates the liver and purifies and enriches the blood. It is the great blood-maker, flesh-builder and restorative nerve tonic. It makes men strong in body, active in mind and cool in judgement.

This "Discovery" is a pure, glyceric extract of American medical roots, absolutely free from alcohol and all injurious, habit-forming drugs. All its ingredients are printed on its wrappers. It has no relationship with secret nostrums. Its every ingredient is endorsed by the leaders in all the schools of medicine. Don't accept a secret nostrum as a substitute for this time-proven remedy of known composition. ASK YOUR NEIGHBORS. They must know of many cures made by it during past 40 years, right in your own neighborhood. World's Dispensary Medical Association, Dr. R. V. Pierce, Pres., Buffalo, N. Y.

FOR PINK EYE

Cures the skin and acts as a preventive for others. Liquid given on the tongue. Safe for brood mares and all others. Best kidney remedy; 50 cents and \$1.00 bottles. \$2.00 and \$3.00 the dozen. Sold by all druggists and horse goods houses, or sent express paid, by the manufacturer.

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PHYSICAL EXERCISES. Special attention given with the object of promoting health, grace and ease of motion and repose of manner. The gymnastic exercises are in charge of a graduate of Dr. Sargent, of Cambridge, Mass. SUMMER CAMP in New Hampshire.

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