

Married Life of Helen and Warren

Marooned at Night on an Alpine Peak in a Furious Mountain Storm.

"If the cable should break!" shuddered Helen, gazing down the sheer cliffs.

"Cable?" queried Warren. "No cable could pull you up this mountain. That's a cog wheel track. Look up there ahead of us. Jove, it's steep! Some stunt to run this to the top. Wonder if it's a government road?"

"Maybe it tells here," turning to her "Lucerne" guide book.

"The railway built up the stony slopes of Mt. Pilatus took five years to construct, and testifies to the skill of Swiss engineers."

"Trains run twice daily in the tourist season. The ascent takes 1-2 hours."

"Hope these dinky little engines don't get stalled," Warren leaned out the window as they passed with creaking brakes. "Wouldn't want to be stuck up here."

The vegetation had dwindled to a few stumpy, fir trees that alone survived such arctic heights. The ground was bare, except for patches of hardy moss.

Slowly the four, small "hanging" carriages were drawn upward, the rocky cliffs growing more bleak and barren.

"There's snow!" eagerly Helen sighted a grayish-white patch. "I wonder if that's the everlasting snow? Some of it's been here for centuries."

They were above the mountain streams now, above the roar of tumbling waterfalls. Only the panting, laboring engine broke the desolate silence.

"I can't imagine a hotel way up here. If we could stay over night to see the sunrise! They say it's marvelous. Listen to this," consulting the guide book.

"On the summit of Mount Pilatus, once the inaccessible Mecca of all Alpine climbers, now stands a modern hotel, offering a comfortable night's lodging to those who wish to view the incomparable panorama at sunrise."

"Now don't spring any 'all-night' stuff," growled Warren. "An hour up here's enough for me."

"But, dear, we may never be here again. It seems a shame not to—"

"Now drop it! We're coming down with this car. Jumping Jupiter, look at that overhanging cliff! We're to tunnel up through that!"

Plunging into abysmal blackness they came out above the projecting rocks.

Eight lakes and at least a dozen villages lay map-like in the valleys below. How still and strange and far away it all seemed!

"And we're only half way up! What will it be like at the top?"

"May not see anything. Above the clouds up there. Jove, it's cold," but toning his overcoat.

"I wanted you to bring your sweater. What're those light streaks on that mountain way over there. Look like veins of silver. Why, they're streams!"

An hour more of steady upward climbing, through the obscuring fog-like clouds—and at last they were at the summit.

Only nine passengers in the four carriages, they came out on the platform, awed to silence by their first glimpse of a world above the clouds.

The guard announced in French and English that they could climb to the observation tower and then have tea at the hotel before starting down at 6.

By the aid of the stout hand rail they scrambled up the sheer rock, an additional 500 feet, to the lookout post on the very peak.

Holding tight to Warren's arm, Helen stood on tiptoe to peer over the protecting wall at the fearsome depths below.

It was like looking down at the world from another planet. A vast sea of turbulent clouds, pierced here and there by the loftiest Alpine peaks. "It's terrifying," she whispered all tremble.

One of the party, a Frenchman, gave a shout to try the mountain

tered ascent. "But I'm not keen on sliding down these rocks in the dark."

Through the blinding rain, Warren ahead to catch her if she slipped, cautiously they groped their way down the steep path, with only a guiding rail to protect them from the yawning abyss at the side.

Fifteen minutes of perilous progress that seemed hours, and they glimpsed a mist-blurred light from the hotel.

Drenched and shivering, they crossed the porch and entered a long room, dark and deserted.

"Nice, hospitable place," turned Warren. "Where's the rest of the bunch?"

Following a dim light they came to a smaller room. Before a blazing log fire a child was playing with a bow and arrow—the inevitable Swiss toy.

"Get off that coat!" Warren shed his own dripping ulster.

They were warming before the fire when the surprised innkeeper appeared.

"Get us something hot to drink," was Warren's abrupt demand. "We got caught up there in the storm. Where're the rest of the party?"

He explained, in halting English, that the others had taken the train back.

"The train back?" exploded Warren. "Why, it doesn't leave until 8!"

On account of the storm it had left earlier. In the excitement they had not been missed from the party. But they could spend the night here, see the sunrise and go down on the supply train in the morning.

"Get all the rotten luck! Parked up here all night in this God-forsaken place!"

"But, dear, we can see the sunrise. We may never be here again!"

"Hei! Hei! I care about the sunrise! I'd like to wring that guard's neck for going back without us."

"What time will you want dinner, sir?" Their host returned with two steaming glasses.

"Soon as we can get it," grumped Warren.

But the hot Swiss punch had an ameliorating effect on his temper.

"Not bad," when he put down his half-empty glass. "They know how to make hot drinks up here; guess they mean 'em. That's got a kick like an army mule."

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The Parent-Teacher association of Henry Yates school offers the following program at its next regular meeting Wednesday afternoon in the school auditorium: Song group, Mrs. Martin L. Sugarman; Mrs. Ira W. Porter will talk on modern poetry; Miss Jean Field, harp selections, and Miss

Natalie Bassett of Baltimore, the visiting teacher in Omaha, will speak on her work. Tea will be served following the program.

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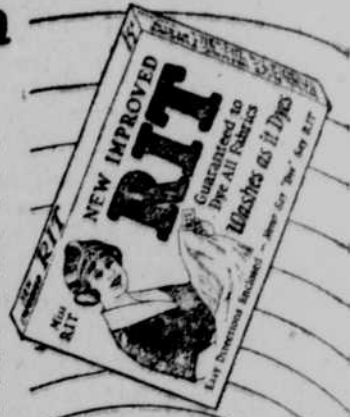
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