

Rough-Hewn

By Dorothy Canfield

(Continued from Yesterday.)

SYNOPSIS. Neale Crittenden, typical American young man, has grown up in Uniontown, a village near New York City. He is educated from Columbia university, and is less a position with a timber firm. His college he fell in love with Martha, who is now a pianist and goes to some of the best music schools in the world. Neale is spending a year in Germany with his father's success in business. He is disappointed philosophically and is in France, Marise Allen, about her age, lives with her American father, who is foreign agent for an American firm. She is an accomplished linguist and pianist and goes to some of the best music schools in the world. Neale and Marise are becoming close friends. Neale and Marise visit places of interest with two other Americans, a young man named Livingston and a young woman named Eugenia. Neale and Marise find they are in love with each other, though neither has mentioned it. Marise goes to Paris to visit her father. Neale impatiently awaits her return. Meanwhile she spends part of his time with Eugenia. Marise leaves Paris to visit with her old music teacher, Mile. Hasparren, in a Pyrenees village.

At the piano Mile. Hasparren and Father Armandariz were talking together of the next evening's rehearsal. Mile. Hasparren occasionally illustrating with one hand what she was saying. How deeply human was the look of intimate confidence they bent on each other, the ugly young priest and the ugly old school teacher. They might well be thankful that they had found each other in the world.

Mile. Hasparren turned around now and asked Marise if she would not play for them. "I would be glad to show my friends what an old pupil of mine has come to be," she said fondly.

It seemed to Marise that she had never in her life felt so like playing. What should it be? She swayed on her way to the piano to stoop to kiss Mile. Hasparren's hand, and then she sat down, with an affectionate smile at her, began the Toccatina in D minor, just as Mile. Hasparren had taught it to her, with all she had learned since then. She had never played to such an audience; when she turned around Father Armandariz was looking towards her and Mile. Hasparren exalted with pride. She had never played so well. She had, she felt, just begun to know what music was.

Mile. Hasparren had set up for her a folding cot in her own room, since there was no other bedroom in the tiny house. They slept side by side, near enough so that they could have reached out and clasped each other's hands as on that night so long ago when Mile. Hasparren had pulled Marise out of the black pit. Marise could not go to sleep. Long after Mile. Hasparren's breathing deep, her dark face relaxed in a selfless quiet that was not more selfless than her waking look, Marise lay looking out at the stars and the mountains, thinking, trembling, sometimes feeling hot bitter tears in her eyes, sometimes feeling her heart swell high with strange, untruly aspiration.

Mile. Hasparren was right. She had always been right. To keep clear of all troubling, maddening, personal relations that were sure to end by poisoning you, not to want anything for yourself, to give all for music—how safe you would be, to live like that. And how sweet it would be to feel safe! She never had. She was so tired of feeling afraid. Why not live like that? When you knew it was the only safe way? When you knew that if you did not, you would fall headlong into that dreadful mire that splashed up such infelicitous stains upon your mind at even the few chance contacts with it which life brought to a girl. Yes, that was the only safe way. Somehow to devise to Rome at all.

her out, across the world, across all time. He looked infinitely familiar to her, and yet infinitely different from all she had been thinking of him. She had forgotten! What had she been imagining him?

When he drew near enough to be sure it was she, he snatched off his hat and swung it around his head with a bright, boyish gesture of joy. The wind ruffled his hair, the sun shone full on his bold, clear face, on his deep eyes, on his tender, full-lipped mouth.

He was smiling at her, all his heart in his smile. He was welcoming her back.

Marise felt a warm gush all over her body, as though her heart had suddenly begun to beat again, as though he had welcomed her back into life. Why, this was Neale! This was no monster to dread. If she had seen him, only seen his face that morning, only had one look from his eyes that both smiled and were steady . . . she would never have run away.

She was not hurt at all, only frightened half to death. She was not just a woman in love, ready to give herself up to a man. She was Marise in love with Neale.

He had come up to them now, his breath coming fast as though he had been running. For an instant he did not speak, taking her hand silently in his. All that life had made of him looked out on her from his clear eyes.

With a beating flutter, her heart sprang up from its numb torpor of fright and sugar its wings.

"Well, we certainly have missed you!" was what he finally said.

"I'm very glad to be back in Rome," she answered.

CHAPTER LIV.

He had stood this gregarious flock-

ing around just all he was going to, Neale decided that morning, up under the flex trees, exchanging commonplace with the two girls, unable to say or even to look what he felt, because Eugenia was there. And he'd had plenty of Eugenia during the last 10 days.

What a nightmare those 10 days had been to him! What a hideous blockhead he had been to let Marise slip away from him, even for a time, before he had made a chance to see her, really to see her, in a quiet place where they could hear themselves think—with none of those third and fourth persons hanging around. What had he been thinking of, drifting along like a man in a dream, with no sense of time?

But that absence of hers had waked him up. Yes, it had waked him up! He had not had one consecutive night's sleep since she had been gone, starting up continually

from a doze with his arms empty when he had dreamed she was lying in them. How had he ever lived through that suspense and uncertainty without losing his mind?

Well, she was back and he had been too frightened not to have learned a little sense. He'd managed a walk with her alone, just the two of them before the day was out—How could he?

How did you do anything? You just went and did it.

He went boldly to her room and knocked on the door. When Marise came to open it, he said, "To celebrate your return, won't you let me show you a specially lovely spot on the Campagna I've found? I've been taking some long, solitary walks while you were away." He added firmly, "No, not Miss Mills and Mr. Livingston because they don't like to tramp, and this is 'cross country.' There! It had been no harder than that. Why in the name of heaven hadn't he thought of the simple, obvious way to get the thing done? He went back to his room and sat down, staring at the wall, to wait till the afternoon came and to try to plan what he would say when it came. He hoped a great deal that she had read Browning.

(Continued in The Morning Bee.)

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