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JANE AND THE NET

By MOLLY M'MASTER.

It was not until John Guthrie entered her life that Jane's heart was seriously affected. All unconsciously, while luring the big Scotchman into her net, Jane tripped and fell headlong into it herself. The sensation was at first startling and finally most alarming, for the Scotchman seemed perfectly oblivious to the fact that Jane was his for the asking.

Old fashioned Polly sitting back completely enveloped in the love of Willard Wright watched the proceedings with infinite enjoyment. She and Jane had never broken the silence that spanned an interval of three months, yet Polly was perfectly aware of all that transpired in the life of her erstwhile intimate friend.

The two girls were often in the same ballroom attending the same dances, yet neither seemed so much as to know that the other was there and never by word or look conveyed the secret knowledge that each bore a gnawing pain—the pain of severed friendship.

Jane tried desperately to conceal her interest in John Guthrie, but her eyes followed his every movement. He flirted lazily and mildly with most of the girls, but most of all he hovered over the old-fashioned, soft-eyed Polly.

And Polly, looking swiftly across at Jane, smiled in such a way as to make Jane's blood stand still. Polly was going to break her lifelong habit of demure, maidenly modesty and flirt openly and shamelessly with the Scotchman.

Jane's lips curled in scorn in spite of the fear and pain that was gripping her. She knew that Polly with her absurdly trusting eyes of blue and her gentle, persuasive manner, together with the touch of alluring coquetry she was now employing, would break the heart of any man.

However, Jane had sufficient of pride and self-control to carry on her own flirtations with a very apparent supply of blindness to Polly's maneuver. Her smiles were plentiful, and no one in the ballroom suspected that her heart was well-nigh breaking. She not only regretted the fact that Guthrie found interest in other women, but more than that she lamented the fallen idol that Polly represented.

"It is all right for me to—to flirt," Jane told herself. "But Polly is different. Polly is far too precious a type nowadays to lose sight of. She simply must not be allowed to smear her beauty with such modern characteristics." Jane smiled wistfully at her own shortcomings, and sent a swift glance of something akin to love into Polly's eyes.

Polly was oblivious, however, and continued her tactics with renewed vim. Guthrie followed her lead until the entire number of dancers in the room realized that something unusual was in the air, for the most part they were of the opinion that it was Willard Wright who was suffering by the flirtation so clever was Jane at juggling with her emotions. She had at least concealed her hurt from the public.

She spent a sleepless night, however, thinking of the lost ideal in Polly.

The next morning, true to the inborn beauty of character that lay deeply hidden beneath the surface of lightness, Jane went into the garden and selected a wonderful cluster of pink roses. Having arranged them to her satisfaction she donned her most lovely frock and went forth to Polly's cottage.

Polly, peering from behind the casement curtains to see who entered her garden path, caught a swift breath and smiled a wondrous smile. She flew down the stairs and precipitated herself into Jane's arms. Neither girl spoke for a few seconds. Polly was the first to smother her emotion and find voice.

"You are my darling old Jane, after all—aren't you?"

"Not if you are going to turn flirt," Jane said quickly, with a soft glance into Polly's blue eyes. "I can't stand it to see you making Willard miserable."

Polly laughed softly.

"What about yourself?" she queried, "and what about a certain big Scotchman with a heart of gold—doesn't he count?"

Jane looked questioningly at Polly. "He does not love me," Jane said sadly. "He loves you."

"Never—silly," Polly laughed, "he and Willard and I planned the campaign against your heart. It was the only way, little flirt, to give you a good dose of your own medicine."

"The dose was too big," Jane said unsteadily. "I nearly died from it because I thought I was losing you for all time as well as my power to flirt." As an afterthought she added, "A girl can't flirt when she is really in love, you know, Polly." The blush that flew without shame into Jane's cheeks brought a swift hug from Polly's arms.

She looked happily over Jane's head and out along the path where two stalwart men were swinging toward the cottage.

"It means an early double wedding," she told Jane. "Isn't it wonderful—to be friends again."

"We were never anything else, really," Jane made answer, and they went to the cottage door to meet Willard and the Scotchman.

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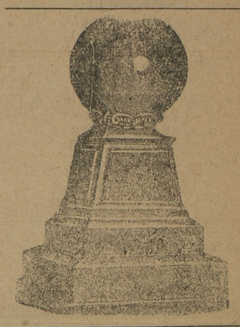

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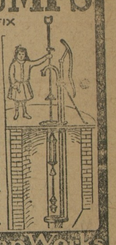

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S. S. BECK, ATTORNEY.

Order Nisi

J. Waters Russell, Assignee,
versus
Rudolph A. G. Wacker, Rachel M. Wacker, his wife.

In the Circuit Court for Kent C[illegible]
Equity. No. 192[illegible]

ORDERED, this 14th day [illegible] by the Circuit Court [illegible] Equity, that the sale of [illegible] estate mentioned in th[illegible] and reported by J. W[illegible] under and by virtu[illegible] tained in a mor[illegible] Wacker and wife [illegible] dated Decemb[illegible] was duly s[illegible] tember 2[illegible] cause [illegible] befor[illegible] a co[illegible]

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