

# MICHAEL O'HALLORAN

By Gene Stratton-Porter

**SYNOPSIS**  
 Mickey O'Halloran is a newsboy who finds and adopts a lame girl, Lily Peaches. His life at once becomes a struggle to supply the comforts of life to the little girl.

Mickey, while on a trip in the country, finds a family who want to entertain a poor girl from the city for two weeks and Mickey makes arrangements to take Lily Peaches to the farm.

Bruce enters on an investigation of the city office and is working hard to get over accounts on an invalid rest a cabin with her father and Bruce they move out of the city and the summer.

(Continued From Yesterday.)

"I don't know why you say that," cried Mickey.

"Ommh," said Mr. Chaffner, slowly. "I don't either, only I didn't understand they were engaged. It's my business to find and distribute news, and get it fresh, 'scoop it,' as our term is, and so, Mickey, when investigations are going on, and everybody knows a Menou—a big surprise is coming, in order to make sure that my paper gets in on the ground floor, I make some investigation for myself, and sometimes by accident, sometimes by intuition, sometimes by sharp deduction we happen to land before the investigators. Of course we have personal, financial and political reasons for not spoiling the game. Now we haven't gone into the city hall investigation as Bruce has and we can't show figures, but we know enough to understand where he's coming out, so when the gig ups, we have our side ready and we'll embroider his figures with what the public is entitled to, in the way of news."

"Sure! But I don't see why you act so funny?"

"Oh it's barely possible that I've got ahead of your boss on a few features of his investigation."

"Aw-aw-aw!" said Mickey. "Well I hope you ain't going to rush in and spoil his scoop. You see he doesn't know who he's after, himself. We talk about it a lot of times. I tell him how I've sold papers, and seen men like he's chasing get their dose, and go sick and white, and can't ever face men straight again; but he says stealing is stealing, and out where it will, those who rob the taxpayers must be exposed. I told him maybe he'd be surprised, and maybe he'd be sorry; but he says it's got to be stopped, no matter who gets hurt."

"Well he's got his nerve!" cried the editor.

"Yes!" agreed Mickey. "He's so sure of himself, he thinks no other man worth saving could go wrong, told him I wished the men he was after

## Adele Garrison "My Husband's Love"

**How Lillian Prepared for Her Talk With Midge.**

Anything I can do before Dicky gets back?"

Lillian asked the question casually, as after trying on the apron which she had found in a drawer she began putting her possessions away. Ostensibly it was a query referring only to aid with the dinner I was preparing and if I wished I could recognize no other meaning in it. But I knew, and she meant me to know that her question meant, "Have you anything to tell me?"

My friend never invites a confidence much less forces one, and I know that to no one save myself does she ever speak of her own problems. But she and I have few secrets from each other, although it is only when I feel the pressing need of wiser, saner judgment than my own when I am afraid that because of my emotional reactions I cannot be just to Dicky, that I ever speak even to her of my marital difficulties.

"You can help me set the table," I replied. "The other things will have to wait—the things for which I need you most, until we can be sure of an uninterrupted hour."

"I fancy you can have that very shortly after dinner," she returned. "The Brathwaites, as I remember them, are not the devoted relative type will sit up to all hours exchanging family reminiscences, are they?"

"Distinctly not," I returned with a smile at the vision of dignified, reticent Harriet Brathwaite and her absent-minded husband.

"Then you can be sure that with a journey like theirs behind them, and a difficult surgical problem before

your brother-in-law tomorrow they will go to their own rooms as soon as courtesy permits. And I will honor a rule by the breaking, and send Marion to a play or a cinema with Dicky. She slept late this morning and isn't a bit tired. It will do her good. Then we shall have the evening to ourselves. Now where shall I begin with the table setting?"

"Lillian is Delighted."

"We'll have to bring another one in from the kitchen first," I rejoined laughingly, my spirits immeasurably raised by the prospect of a long confidential talk with the friend whose sanity of outlook I had so often proved. "It will have to be a sort of 'T' effect, which ought to delight your unconventional soul, for it will be a long cry from the usual dining table."

"Lovely!" she exclaimed with enthusiasm. "I can just see it. Yes! with a swift appraising eye "you have candlesticks enough and flowers. Oh! boy! let me at it."

I saw that the idea had excited her volatile, artistic interest—transforming the prosaic to the beautiful always has a definite appeal to her—but when she entered the kitchen her practical housewife instincts asserted themselves.

"But if you take this table, where in the world are you going to put your dishes while serving and clearing away?" she asked.

"Do you not see those wooden fruit crates, and that box, to say nothing of the space beneath the cupboard and the top of the ice box?" I answered confidently. "Don't worry, I'll manage."

"I don't doubt it," she retorted,

"but if you don't have a nervous headache at the end of the meal I miss my guess."

We almost had reached the living room door with our burden when I heard the quick patter of high-heeled shoes behind me, and Mrs. Marks' voice hailed me.

"Say, Miss Graham, I couldn't help hearing you just now, and I want you to take my kitchen table for tonight. I shan't need it."

"That's awfully good of you," I said gratefully. "But I am sure I shall be able to manage. Thank you so much, however."

I added an introduction to Lillian, who struck in decidedly:

"Don't mind her, Mrs. Marks. I accept your table gladly and I'll be right down to carry it in."

"I'll get it ready," she promised and whisked down the hall, while Lillian, with a last shove into its proper angle of the table we were carrying, faced me mirthfully.

"Never refuse the gifts of the gods," she murmured. "Besides, that woman's the richest thing I've seen for many a day. I want to make her acquaintance, and this is a good entering wedge."

"You won't need any," I predicted, and indeed, while we transferred the table from Mrs. Marks' kitchen to my own, my neighbor talked so volubly that when she had departed Lillian came into the living room, closed the door, sank into a chair and gave vent to the laughter which she had been patiently suppressing.

"She's the eighth wonder of the world, that woman!" she ejaculated at last, wiping her eyes. "Now what's next? I suppose you want these

books moved away from the table. Hello?"

Her lips pursed in a whistle as she picked up a volume which with a stir of my pulses I recognized as the one from which Dicky had torn the dedicatory inscription.


**Death Cuts Short Visit of Columbus Woman in East**

Columbus, Neb., Oct. 21.—Mrs. William Odenthal, 75, who left Columbus Thursday evening to spend the winter with her children in Illinois, died of heart disease the night following her arrival at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Elmer Lower, New Rochelle, Ill.

ADVERTISMENT.

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