

THE STORY OF NINETTE

But so the arrangement was made, Ninette stayed up in Mrs. Cranford's house through all the dark days of exposure that followed, and by a good deal of skillful manipulation and contriving on Northard's part, very little mention was made of her at all in the papers.

Many were ignorant of the fact that Cranford had had a daughter, and gradually the scandal and nice, gossipy blow over, and was forgotten.

"By everyone but Ninette, I am afraid," Mrs. Cranford told Peter, rather sadly. "Oh, she never speaks of him, I know, but she always is thinking about the tragedy. You can see it in her eyes, and she's growing lazier, Peter."

"She has had enough to make her," he answered. "But she knew very little of her father," Mrs. Cranford said, in a puzzled sort of way. "I don't see how she can have had a great deal of affection for him. But there is something worrying her, I am confident, Peter—her voice dropped diffidently—you don't think—sometimes I've thought perhaps she has had a disappointment—a love affair."

"I've never heard of it, Ninette," she always declared she would marry for money, and no other reason." Mrs. Cranford looked relieved. "Then, of course, I must be wrong," she admitted. "But I thought I really did think, if you will forgive me for saying so, that perhaps she had grown too—a little too fond of you, Peter."

"Nothard turned round, his face flushing dull. "Of me! Good Lord! She hates me like the very devil, and I have always done," he said vehemently. "Mrs. Cranford looked amazed. "My dear, are you sure?" "I wish I were as sure of many other things," he answered grimly. "There was a little silence; then Mrs. Cranford said, "Oh, well, you ought to know, of course, I am sorry I mentioned it. You will not think any more about it, Peter?"

"I have forgotten it already," he answered. "And don't be late for dinner tonight," Mrs. Cranford said, and followed him to the door. Tell Dorothy I love punctuality above all things."

"I will be sure to tell her," But his face was hard and unhappy as he walked away from the house. It seemed to him that the moment that Ninette's life was not the only one that had got itself into a hopeless tangle.

There was nothing very straight or happy about his own at the present time; even now he could not clearly understand how he had drifted back into the old engagement with Dorothy Manvers.

It had been her cleverness, he supposed, and his own stupidity; but, at any rate, almost the day following Ninette's departure from his sister's house the engagement had been renewed.

There was no love on Northard's side, at all events. His first youthful passion had burned itself out years before, and he saw clearly enough now all the faults and imperfections of the girl who was soon to be his wife.

Beautiful, yes, but as a doll is beautiful, without a mind or a soul, or the gift of holding a man. Compared with Ninette— He checked the comparison as soon as it arose in his mind. What was the use of such thoughts? Ninette hated him.

Chapter XXXIX—Dorothy is Badly Burned. But the comparison rose in Peter's mind once more that night at dinner, when he looked from one girl to the other across his aunt's table.

Dorothy was radiant in the palest of sky blue chiffon, with a twist of the same color in her golden hair, and her diamond engagement ring very much in evidence.

Ninette, pale and grave, wore black velvet, and she hardly smiled or spoke; and yet there was a fire and depth about her that stirred Northard to his soul every time their eyes met, and aroused a queer longing in his heart.

BRINGING UP FATHER



ly to Peter "The candles—Dorothy—burning—" Her words were almost unintelligible, and Peter dashed past her to the far end of the long drawing room, where the butler and one of the men were rolling over and over on the floor a limp figure, wrapped in smothering rugs.

"It's out now, sir," the butler told him, rising to his feet. "Her whole dress seemed to catch," exclaimed the other man, tenderly examining the other man's little form and lifting it to a couch. "It flamed up in an instant. She leaned over that candleabra to light a cigaret and instantly—"

But Peter, not heeding him, was bending over Dorothy. "There were great livid burns across the delicate little face, and her glorious red hair was a singed, blackened mass. Her arms, her round, white shoulders—everywhere the fire had laid its scorching fingers."

"Poor Dorothy," Peter whispered softly, and at the words Ninette turned away, shaken with sobs. Poor Dorothy yes, and poor Peter, too!" He turned away as Mrs. Cranford went to his side with the doctor, who had been hastily summoned, and with Ninette, went into the library. The other guests slipped silently away, and they two were left alone, sitting there in the window seat to which they had drifted.

Instinctively Peter's hand caught those of the girl he loved. "Neither of them spoke; to Ninette, with only a nod to look back upon, it seemed that this one moment was wonderful enough to make up for all that had gone before. Peter might be engaged to Dorothy, but always, no matter what might come, she would remember this glorious time when his hands clasped hers tight and his heart spoke from his eyes when she dared meet them."

"Ninette—Peter!" It was Mrs. Cranford's voice, calling to them softly. "I can't see her just now—can't talk with anyone," Peter whispered, helping Ninette down from the high seat. "I'll stay here a moment and think of my own affairs, so that I can face people once more—you talk with her alone, will you, dear?"

