

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

**The Resolution Made About Mother Graham.**

That some problem—serious at least to her own imagination—confronted Katie was plainly to be read in the strained, worried look in her eyes. I was glad, however, that it was one about which she was willing to ask my counsel. I still have vivid memories of problems which my tempestuous little maid has kept to herself with grave consequences resulting from her secrecy.

"Tell me all about it, Katie," I said, coaxingly, as I would have spoken to Junior.

She cast a quick, apprehensive look at the closed door behind her. "Let like dees," she began, but her sentence was never finished.

A strident call of "Katie, where are you?" came from the hall below, and at the sound of my mother-in-law's voice Katie turned, her face looking ridiculously like that of a startled rabbit, and bolted for the door.

"I tell you everything myself," she whispered as I opened the door noiselessly for her.

"Bimeby" did not materialize, however, for two or three days. Mother Graham was so filled with excitement and preparations for her trip to Harriet Braithwaite's home in Michigan that she kept the whole household resembling nothing so much as the contents of a caldron. I knew what was the motive underneath the jazz to which she kept our steps attuned. It was a measure born of mental intoxications.

The elderly woman was so excited

by the prospect of autocratically ordering the arrangement of her daughter's domestic affairs, and the closing of her house while the Braithwaites were absent in South America with the orphaned Harrison children, that she was hardly responsible for her actions. I had my hands full in smoothing down my tempestuous Katie, upon whom my mother-in-law's gusts of temperament fell most heavily, and keeping Dicky from aggravating his mother by the patronizing masculine comments with which almost every man deems it his duty to enliven feminine preparations for a journey.

I was resolved, however, that no remembrance of unpleasantness should mar the departure of my husband's mother for the trip she was anticipating with such pleasure. She is an old woman and not particularly robust, and there were many possibilities of illness or accident on so long a journey, and the psychic touch which some far off Celtic ancestor has bestowed upon me made me doubly anxious that if anything happened to her while she was gone I should have nothing with which to reproach myself.

As a result upon the day of her departure I was physically and nervously exhausted, with just enough strength and determination remaining in me to keep from either Dicky or his mother of any hint of my real condition.

I drove them to the station, gave Dicky final little commissions for the comfort of his mother on the journey, stood with Marion and Junior on the station platform waving goodbyes until the train was out of sight, and managed in some way—I never knew how—to drive home and turn the children over to Katie and Jim. Then

I went to bed with the worst nervous headache I ever had experienced in my life, and that is no mean distinction for the ma lady.

Katie nursed me faithfully, but it was two days before I was able to sit up, and two more before I was my old self again. Through it all I was conscious of a shadow on my little maid's face, and guessed that she was sorely troubled because I was not able to hear the story she had been ready to unfold at my mother-in-law's interruption. But my nerves were so jangled that I dreaded any further fraying of them from any cause, and it was not until Mother Graham and Dicky had been gone for a week that my conscience finally pricked me into sending for Katie.

She came to my room wide-eyed and tremulous, and when I had told her that I was now ready to listen to her story, she seized my hand and began to cry tempestuously.

"Oh! I so glad!" she said through her sobs. "I think I go crazy. I so afraid of vot dese maybe try to hang on me. Pless, Missis Graham, you eoom along mit me, now. Junior and Marion out by Jeem and everything all right."

Wonderingly I followed her as she led the way to the attic covering the whole top of the house.

What did the girl mean?

3  
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