Nannie's Two Lovers.

SOMEBODY came out of the barn when I went by with my milking pails, and caught me by the waist and kissed me.

"For shame," said I, "and all the world looking, likely. What will they say of me?"

"Oh," says he, "who minds what they think? They can only say George Gillot loves Nannie Ansar enough to kiss her, and if they could say that Nannie Anser loved me as well——"

But there a sharp voice broke in upon us——

"Nannie! Nannie! I want you in a hurry!" and out of the house came Miss Tabitha as though a whirlwhind blew her.

Away went George to his hay, and there I stood before Mill Gillot, and she put out her gauut, brown hand and clutched my shoulder and says:

"Nannie, I saw my nephew kiss you. Has he done it before?"

"Once or twice, Miss Tabby."

"He's a bad young man, then," said Miss Tabby.

"Bad," says I. "Oh, no, Miss Tabby."

"Poor, foolish child," says she. "Don't you know he is a rich farmer and you are a servant?"

"I do," said I, "and all the kinder of him to like me so."

"To like you," says she. "Well you are an innocent bit of girl, I believe, and I'll give you a hint. It is far from liking. It's nearer hating, when a man makes love to a girl he'd be too proud to marry. George Gillot is going to make Rose Gifford his wife. As for you——"

"Engaged to Miss Gifford, said I. "Then why does he kiss other folks?"

"Because he thinks them fools," said Miss Tabby, and then she walked away.

"I must leave you, ma'am." said I. "I'm going to the city to live."

And she paid me my wages without a word, and that night I was off in the train to New York. I learned a trade in the city and worked at it, but amidst all the stitching I kept thinking of Geo. Gillot. Was he married yet, and had she made him happy—that girl at whom I had heard him laugh so often; and did he know how well I had loved him? Perhaps I grew graver than I used to be and paler. You may live all your life without love, I suppose, as a blind man born does without sight, and never miss it; but to lose it after it has once been yours is a bitter living, the bitterest we have to bear.

The trade I worked at was the binding of hats, and the hatter was an old bachelor, quiet and fat, but good natured and not, as I could judge, past 45. It wasn't long before I knew he liked me, nor long before the other girls fell to plaguing me about him. At first I used to shrink from the thought, but I was lonely and he was kind. Not ugly either, with his firm red and white skin and honest blue eyes, and something as a daughter feels. I felt for him after awhile, and then it seemed worth while making a good man's house brighter and happier. And at last, when he took me by the hand one day, in no more romantic place than the hatter's shop and said: "Nannie, if you will be my wife you never shall repent it," I just said: "I don't believe I ever should, Mr. Wharton." And that was all either of us said about it.

I cried a little in my own room that night, and I took George Gillot's little presents—a ring and a locket a red-bound hymn book, with my name on it—from my trunk and burnt them up. Why I had kept them so long I could not tell. And then I sat down and thought.

"This was not just what I had dreamt of. This was not George Gillot either, but oh! a better man—only a woman's heart is such a foolish thing that she finds it hard to rule it."

Well, after that night I tried to be happy; and he said to me—Mr. Wharton, I mean:

"Let us be married very soon, my dear."

And I gave him his way. We were to meet at the minister's one morning, and there be married. Katie May would go with me, and Dr. Jallop, the apothecary, with Mr. Wharton; and then he would take me home; and I meant—God knows—to make that home as happy as a woman might.

I bought no finery for my wedding—only a pearl gray silk and a white bonnet; and I looked, Kate told me, more like a Quakeress than a bride.

We got there first—to the minister's, I mean; and I was sitting alone in the parlor—for Kate had gone with the minister's wife, who had been her Sunday school teacher—to see her new baby when the door opened, and in walked a tall man—looked at me, and stood still, with his eyes on my face. I looked at him, and my heart seemed to stop beating. It was George Gillot!

Only that I could not move I would have run away. It was so terrible to see him there just then! so altered too. He was thin and stooped a little—and deep, deep in his eyes I saw a look I never thought to see there—a yearning, though that which he longed for was always far away from him.

