

### Adele Garrison "My Husband's Love"

#### Why Madge Resolutely Played a Part

The outer door of the apartment house swung to behind the girl whom I believed to be Mollie Fawcett, and for the space of a second or two I stood motionless, clutching with nerveless fingers at the panel in the big circular window of the staircase-well through which I had been peering.

Then the door into our apartment hall opened, and creeping to the side of the jog in the hall I saw Dicky pushing open our living room door.

I waited only until it had closed behind him before snapping shut the catch of the window and running down the hall to our bathroom door. I swung it open and closed it emphatically, and then entered the bedroom leisurely, with no attempt to make my entrance a silent one.

Dicky was standing in the doorway between the living room and the bedroom, and to my excited eyes the expression of his face spelled furtive and demure query.

"What's the matter?" he asked quickly. "I looked in to see if you were asleep, and found you weren't here."

"I have a headache," I returned.

"and couldn't find the headache tablets anywhere."

An odd look flashed into Dicky's eyes.

"Why, they're in the medicine chest in the bathroom," he said.

"They're in plain sight. I saw them there today."

**Dicky Proves His Point.**

"Well, they weren't there when I looked," I replied obstinately—and with the letter of truth, for the last time I had looked into the medicine cabinet, several days before, there had been no tablets there. "I'll prove it to you. Come on."

I flashed a furtive glance at Dicky and thought I detected a lessening of the very real apprehension in his face. But I felt his studying, puzzled eyes upon the back of my head as I preceded him into the bathroom and swung open the medicine cabinet.

"There," he said triumphantly, reaching a hand over my shoulder and taking out a bottle of the tablets. "What do you call these?"

I found myself trembling with the primitive longing to dash the bottle from his hand and turn on him with the jealous maddening suspicions that were racking me. But from somewhere I summoned the courage to utter a banal:

"Well! What do you know about that? My headache must have made me blind."

I turned away toward the door, but Dicky's voice, with a note of surprise in it, stopped me.

"Are you going to take one now you've found them?"

"You had a caller."

Now I had no aching head, although I could not assert the same thing of my heart, but I turned to the washstand abruptly, and turning on the cold water held out my hand for the bottle.

"I must be getting woozy," I commented, and taking out a pellet, swallowed it demurely, and turned toward the door. Dicky put his hand under my arm, and made a perfunctorily solicitous query:

"Sure you're all right not dizzy or anything?"

My hand shook with the insane impulse to strike him, but my voice was cool and tranquil:

"No thank you, Dickey. I'm perfectly all right, or shall be when I've rested awhile longer."

"When do you expect old Lil will show up?" he asked as he walked beside me into the bedroom, and stooped to remove my slippers.

The incongruity of his tender, courtesy and the fact that within a few minutes he had had a surreptitious interview in the hall with beautiful Mollie Fawcett was so puzzling and so maddening that my lips were stiff as I answered him.

"I haven't the slightest idea. Not until late."

"You'll have a chance to sleep then, I hope, before she comes. Oh, by the way! You had a caller while you were asleep."

I summoned a simulated eagerness in the face I turned toward him.

"Who?" I asked. "So few people know we are here."

"The ubiquitous and effervescent Mrs. Marks," he returned, with a distinct sneer in his voice. "She was overjoyed to 'know you were back. And she wished to know if she couldn't do nothing for you, and I gather, from her general conversation she has gone to order a jazz band to welcome you home."

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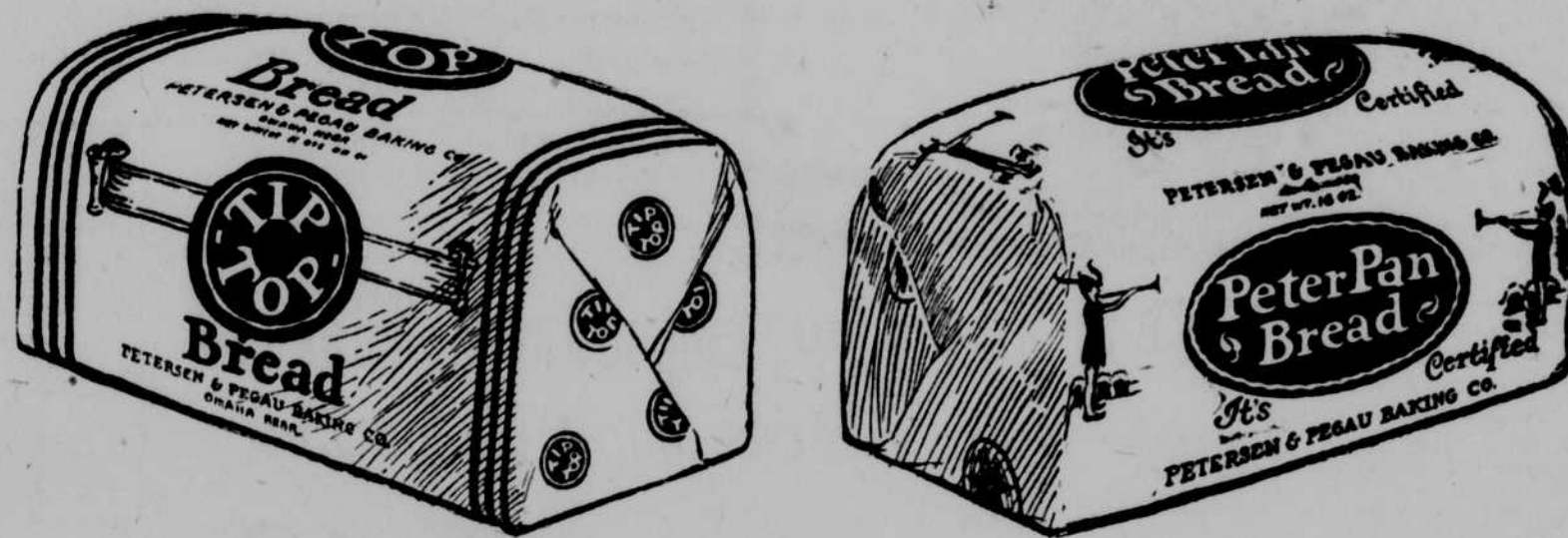
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