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A Dark Horse

She Married in Haste, but Did Not Repent at Leisure.

By **LUELLA D. COWLES.**

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You will scarcely believe your senses, my dear, when you receive this my announcement that I am married. Just think! When you left me only two days ago I told you that under no condition whatever would I marry, because I knew of no man I wished to marry, and yet here am I married. And doubtless you will exclaim: "Poor Irene, after all my warnings! Some one of the hunters for her ten millions has bagged the game. And now that he has got her and the millions he will hang on to the money and the wife will have to take care of herself."

But you are wrong, my dear, entirely wrong. I have married the best man in the world, one who loves me devotedly. Why will people insist that a sordid interest must always prevail over the yearnings of the heart? My case at least affords an instance wherein love has risen superior to avarice.

But I must begin at the beginning or rather, at the beginning of the end. You know all till the 12th, the date of my parting with you. You know that I had promised the count an answer on the 13th, that a new and attractive offer from Prince Flegenheim had been made to me on the 12th and that, while the count was a delightful man, irrespective of his title, to be a princess was far more attractive than being a countess. Meanwhile General Du Pont had cabled me from Paris that he was about to sail for America hoping to induce me to reconsider my refusal of him.

On looking over my memorandum book I counted seventeen other offers, including six titles. Can you blame me for becoming confused? Count Polinski stopped at the hotel at which I was living and would not let me out of his sight. The prince, who is wealthy—he is an old man—was more dignified, more ceremonious, but he would not take "No" for an answer. His is one of the oldest families in Prussia, and he is on intimate terms with the emperor. The Earl of Micleton was at Newport when you left—he is the Englishman, you know—but sent me a long letter from there explaining that with my fortune he and I could put his castle in order and entertain royally.

Perhaps if there had not been so many and such tempting offers I might have taken up with one of them. But no sooner did I get my mind fixed on the advantages of one than I was called upon to consider those of another. The prince would tell me of the dinners we would have with the emperor and empress and the great social advantages to be derived therefrom. Then the count would describe the jewels that have been in his family for centuries, and the exquisite pleasure of possessing them almost tempted me to decide in his favor. But while I was thinking about them the fact that the earl is an English peer with a seat in the house of lords would come up before me, and you know the English nobility is the finest in the world. But there is one thing about the Micletons that isn't a bit nice—the family derived its estates through one of the mistresses of a former king of England.

Oh, dear! My brain begins to whirl again at thinking of all these inducements that were so lately pulling me in every direction. I thought how nice it would be if they could all be united in one man. To be a German princess and sit at the emperor's table, a peeress of England and be received at Buckingham palace, a Polish countess and wear family jewels a thousand years old—I almost wished we could have that system that was in vogue in olden times—Polly Andrew, I think it was called—whereby a woman could have as many husbands as she pleased. (I have looked the word up in the dictionary, and it's polyandrous.) Just think! I could have been a German princess, an English peeress and a Polish countess. Besides, I could have had a real husband to love me. Heigho! If I had had the making of social systems I would have made them much better than I find them.

As I was telling you, the day after you left I found myself in a very uncomfortable position. I had promised the count an answer, the prince was of too high rank to keep waiting, General Du Pont, who, by the by, I didn't tell you comes of one of the oldest families in France and may be president some day, arrived from Paris, and the Earl of Micleton came down from Newport. What do you suppose? Polinski was waiting in my private parlor for his answer when up comes the prince's card. At that moment a note is handed me from General Du Pont stating that he had arrived and would call at noon (it was then 11). While reading his note another waiter hands me the card of the Earl of Micleton.

What was I to do? I just sat down and cried. But I only shed a few tears. I hadn't time. I must think, or, rather, I must act. My first thought was to accept the prince, he being of the highest rank and considering his intimacy with the emperor and all that. But I just could not give

up being a peeress of England. General Du Pont had come all the way from France to plead his cause, and there was a possible presidency of the French republic in his suit. As to Polinski, I had promised him an answer on that very day and had led him to believe that it would be favorable. Besides, I got to thinking of a certain gem he had described to me among those family jewels. It seemed to sparkle just as if it was really before my very eyes.

It was dreadful, these four men all pushing their claims and I not able to fix my mind on any one of them to the exclusion of the others. And then think of the difficulty of handling so many suitors at once. That alone was enough to set one wild.

