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Harry Dixon, Dealer

His Only Love

By MURIEL LEE

(By 1923, Western Newspaper Union)

Hugh Wardell began a dream and tried to live it out. He was humble, obscure, but the gentle influence of a beautiful girl had instilled a lasting impulse in his soul—to make himself worthy of her.

He was eighteen years of age when his father died. Hugh had not known a mother's care since he was a babe. The old ruin of a house they lived in was located on the shore of a great western river, and for half a century Gabriel Wardell had made his living by fishing. Hugh was still a boy when he was left alone in the world. For some time he had assisted his father at his daily work, and fishing was all that he knew anything about. Half a mile away lived Homer Reese and his only child, a daughter, Miriam, and just the age of Hugh. Like the latter she never knew a mother's love. This deprivation naturally brought boy and girl together in spirit.

Mr. Reese was getting old. He made a proposition to Hugh to live at his home and continue his business, share and share alike. At the best there was nothing better than a bare living assured, but this was enough for Hugh as long as he had the sweet companionship of Miriam. To the ardent souled lad she was the all in all of life. As to herself, the sincere admiration and friendship of Hugh made her almost satisfied with her humble lot.

Mr. Reese had secured the exclusive fish and shell rights to a long swamp strip of river shore, and the fresh water clams were abundant. Hugh had traded his father's boat for a horse and wagon. Under the guidance of his more mature partner Hugh entered upon double duty. Ten miles distant a button factory had started and there was a regular demand for clam shells. During off season fishing spells, with rake and pronged fork Hugh loaded shells into his wagon and conveyed them to market. As he received as much as sixty dollars per ton and sold six tons the first year, this extra endeavor meant considerable in the way of income.

Many a time when alone with Hugh the old man revealed his hopes and ambitions regarding Miriam.

"My daughter must have an education," he said earnestly. "It is the one thought in my mind day and night. It is so slow earning and saving that I get disheartened at times."

"You mean she will have to go away from here to school?" asked Hugh blankly.

"Yes, Hugh. There is a girls' college at Ironton and she has an old aunt living in that town, poor, but willing to look after her I am sure. It's the first fitting out, the getting started. Then I know Miriam is smart enough to work her way through college."

After that Hugh began to work and scrape and save just as Mr. Reese was doing to add to the slowly developing surplus of their business. It was about a week before Miriam was eighteen that Hugh came into the house looking eager and excited. He sought out his partner to find him in the attic mending a fishing net. Miriam's sweet voice could be heard singing downstairs so he knew that they would be free from interruption.

"I've made it, Mr. Reese," announced Hugh, almost breathlessly. "Oh, the rare luck of it!"

He held between thumb and forefinger a beautiful pearl. Its shimmer dazzled Mr. Reese. "Pure and perfect," he spoke. "Where did you ever get it?"

"Spilled over a shovelful in loading. I stepped on it and noticed it. It weighs thirty-eight grains and the gem people made a price of eight hundred and fifty dollars. You are to take it as if you were the finder. Miriam!" and Hugh's eyes were radiant. "Her education!" and Hugh's lips quivered.

So it came about that Miriam went away, fully able to enter the lists of learning with money enough to see her through a two years' course. Hugh kept his eyes open for a new find, but it never came about.

Some small imperfect pearls came his way, but it seemed as if destiny had bulked its favor for one concrete need only. He would dream of the great future in store for Miriam, and idealize how she would marry some one of the cultured city men, maybe visit them once in a while, but the hope of ever winning the love of one so far above him had been abandoned long since.

She came back to the old home as though it was but yesterday that she had left it. She fell into its old ways prepared to brighten it up, but with no expression of desiring other companionship than that of its inmates.

One day Mr. Reese came to Hugh. "My boy," he remarked, "my conscience wouldn't let me keep the truth from Miriam about the pearl that meant her education to her."

"What did she say?" faltered Hugh. "She cried," was the reply. "And then she looked through the open window at you as you stood hitching up the team. There was that in her bonny eyes of fondness that told of a world of love. 'Noble and true always,' she sobbed, and hid her face on my shoulder and whispered softly, 'And oh! father, how I love him!'"

So had a fugitive pearl, found haphazard brought to the longing soul of Hugh Wardell the great wish of his life.

The topaz derives its name from Topazos, an island in the Red sea.

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NOTICE OF PETITION.

Estate No. 1786 of Richard L. Graves, deceased, in the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska. The State of Nebraska, To all persons interested in said Estate take notice that a petition has been filed for the appointment of Carrie L. R. Graves as Administratrix of said Estate which has been set for hearing herein on December 3, 1920, at 9 o'clock a. m.

Dated November 5, 1920. Wm. H. C. WOODHURST, County Judge N9-3wks

NOTICE OF FINAL REPORT.