He drew his breath a little shiver, and then he came toward me and said:

"It is Nannie Ansar!"

I said:

"Yes." And: "I hope to see you well, sir?"

That, with my heart throbbing again as though it would kill me!

"My aunt is dead," he said after a pause; "she died two years ago. I live in the city now. I have had bad losses and bad health and the farm is no longer mine. I did not know you ever came here and I know them so well!"

"I never came before, I said. "I am here to day to be married."

And I was glad to say it, for it would show him I was heart-free of him at last.

But he turned a glance on me that made me start.

"I thought you married five years ago," he said.

"Not I," I said; but it's longer than that since you were I've no doubt."

"I?" he said. "The thought has never been in my mind—one woman turned me against the rest of her sex. The woman who jilted me, with all her simple ways, as cooly as the finest belle could."

"I grieve you've had so bad a sample of us sir," I said; "not that I ever thought Miss Rose Gifford one to be constant long."

"Rose Gifford!" he cried. "You act well, Nannie. You know it was youw ho left me. It's only right you should hear it on your wedding day—you who have poisoned life for me."

I gave a little scream.

We looked at each other, and the truth came to both of us.

"You were not engaged to Rose Gifford?"

"I never wanted any woman in my life but you," he said.

"Hush!" I cried.

And he sobbed:

"Oh, my God, how I have loved you!"

And all my pride and strength have left me. Had I died for it I must have done what I did. I bent over him and kissed his pale forehead and his drooped eyelids, and the cheeks over which hot tears stole; and I said:

"I have plighed my troth to a good man, who loves me, and I cannot break it. I must be his wife; I have never loved any man but you, George, and I never shall."

Was it wicked to say so? Was it wicked to kiss him? To this day I no not know.

I lifted up my head after those kisses, and saw through the window a carriage at the door and my bridegroom saw my face at the pane and kissed his hand to me—one foot was on the step of the coach that moment; the next, there come a clatter of horses' feet, a whirl of wheels, shrieks from the people in the street, nothing where the carriage stood an instant before, and all the crowd rushing in one direction. * * * * I knew nothing until the women stood about me and told me with the pitiful voices and streaming eyes, that my bridegroom was dead!

Well, heaven knows my remorse and that I wept for him and had meant to be a true wife to him, and it was long before I would listen to any word of comfort. But the heart will have its way; and my love and I had both suffered so, and I could not always be cruel to him and to myself—and today I am George Gillot's wife!—New York News.

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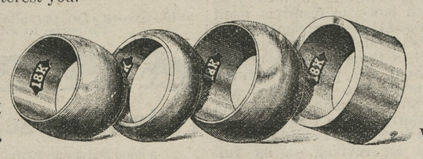

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A Special Round Trip from Baltimore to Rock Hall and return will be run on SATURDAYS, leaving Baltimore at 3 P. M., and leaving Rock Hall at 5 P. M. This will give Rock Hall patrons an opportunity to leave home Saturday morning for Baltimore and return same day.

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Nov. 2, 1895.

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FALL 1895.

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WM. CUNDIFF, Sup't.

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TIME-TABLE,

TO TAKE EFFECT NOVEMBER 27th, 1895.

Going East. Pass. No. 1 Daily ex. Sunday.	STATIONS.	Going West Pass. No. 2 Daily ex. Sunday.
Leave. A. M.		Arrive. P. M.
6.50	CHESTERTOWN	12.05
		A. M.
7.05	WORTON	11.50
7.10	LYNCH'S	11.45
7.15	HEPBRON	11.40
7.28	KENNEDYVILLE	11.27
7.41	BLACK'S	11.14
7.54	LAMBSON'S	11.01
8.08	MASSEYS	10.47
8.22	DELANEY'S	10.32
8.30	BINGHAM'S	10.25
Arrive.		Leave.
8.40	CLAYTON	10.15

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