You know the saying the homeopathics have, "Like cures like?" Well, to handle all these men I was obliged to call in a man. John Jones has had the full charge of my property ever since father died and has managed it very well and, I believe, very honestly. I knew I had something far more difficult to manage than property, and John was the only person I could think of to help me. I just telephoned him to come right up from his office. He telephoned back that he was concluding the sale of one of my buildings that he was anxious to get rid of and desired to nail the transaction, fearing another building would be sold instead of mine. I told him that if the whole estate was in danger of being lost I wanted him to come right up anyway. In ten minutes after that he arrived.

I told him of the four men who were trying to get at me to marry me. "Have you no preference?" he asked. "I can't make up my mind," I replied, "whether I would rather be a German princess or a British peeress or run my chances of being first lady of France. Then there are the jewels—"

"You mistake me," said John Jones. "I wasn't asking about the titles and things; I referred to the men." "Oh, the men! I hadn't thought of that," I said.

"What do you wish me to do?" he asked, looking puzzled. "I don't know," I said, with a little nervous laugh. "I wish you to do something."

"Do you wish me to decide for you?" "Yes; anything." "It will do no good for me to decide unless you abide by my decision." "I will."

"On your honor?" "Yes, on my honor." "You wish me to decide whom you are to marry. Is that right?" "Yes."

At that moment there was a rap at the door, and like a fool I cried, "Come in!" The door was opened, and—goodness gracious—there stood the count! "Pray excuse my trespassing," he began; "the fullness of my heart—"

He had got thus far when—what do you think?—some one pushed against him, and, turning, he saw the prince. And, great Scott, the other two were coming down the corridor! The prince had seen the count, the earl had seen the prince, and the general had seen the earl coming toward my suit. They had followed one another.

I looked at John Jones appealingly. "Gentlemen," he said, "this lady has just made a very important decision—a decision that affects you all." Oh, dear, how eager they all looked! "Looking at me, he asked, "Am I right?" and I answered "Yes." I trusted him.

"She has decided to whom of all her suitors she will give her hand." (Each man's eyes sparkled with anxiety lest some other than himself had been chosen.) "I have the honor to announce to you, gentlemen, that I am the favored man."

"You!" shouted the count and the general. The other two maintained a dignified silence. "You could have knocked me down with a feather. I glanced at John Jones to know if this was in earnest or only to get rid of the others. He understood my meaning and replied by a look, "I am in earnest."

They said that when persons are drowning all the acts of their lives pass in review before them. All the advantages I was giving up passed before me. And it is also said that a drowning person will catch at a straw. I caught at John Jones.

"Ex this an affair comique," asked General Du Pont, "or ze truth?" I nerved myself for an effort. Oh, how grateful I felt to John, and I said: "It's the truth."

The four noblemen bowed very low, turned and went away. How embarrassing it must have been if they met at the elevator! When they had gone John turned to me and said: "Do you approve my course?" "Yes, I do."

"I release you." "No you won't," I said. "I've had enough of all this. I wish it closed up at once."

"Married at once?" "Instantly." John sent out for a clergyman, and we were married and took the train for this place. I always liked John, but somehow I hadn't thought of him for a husband. I suppose my mind had been on coronets. But John says he had loved me—just think—since I was a little bit of a girl. And I—well, I find it perfectly lovely to have a fine decided business man on whom to rely for a husband.

(First publication Jan. 27.)
Legal Notice.
To Elizabeth Schellhase, Martha E. Speck, Ella Drews, Minnie Mealhase, Clara Burham, Andrew Schellhase, Anna Kirchner, Frank Schellhase, son of Reinhart Schellhase, deceased, Mary Schellhase, Clarence Schellhase, Arthur J. Schellhase, Ella Schellhase, Frank Schellhase, son of C. Schellhase, deceased, Mary Schellhase, mother and natural guardian of the said Clarence Schellhase, Arthur J. Schellhase, Ella Schellhase and Frank Schellhase, minors, defendants, will take notice that on the 24th day of January, 1910, Irwin F. Daniel, plaintiff herein filed his petition in the district court of Holt county, Nebraska, against said defendants and Jacob Ohde, the object and prayer of which are to obtain possession of and eject the defendants from the north-east quarter of section 4, township 30, range 14, west of the 6th principal meridian, in Holt county, Nebraska, the plaintiff having a legal estate therein and being entitled to the possession thereof, and to have and recover judgement against the defendant Jacob Ohde for the rents and profits of said premises since June 25, 1907, to this date and cost of suit.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the 7th day of March, 1910.
Dated January 24, 1910.
IRWIN F. DANIEL,
Plaintiff.
By W. C. Saul and Mapes & Hazen, his attorneys.