Estate No. 1715 of Joseph J. Bowker, deceased in the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska.

The State of Nebraska, To all persons interested in said Estate take notice that the Administratrix has filed a final account and report of her administration and a petition for final settlement and discharge as such, which have been set for hearing before said Court on December 3, 1920 at 9 o'clock a. m., when you may appear and contest the same.

Dated November 6th, 1920. Wm. H. C. WOODHURST, County Judge. N9-3wks

NOTICE OF REFEREE'S SALE

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order issued by the District Court in and for Lincoln County, Nebraska, on the 2nd day of December, 1919, and alias order on November 5th, 1920, in an action wherein, W. H. McDonald, Nettie V. Reynolds and James B. McDonald are plaintiffs; and Mary B. McDonald, William C. Reynolds, Ruth McDonald Daub; William J. Daub; Frank A. Mooney, a minor under the age of 14 years; Frank L. Mooney, Guardian of Frank A. Mooney, a minor under the age of 14 years; W. H. McDonald, Nettie V. Reynolds; and James B. McDonald Administrators of the estate of Charles McDonald, deceased, are defendants; I will on the 15th day of December, 1920, at 2 o'clock P. M. of said day, at the East front door of the Court House in the City of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, subject to all incumbrances, against the same, the following described real estate, situate in Lincoln County, State of Nebraska, to-wit: The North Eighty-four and Two-thirds Feet of Lot One (1), and the East Twenty-two Feet of Lot Two (2), in Block One-hundred and Two (102) of the original town, now City of North Platte, the said North Eighty-four and Two-thirds Feet of said Lot One (1) and the said East Twenty-two (22) Feet of said Lot Two (2) of said Block One-hundred and Two (102) to be offered for sale separately, and then to be offered for sale as one tract, and the Referee will accept such bid or bids as will in the aggregate amount to the most money.

The terms of said sale being cash in hand, and subject to all incumbrances against the same. Said sale will be held open for one hour. Dated this 8th day of November, 1920.

O. E. ELDER, Referee. Beeler, Crosby & Baskins, N9-D10 Attorneys.

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PROBATE OF FOREIGN WILL.

Estate No. 1784 of Phillip S. Artley, deceased, in the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska.

The State of Nebraska, To all persons interested in said estate, both creditors and heirs, take notice that Annie May Gregg (formerly Annie May Artley) has filed her petition and a copy of the will of deceased, and the probate thereof duly authenticated, that said deceased departed this life on or about the 10th day of August, 1895, being a resident and inhabitant of Bradford, McKean County, Pennsylvania, and the owner of the following described real estate, to-wit: An undivided one-half interest in all of Section 25, in Township 9, North Range 26, west of the 6th P. M. leaving as his sole and only heirs at law: Annie May Artley, now Annie May Gregg, your petitioner herein; and praying for a decree barring claims and that the regular administration of said will be dispensed with and that said will be admitted and allowed to probate as the last will and testament of the deceased, and that a decree finding the interest of the petitioner in the real estate and who the heirs of the deceased were, and to whom said real estate is bequeathed, which has been set for hearing on the 29th day of November, 1920, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Dated at North Platte, Nebraska, this 2nd day of November, 1920. Wm. H. C. WOODHURST, County Judge. (SEAL) GEO. C. GILLAN N5-30 Attorney

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PROBATE OF FOREIGN WILL.

Estate No. 1785, of Jonas Artley, deceased, in the County Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska.

The State of Nebraska, To all persons interested in said estate, creditors and heirs take notice that John H. Artley has filed his petition and a copy of the Will of Deceased, and the probate thereof duly authenticated, that the deceased died on or about the 27th day of March, 1906, being a resident and inhabitant of Bradford, McKean County, Pennsylvania, and the owner of the following described real estate, to-wit: An undivided one-half interest in all of Section 25, in Township 9, North Range 26, west of the 6th P. M. in Lincoln County, Nebraska; leaving as his sole and only heirs at law the following named persons, to-wit: Sarah E. Artley, his widow; John H. Artley, a son, your petitioner; Carrie A. Ellsworth, a daughter; and Roy S. Artley, a grand-son; and praying for a decree barring claims that the regular administration of said will be dispensed with and that said will be admitted and allowed to probate as the last will and testament of the deceased, and that a decree finding the interest of the petitioner in the real estate and who the heirs of the deceased were, and to whom said real estate is bequeathed, which has been set for hearing, on the 29th day of November, A. D. 1920, at 10:00 o'clock A. M.

Dated at North Platte, Nebraska, this 2nd day of November, A. D. 1920. Wm. H. C. WOODHURST, County Judge. (SEAL) GEO. C. GILLAN, N5-30 Attorney.