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PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

**Captain Button's Happy Marriage with  
the Belle of North Haven Many Years  
Ago—Why the Cozy Home Was Broken  
Up and the Husband Is a Wanderer.**

No one would have suspected that Sofia was a shrew. She was of medium height, with bright brown eyes and a sweet face. These with a fine form and charming manner made her much sought after by the young men of North Haven. She chose to bestow her sweetest smiles on Julius Button, a whole souled, hardy young sailor, and all those who sought Sofia's hand felt a pang of envy when Julius led her to the altar.

The young couple settled down to the humdrum life of the small village in which both had been born and reared. For a time they were as happy as ever two young people who seemed made for each other could be.

Julius had accumulated a snug sum of money and was disposed to take life easily. The apple of his eye was his wife. Next in his affection was his violin, and with those two for company he was content to spend his evenings at home.

Although her husband played very well, Sofia cared nothing for music and detested a violin above all things. For a while she said nothing. Then she would leave Julius and his violin and would run up to one of the neighbor's to spend the evening. It dawned upon Julius that the strains he drew from his violin were not appreciated by his wife. Then Sofia began to show that beneath a sweet exterior there lay smoldering a fiery temper that when once let loose was simply ungovernable, and violent outbursts on her part became more and more frequent.

Julius bore it all uncomplainingly, for he loved his wife dearly. His was a gentle nature that never held malice and he knew Sofia loved him, so he was patient. But all things must end some time, and his patience was no exception to the rule.

ANGER THAT CAUSED SORROW.

One afternoon Julius went home and picked up his violin. He had drawn the bow but a few times before Sofia exclaimed, "I wish you would stop that noise."

Julius paid no heed to the request which had been made in such a mandatory tone. Sofia became angrier as her husband continued playing, and at last shouted, "Julius, I want you to stop that noise." But Julius only smiled and kept on playing. Sofia grew livid with rage, and seizing a pan of water threw it into Julius' face.

Then her husband put away his violin and left the house. In the evening he came back and began packing up his clothing. Sofia had recovered from her paroxysm of anger and was willing to be forgiven, but did not ask it. Her woman's curiosity could not be restrained, however, and she tremblingly asked what it all meant.

The only reply her husband vouchsafed was that he had shipped on a vessel bound for Virginia after a load of oysters. Days and weeks and months passed and the absent husband was not heard from and Sofia went to live with her husband's parents.

One day thirty-five years later the elder Button read of the arrival in New York of the United States brig Bainbridge, Captain Julius Button. He said nothing of the great hope that had sprung up in his breast, but hastened to New York, only to find that the brig had sailed a few hours before. But his journey was not altogether fruitless, for he learned that the captain of the Bainbridge was his own son. It lifted a heavy load from the old man's heart, although he felt keenly his disappointment at not seeing his son, who had for many years been mourned as dead.

FORTY YEARS LATER.

Sadly the old man returned to his home in North Haven. From that time he became a close reader of the newspapers and at last, four years later, his vigilance was rewarded. He read: "The United States brig Bainbridge, Captain Button, is expected to arrive at the Brooklyn navy yard tomorrow." Once more the old man journeyed to the metropolis. He found the brig with difficulty and was ushered into the cabin to await the captain, who was on shore.

Captain Button looked curiously at the gray haired old man whom he had been told wished to see him, but did not recognize him. Nor did the father recognize his son. Slowly the old man told his errand.

"I am Captain Button, sir," responded the captain.

"Don't you know me, Julius? I am your father."

It was a very affecting meeting, and when it was brought to a close the father asked tremulously, "Julius, what shall I tell mother?"

Captain Button hesitated for a moment, then, without replying to the question, he asked, "Where is Sofia?"

"She still lives with us."

"Then you may tell mother that I may come to North Haven when I come back from my next voyage."

An hour later Button, Sr., was on his way home, and Button, Jr., was on a voyage to China. When he returned two years later he learned that his father and mother were dead. Sofia still occupies the old homestead, but Captain Button has never seen her since they parted.—New York Herald.

A Floral Curiosity.

We have just been shown a curious plant by Mrs. Judge Chesnut. It is called the "snake plant," and is an oddity. The stem of the plant is of succulent nature and resembles the body of a snake. It had a large Easter lily shaped flower of dark purple color, with a single purple stamen. Its odor was offensive. It is a curiosity in this town, no one having ever seen a flower like it. It was presented to Mrs. Chesnut by her sister of Frankfort, Ky.—Platte City (Mo.) Landmark.

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