(First publication Jan 20)
Notice.
In the County Court of Holt County, Nebraska.—In the matter of the guardianship of A. L. Wilcox, incompetent.

To all persons interested in said estate: You hereby notified that on the 20th day of January, 1910, C. E. Hall, guardian of the estate of A. L. Wilcox, incompetent, filed in said court his final account, as said guardian, and a petition for final settlement of said estate; that the said final account and petition for final settlement will be heard on the 5th day of February, 1910, at 10 o'clock a. m. at the county court room, in O'Neill, in said county, at which time and place any persons interested in said estate may appear and show cause, if such exists, why said final account should not be approved and a settlement made and guardian discharged.

It is ordered that a copy of this notice be published for three successive weeks in The Frontier, a newspaper printed and published in said county.
Dated this 20th day of January, 1910.
(Seal) C. J. MALONE,
County Judge.

First Publication Jan 13
Notice of Application for Allowance and Assignment of Personal Property.
In the County Court of Holt County, Nebraska.—In the Matter of the Estate of A. L. Wilcox, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in said Estate: You are hereby notified that on the 11th day of January, 1910, Eliza Wilcox, widow of A. L. Wilcox, deceased, filed her petition in the county court of Holt county, Nebraska, praying for an allowance from said estate for the support of herself and the minor child, constituting the family of said deceased, and for the assignment to her of personal property of which she is given absolute right by the terms of the statute, and that said petition will be heard at the county court room in said county on the 9th day of February, 1910, at 10 o'clock a. m. It is further ordered that notice of the pendency of this petition be given to all persons interested in said estate by publication for four consecutive weeks in The Frontier, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in said county.

Dated this 11th day of January, 1910.
C. J. MALONE,
County Judge of Holt county, Nebraska. 30-4 (Seal)

First publication Jan. 20
Notice.
The State of Nebraska, County of Holt, ss.
IN THE COUNTY COURT
Notice is hereby given that, petition having been filed in the county court of Holt county, Nebraska, for the appointment of an administrator of the estate of Mary Ann May, deceased, late of Atchison county, Missouri, the same is set for hearing at 10 o'clock a. m. on Friday, the 11th day of February, 1910, at the office of the county judge in O'Neill, in said county, at which time and place all persons interested in said estate may appear and be heard concerning said appointment.

Given under my hand and official seal this 19th day of January, 1910.
31-3 (Seal) C. J. MALONE,
County Judge.

(First publication Feb. 3.)
Probate Notice.
January 28, 1910.
In the matter of the estate of Isaac S. Alder, deceased:

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of said deceased will meet the executors of said estate, before me, county judge of Holt county, Nebraska, at the county court room in said county, on the 1st day of March, 1910, on the 1st day of June, 1910, and on the 1st day of September, 1910, at 10 o'clock a. m., each day, for the purpose of presenting their claims for examination, adjustment and allowance. Six months are allowed for creditors to present their claims from March 1st 1910, and one year for the executors to settle said estate, from the 25th day of January, 1910. After six months from March 1st, 1910, all claims barred.

This notice will be published in The Frontier for four weeks successively, prior to the 1st day of March, 1910.
(Seal) C. J. MALONE,
County Judge.

C. E. TENBORG
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(First publication Feb. 3.)
Notice To Creditors
In county court within and for Holt county, Nebraska, Jan. 28, 1910.
In the matter of the estate of Isaac W. Peed, deceased. To the creditors of said estate: You are hereby notified that I will sit at the county court room in O'Neill, in said county, on the 1st day of March, 1910, on the 1st day of June, 1910, and on the 1st day of September, 1910, at 10 o'clock each day to receive and examine all claims against said estate, with view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is six months from the 1st day of March, A. D. 1910, and the time limited for the payment of debts is one year from the 21st day of January, 1910. After six months from March 1st, 1910, all claims barred.

Witness my hand and seal of said county court, this 28th day of January, 1910.
(Seal) C. J. MALONE,
County Judge.

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