Mrs. Cranford had gone to her sitting room on the floor above, searching for them, and Ninette followed and met her in the hall. "Oh, Ninette," cried the older woman, her voice choked with sobs, "it is too terrible—poor little Dorothy. The doctor says that she is very badly burned—that she may not live. He thinks that Peter should stay here tonight, so that he will be here in case she recovers consciousness, and he says that if she does live she will be terribly disfigured for life."

Ninette stared at Mrs. Cranford with eyes of utter disbelief. "Disfigured!" It was all over so soon! It was surely there must be some mistake!" Mrs. Cranford shook her head; the tears were running down her cheeks. "It's true enough. The doctor is sure though he's doing everything he can. Oh, poor girl! And she was so pretty!"

Ninette did not answer; she stood leaning against the door, with a sudden feeling of weakness. Beauty was Dorothy's only asset, and now she was to lose even that! Presently she asked a faltering question—"Does she know?" "She is not conscious. The shock was great, and I think she must have been very frightened, for she is still unconscious. I come to ask if you know where Peter is. He ought to be in the house in case he is wanted."

"I think he is downstairs. Shall I go and see?" Ninette moved past Mrs. Cranford and went slowly downstairs. She felt as if she moved in a dream, all her thoughts were with Dorothy, and the tragedy that had happened so wittily. (Continued in The Bee Tomorrow.)

Applications Filed for 20 State Aid Bridges. Lincoln, Feb. 6.—Applications for more than 20 state aid bridges have been filed with the state department of public works, for construction as soon as possible. It is planned to construct six of these bridges at a total cost to the state of \$200,000, according to the secretary.

Thirty-eight bridges have been built through the co-operation of the state. They were constructed over the various rivers as follows: Elk-horn, 1; Little Blue, 1; Loup, 1; Middle Loup, 2; Vedre Creek, 1; Republican, 3; Niobrara, 4, and Platt, 25.

Road Conditions. (Published by Omaha Auto Club.) Lincoln Highway, east: Roads good to Marshalltown, Iowa. Good to Kansas City. Lincoln Highway, west: Roads good to Grand Island and west. O. L. D. Highway: Roads good to Lincoln and west. Hubland Cut-off: Roads fair. S. Y. A. road: Good. Cornhusker Highway: Good. Omaha-Topska Highway: Good. Platte river bridge closed at Louisville. Open again in about four weeks. Travel should go via Plattsmouth. Good. King of Trails, north: Roads good. King of Trails, south: Good to Hiawatha. Fair to Kansas City. Black Hills Trail: Good to Norfolk. George Washington Highway: Good to Sioux City. River to River road: Good. White Pine road: Good. Blue Grass road: Good. Weather reported clear at every point, with indications for clear and rising tem-

Classified Advertising Rates. 100 per line (count 6 words to line) 1 day. 150 per line per day 10 consecutive days. 180 per line per day 20 consecutive days. 200 per line per day 30 consecutive days. No ads taken for less than a total of six. These rates apply either to the Daily or Sunday. The 25 advertisements appear in both morning and evening daily papers for the one charge.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS. Births. John and Hilda Leggett, 4229 South 24th St. Mrs. M. J. Leggett. Eugene and Ivy Long, hospital boy. Sam and Sara Madalena, hospital. Hilda and Mildred Langenauer, 2514 1/2 St. Mrs. M. J. Langenauer. Howard and Henrietta Long, 3123 South 24th St. Mrs. M. J. Long.

DEATH AND FUNERAL NOTICES. Mrs. Francis W. died February 5, aged 72 years. Funeral services Tuesday at 2 p. m. from the Burket funeral chapel, 2904 South 24th St. Burial at 10 a. m. at St. Joseph's cemetery. Mrs. M. J. Leggett, 4229 South 24th St. died February 5, aged 72 years. Funeral services Tuesday at 2 p. m. from the Burket funeral chapel, 2904 South 24th St. Burial at 10 a. m. at St. Joseph's cemetery.

LOST, FOUND AND REWARDS. LOST—Bunch of keys, between Athletic club and Fidelity building. Reward with "M. L." Box A-8. Omaha, Neb. FOUND—A pair of shoes, between Athletic club and Fidelity building. Reward with "M. L." Box A-8. Omaha, Neb.

PERSONALS. NOTICE—As the party holding the winning number, 1215, on the lamp given by the Electric Works Co. in the AUTOMATIC SEALING VAULT manufactured by Omaha Concrete Vault Co., 2510 S. 24th St. is Mrs. J. J. Burket, 2904 S. 24th St. who has been heard from the lamp will be given to the party holding the number, 1118-1119-1124 Dodge St.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS. F. J. STACK & CO., Successors to Stack & Falconer. 1414 Douglas St. Phone 2414. PIERCE AMBULANCE SERVICE. 1414 Douglas St. Phone 2414. Hulse & Riepen. Formerly at 701 S. 14th St. have moved to 2224 Cumming St. Ja. 1924.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Accorded Pleating. ACCORDION, suit, knife, pen, pocket, covered buttons, all styles; herringbone, buttonholes. Write Ideal Button & Pleating Co., Omaha, Neb. 402 S. 14th St. Phone 3434.

