

"A Kiss"

By JACK LAWTON

The house loomed desolate as Cynthia came toward it. The branches of the trees shedding their summer leaves were desolate too. The leaves crackled beneath Cynthia's feet as she went on up the garden path to the pillared veranda, years of silence and decay showed everywhere. She drew her fur about her throat as she sat upon the highest step to look at the old place over, the dear old place that had been her girlhood's home, this wistfully sweet woman had but to close her eyes to people, the deserted rooms with faces, long absent. There her square piano had stood, and at the opposite end of the impressive parlor had been the pier glass. A winsome picture that pier glass had often reflected, a girlish vision of floating ruffles, with happy shining eyes beneath softly wavy hair. Cynthia remembered the vision of herself, as she sat, and saw it again at its fairest clad in bridal array.

In satin slippers the girl Cynthia had danced down the room, her white veil sweeping after, and he had called her "the loveliest vision in the world." But that was before the kiss. Such a simple happening to change the tenor of one's life—as it had changed Cynthia's. There were two suitors, you see, big Will Lefton, poor, adoring and unrequited. And Barton Swift, rich by inheritance, successful in business. By no virtue of his riches had Cynthia chosen, but because of her love for him, with all the time a regretful ache at the back of her happiness, because of poor Will's sorrow. Not that Will was cowardly in defeat, his outward manner was his bravest best; Barton was wildly triumphant, his laughter rang out all the day long, the day of his wedding to be.

With other friends he and Cynthia had festooned the hallways and rooms with flowers. In her white robes she had laughingly defied superstition for the admiration of her lover's gaze, and Barton left enraptured, before the few brief hours preceding the ceremony. As he reached his own home in a blissful daze, he found that he had forgotten to execute a certain commission, and returned. Entering the long room, his steps muffled by the thick carpet, Barton Swift beheld reflected in the pier glass, the picture which he never forgot, and which no explanation could satisfy. Cynthia, still in her bridal robes, was clasped close in the arms of Will Lefton, and as Barton watched, Will bent for her kiss. When he raised his face from hers, Cynthia gave him no words of anger, tears were on her cheeks.

"You had better go now Lefton," Barton said sharply from the doorway, and Will waiting only for Cynthia's motion of dismissal had gone. "Well," Barton asked, her with a sneering smile, "so it was my money after all, is it? They said, and you loved Lefton all the time." White to the lips with wide horrified eyes, Cynthia made no reply. His sneering smile changed to a harsh laugh.

"Well, forewarned, forearmed," Barton said cuttingly, his own pain making him cruel. "Better to have found out in time—good-bye."

When the girl found her voice she was alone in the flower decked room. Later, as the wedding hour approached she had in desperation thrown a cloak about her shoulders and gone to Barton's home to seek him, only to learn that he had rushed in to the house and out again with the brief word that he would be long absent.

So Cynthia like a crumpled white

flower was found unconscious on the floor of her room, when the wedding guests came, and the wedding had never been. Immediately, a kind father had taken her to travel abroad, since then she had been here or there as her fancy or friends dictated. And as the years passed the old home bereft of its owners was sold, and the money divided between the sisters. Now that Cynthia's sisters were married, and scattered far, the old house was to be sold again. Cynthia read the advertisement in her city apartment, and a whimsical desire had seized her to view the old place once more. She could think now of that dreadful day with a smile, and wonder that it had seemed to mean so much. But after all the years her cheeks burned hot at memory of an impulsive farewell kiss. Poor Will, he had grieved deeply over the tragedy his rash act brought about. Cynthia wondered what sort of woman he had married. Then, as she stood up to go, a man came through the great house doorway, and stood speechlessly looking at her. She recognized Will Lefton at once, the same serious eyes, the patient face that years could not touch with sternness.

"Will," cried the woman, "how strange to meet you here, and unchanged."

"Why, I am quite gray," Will Lefton said, as he caught her hands, "but you are just Cynthia still. I came to buy the old place," he told her.

"For—your—wife?" Cynthia questioned.

"There has never been but one woman in the world for me," he answered sadly, "and I spoiled her life—with a kiss."

Then Cynthia raised to him shining eyes.

"Will Lefton," she asked, "Oh! are you sure of that?"

Ripening Fruit.

