

Alicia Hammersly A Woman Who Wouldn't Remarry

By Idah McGlone Gibson
The Novel Writer

Alicia Hammersly, now Alicia Atwood, and commonly called Alix—is telling the absorbing story of her life. She is engaged to Hal Hammersly. On the morning of her wedding day, she wonders whether she really knows the man she is to marry. Alicia's thoughts lead her to her mother for consolation. She finds an old trunk which is "filled with memories." As Alicia enters, her mother is fondling a pair of baby shoes. Alicia's mother consoles her and points out that the great happiness to be found in a marriage is an understanding, but warns her that it is something very different from the day dreams of an excited girl. After the ceremony, Alicia confides to Alicia that his in-laws will necessitate strict economy and that she must live with her parents while Alicia is downcast as she realizes that she has lost her independence. Alicia's old-fashioned ideas of what she should do, Alicia is told by Nell Marshall, an old sweet friend of Hal's. The same evening, Alicia's friends call. From a conversation she learns that Nell Marshall has long been the belle of the city.

Did Hal Really Propose?

I cannot describe my feelings at that time. I realized from what Hal had said that he probably had not intended to propose marriage to me. He had first told me that he loved me. That night, I turned and tossed in bed. At last I could stand it no longer, and I put my hand on my sleeping husband's face. "Hal, wake up," I called softly. "Hal, wake up," I called softly. "What is it dear?" he murmured. "Do you love me? Are you sure you love me, Hal?" There was an unintelligible sound as my husband's lips, but with it I knew he was saying "yes." I drew me close within his arms, and he kissed me. He had never kissed me before. Whether Hal loved me or not, I was a part of him. A big thing had come to me that evening. To be the woman a man loved meant bliss for a week or a month, but to be the woman a man married, for better or worse, in sickness or in health, until death do us part, was another thing. I pushed my head close up under Hal's chin. He immediately went to sleep. Even in the first years of our marriage, I know now, although I did not know then, my husband was not very strong. His athletic appearance belied his physical condition. His health receded great extent. He could only do one thing at a time. He did this when he was working. He gave himself up to the reason why he lost his position in his home town. After our marriage he was very much interested in business and I was second. He did not realize that after a

day of monotony, I would like to go out, for he was so fatigued that he had no inclination to do anything but sleep.

I have sometimes thought that this is one of the great rocks that wreck marriage. Housework spells monotony to a woman. A man's own business spells interest to him.

That part of marriage which is called the honeymoon was the most unhappy for me. Years afterward, we both of us looked back upon it, and smiled over the things we then had thought tragedies, but at the time I was not viewing marriage from the right perspective.

One evening Hal came home earlier than usual and went straight to bed with a headache. That same evening Nell Marshall called on us for the first time. She had waited so long that I thought she did not intend to call. In fact, I think she had not so intended, but being a trifle bored herself that evening she had thought the company of Hal, even if it had to be enjoyed with that of his wife, was better than being alone.

I could not help liking Nell Marshall. She was more like the women and girls I had known in my own home than any I had met after my marriage. There was about her a certain fascination of mystery, that I found out afterward to be made up of variable moods. At times she was as hard as nails, and at others so tender and sweet as was possible for a woman to be. She was very cynical and I always envied her worldly wisdom.

Hal grew better the moment he knew that she was there, and he insisted that we both should come up and sit beside his bed and talk to him. It seemed to me that it made little difference in the caring way that he addressed us, and it was apparent that there was a great bond of friendship between my husband and Miss Marshall. This did not worry me because I am not a jealous woman. Sometimes I think perhaps it would be better for me had I been so.

That night, however, I learned that my husband was a man that all women liked, and probably a great many had loved. He could no more help flirting with a young and pretty woman than he could help from breathing.

Nell—I began to call her Nell immediately because Hal did—was a clever adversary in the game of what we call flirtation. I could see that she interested him probably a great deal more than I ever did. There seemed to be a something of immersion in everything that she said, that sort of gave the impression that she was holding something back—and in this way she was a constant fillip of Hal's curiosity. I have been sorry many times that I did not take a leaf out of her book that night. I am afraid I have always been a woman who was too frank with those she loved.

Tomorrow—Nell Marshall Calls.

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(By United Press.)
Portland, Or., Apr. 5.—Amateur title holders in the Pacific Northwest Association in boxing and wrestling for the year 1921, as established in the recent tournament held under the auspices of the armory Athletic Club, of Portland, are as follows:

Wrestling—108 pound class, Stanley Robinson, Multnomah Club, Portland; 115 pound class, D. H. Brown, Multnomah; 125 pound class, Robin Reed, Multnomah; 135 pound class, Virgil Hamlin, Multnomah; 145 pound class, George Clarke, Multnomah; 158 pound class, George Hansen, Multnomah; 175 pound class, Paul Amort, Multnomah. Heavyweight class, O. N. Day, Multnomah. Boxing—108 pound class, Steve Machowsky, Armory Athletic Club; 115 pound class, D. J. Healy, Multnomah; 125 pound class, "Bud" Stengel, Multnomah; 135 pound class, Marion Carson, Armory; 145 pound class, Edward Richmond, Multnomah; 158 pound class, Clayton Frye, Multnomah; 175 pound class, P. S. Frye, Multnomah. Heavyweight class, "Babe" McCart, Oregon Agricultural College.

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Miners Gather For Convention

PORTLAND, Ore., April 5.—Pioneers of the mining industry of the west, men whose names have been linked with the development of famous mines, were among the hundreds who were here today for the opening of the third international mining convention, which will remain in session until Friday night. Problems connected with the commercial development of mining will be considered, and the program has been arranged to give the delegates the benefit of talks by men who have had years of experience in mining in the western states, British Columbia and Alaska.

Following the opening program at the auditorium this afternoon there was to be a gathering tonight at the chamber of commerce. The bureau of mines was to display motion pictures.

AIR PATROL BEGINS MAY 1.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., April 4.—Comprehensive plans for the aerial patrol of national forests in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and California will be put into effect on May 1, when fliers from the 9th and 91st aero squadrons will begin daily trips over the forests, according to the announcement made today by Major S. W. Fitzgerald, commander at Rockwell field. He received an order today to ship 20 more De Havilland airplanes from Rockwell field to Mather field, Sacramento, for use of the forestry patrol. The work will be under the supervision of Major Henry H. Arnold, air officer of the 9th corps area.

Field bases will be established at Eugene, Or.; Red Bluff and Fresno, Calif., and probably Walls, Wash.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Bids will be received until 7:30, April 11, 1921, for the erection of a church at the corner of S. Main and E. Lane streets, in Roseburg.

Blueprints and specifications are with H. E. Guthridge and J. C. Jones, addresses and phone numbers found in directory.

The building will be of reinforced concrete and pre-cast stone, the contractor to furnish all material except windows in the main floor. No excavating.

The right to reject any or all bids reserved. Roseburg, Oregon, April 1, 1921.

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