KEEPEL PLEATING. Hemstitching, Dressmaking, Tailoring, etc. 1414 Douglas St. Phone 2414. NEEB, PLEATING. Hemstitching, Dressmaking, Tailoring, etc. 1414 Douglas St. Phone 2414.

CONTRACTORS. PAINTING, papering and plastering. J. N. W. A. 4567. PATENT ATTORNEYS. J. W. MARTIN, patent attorney, 1113 1/2 S. 24th St. Phone 2414.

DANCING ACADEMIES. MOUTH Hygiene and Fyrrhess, Dr. E. S. Fyrrhess, 1019 1/2 1st Nat'l Bank Bldg. Tel. Ja. 6484. DENTAL X-RAYS, 60c EACH. 25 a full set. 602 Securities Bldg.

DETECTIVES. Western National Detective Agency. 1113 1/2 S. 24th St. Phone 2414. REBELS. 1847 per capita, 40c. 402 S. 14th St. Phone 3434.

KODAK FINISHING. ENLARGEMENTS, oil coloring, developing, printing. Kase Studio, 213 Neville Bldg. Tel. Ja. 6484. FILMS DEVELOPED FREE. The Kase Studio, 213 Neville Bldg. Tel. Ja. 6484.

PRINTING. EDDY Printing Co., 213 S. 13th St. DO. 4647. BRITT Printing Co., 7 Eike Bldg. MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS. DIAMONDS. We pay the best price to buy back at small profit. GROSS & CO., 1414 Douglas St. Phone 2414.

FOR SALE. Furniture and Household Goods. HOUSEHOLD goods, including handcar, Gustave Hickley dining and library table, etc. Call 2522 Dodge. JA. 6324.

FOR RENT—ROOMS. FURNISHED ROOMS. GIVE YOUR ROOM THROUGH THE BEE FURNISHED ROOM DIRECTOR. Call at office for list of choice desirable rooms in all parts of the city.

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REAL ESTATE—IMPROVED. West. MONTCLAIR ADDITION. NEAR COMMERCIAL HIGH SCHOOL. Five-room strict modern bungalow, garage, 1 1/2 blocks to Harney car, \$200 cash, balance rent. Call Jackson 2212. Price \$4,500.

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Payne Investment Co., 327 Omaha Nat'l Bldg., Douglas 1748. Kountze Place Home. Can be purchased reasonable, has four bedrooms and bath, finished attic, full basement, \$2,200 cash, balance to be paid in installments. Call 2212.

Gallagher & Nelson, 452 Petrus Trust Bldg., JA. 3242. In a fine Danish neighborhood you will find one of the most beautiful homes in Omaha: fine place for children, large 3-room house, fully equipped, garage, swimming pool, lawn, etc. Call 2212.

BRAND NEW MINNE SUSA BUNGALOW. We have just completed 8-room large 3-room house living room 13x16; built-in bookcase; everything built-in in kitchen, except stove, such as ironing board, etc. It will surprise you at the saving. Call Mr. Toliver at 2212. Price \$4,500.

JUST SOUTH OF LEAVENWORTH HEIGHTS. 8 rooms, large south front lot, good garage and shop. A real bargain. Pay only \$100 down and \$12 per month. Have a good home of your own. Owner says will let it go for \$1,000. See it and let us know. R. F. CLARY CO., 24th and Ames Ave. KE. 6112.

SIX ROOMS 3400 CASI. A nice 6-room house, modern and close to car. \$1,000 cash, balance to be paid in installments. Call Mr. Toliver at 2212. Price \$4,500.

RAILTON LOTS \$200 up—small payment. Phone Steward, Ralston, 19-19. Acreage. Benson Acreage. 17 acres, highly improved on 72d and Biundo. Price \$12,000. Easy terms. 8 acres in Kestons Park; modern bungalow, garage and chicken house; slightly location. Price, \$10,000.

HELD LAND CO., 6054 Military Ave. WA. 1925. VACANT PROPERTY. Large Lot, \$260. \$5 Down, \$5 Monthly. Buy this lot now, build a temporary home by spring and stop paying rent. Located near 72d and Biundo.

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LEAVENWORTH HEIGHTS, cheapest lot, reduced district west, south front. SHROEDER INVESTMENT CO. JA. 3261. MISCELLANEOUS. OUR BUILDING ORGANIZATION is at your service. We can build and finance your new home. Let us figure your plan. HARTING & HEYDEN, 1614 Harney St.

Borrow Money. We Loan Money. At banking rates with your character as security. No delay, if it's a loan see us. Loans made only to Omaha people. INDUSTRIAL LOAN & INVESTMENT CO., 405 So. 15th St. 15th at Harney St.

Your Real Estate. Will sell to better advantage in the hands of a reliable real estate firm. Ours is one of the OLDEST in the city. CREIGH SONS & COMPANY, Established 1865. Jackson 0200. 608 Bee Bldg.

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