High temperatures seem, very curiously, to retard the ripening of pears, while hastening that of apples. In experiments described by Overholser and Taylor in the Botanical Gazette, the ripening of green first-crop Bartlett pears raised from 70 degrees F. or room temperature, to 85 degrees was not affected, but at 87.7 degrees it was delayed five days, and at 94 degrees and 104 degrees the delay was 13 days. Second-crop Bartlett pears, in a temperature of 101 degrees, and surrounded by a relative humidity of below 50 per cent, remained unripe four weeks after similar pears at room temperature and humidity had become fully ripened. The flavor of pears kept above 85 degrees was affected, sweetness and juiciness being diminished. The ripening of Yellow Newton apples on the other hand, was hastened at every appreciable rise in temperature from 50 degrees up to the point of destruction by burning. It is concluded that the picking of pears may be delayed in very hot weather, but that the picking of apples and storage in a cool place must be hastened.

Barnstable's Old Bell.

In the courthouse at Barnstable, Mass., is an old bell, cracked and silent, which may be, and probably is, the oldest bell in the United States. So thinks Mr. Alfred Crocker, clerk of courts of Barnstable county. The date 1675 is still plainly visible in the photograph recently printed in the Boston Evening Transcript.

By this date, however, the old bell had seen nearly a quarter of a century of life in England before it came to America and began calling worshippers together in the church at Sandwich town. Gratitude bought the bell in England, for it came as a gift from Mrs. Peter Adolph, whose husband, Captain Adolph, was lost in the wreck of his vessel on the Massachusetts coast in 1607 despite the efforts of the people of Sandwich.

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30x3 1/2	29.70	30.70	28.70	29.70	22.70	23.70	4.50	5.50
31x4	41.50	42.50	40.20	41.20	32.00	33.00	5.50	6.50
32x3 1/2	35.75	36.75	34.50	35.50	28.00	29.00	4.90	5.90
28x4	—	—	40.00	41.00	31.50	32.50	5.50	6.50
32x4	44.50	45.50	43.50	44.50	35.50	36.50	5.85	6.85
33x4	46.50	47.50	45.50	46.50	36.85	37.85	6.05	7.05
34x4	48.00	49.00	46.75	47.75	38.20	39.20	6.30	7.30
32x4 1/2	—	—	51.50	52.50	47.70	48.70	7.35	8.35
34x4 1/2	56.50	57.50	55.00	56.00	50.95	51.95	7.80	8.80
35x4 1/2	59.00	60.00	57.50	58.50	52.40	53.40	8.05	9.05
36x4 1/2	62.00	63.00	60.50	61.50	54.15	55.15	8.45	9.45
33x5	72.00	73.00	70.00	71.00	—	—	9.05	10.05
35x5	73.00	74.00	71.50	72.50	62.50	63.50	9.60	10.60
37x5	76.50	77.50	74.50	75.50	66.40	67.40	10.15	11.15
36x4	54.50	55.50	53.00	54.00	44.00	45.00	7.00	8.00
33x4 1/2	56.50	57.50	55.00	56.00	51.00	52.00	8.00	9.00
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LAWRENCE ENZMINGER

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I have had a set of Hawkeye tires on my Roadster for the past three years and they have had about Nine Thousand Miles out of them, and look good for about Five Thousand more.

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CHAS. G. BRAND.

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NOTICE OF PETITION

Estate No. 1790 of James Babbitt, 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 probate of an instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of James Babbitt, deceased, and for the appointment of Eunice Babbitt as Executrix of said estate, which has been set for hearing herein on December 24, 1920 at 9 o'clock a. m.

Dated November 27, 1920.

(SEAL) WM. H. C. WOODHURST,
93-3w County Judge.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of an order of sale issued by the District Court of Lincoln County, Nebraska, upon a decree of foreclosure rendered in said court, where-in Anna Voss is plaintiff and Clyde M. Trotter, Mena Trotter, his wife, and L. E. Mehlman, as Trustee in Bankruptcy of Clyde M. Trotter, Bankrupt, are defendants, and to me directed, I will on the 31st day of December, 1920, at two o'clock P. M. at the east front door of the court house in the City of North Platte, County of Lincoln and State of Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy said decree, interest and costs the following described property, to-wit: all of Lot Ten (10) of Block Two (2) of Riverdale Addition to the City of North Platte, Nebraska, subject to a certain mortgage to the Nebraska State Building and Loan Association, which is recorded in Book 47 at page 149 of the records of Lincoln County, Nebraska.

Dated at North Platte, Nebraska, November 29, 1920.

A. J. SALISBURY,
Sheriff.

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