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Alicia Hammerly

A Woman Who Wouldn't Remarry

By Miss McGinnis O'Brien

ALICIA'S LOVE.

For some moments Bab was silent as I poured out to her the anguish that filled my heart at the loss of my lover. Finally she spoke.

"Jeff Turner loves you—and you him, dear sister?"

"Yes."

"Well, then what is the matter?"

"He is allowing a foolish complex to come between us. He thinks that because he does not see very well that he should not ask me to marry him. He is like you, dear Bab, his pride is greater than his love. He will not offer me anything but the man that he was and oh Bab, I want the man that he is."

Bab looked up in surprise. "Oh I am not like you, my dear Bab," I said. "I have no pride where my love is concerned. I don't think I had any when I was married to Hal. I just want the man I love to love me. Marriage is not a business with me. It is simply a declaration to the world that I love, and am loved."

"Alic, you incorrigible romantic!"

"Perhaps. If I were not, life would look very dull and grey to me."

"It is dull and grey dear. It is cold and mean and ugly."

"What you look for in life, Bab you will find."

"You haven't found your romance."

"Oh, yes I have, the loveliest romance a woman ever had. I have found a man who to me is all a man should be and he has told me that to him, I am the one woman in the world. That we are lost to each other does not mean that the romance is not there."

I saw Bab's eyes fill with tears and I thought it a good time to try again and persuade her not to do the awful thing she contemplated. At my first words her mouth straightened into a straight line and her eyes grew hard. I said no more.

"There is always a lull after a storm," a bromide observation but true, nevertheless.

For a week or so, Bab and I slept and ate and bathed in the ocean, took our daily walks, played with little Hal. I tried to write a little but found it impossible. The new ideas would not come. As last I got out my unfinished story and read it over. Lovingly I added color here and there to the character of its hero.

It was though I was painting a picture of Judge Turner.

As I wrote I knew in my innermost being it was the best thing I had ever done because I was opening

the pages of my own heart as well as bringing all the powers of my mind to bear on the analysis of the man I loved.

It was the first time I had written this freely from out my experiences for I take no stock in that old theory that whatever a woman writes, she must have lived. It has always seemed to me that man has built up a contradictory figure in his mind and called it woman. He endows her with imagination and then if she happens to express her thoughts he says they came only from experience. He endows her with many virtues, and then allows her only limited freedom, apparently because of the original sin that made her tempt man beyond his strength.

As I wrote I understood why I cared so much for Judge Turner. He is the first man that has ever treated me as a human being before he loved me as a woman. Hal used to say I was "off" on this subject, but had Hal understood both he and I would have been much happier during that brief time of our marriage. I could not write "finis" to my story as the last few paragraphs contained the letter which Judge Turner wrote me. My day of love had been too sweet. Somehow somewhere, sometime love must come back to me.

'Twas so wonderfully fair and it left me soon.

hardly had found it was here and 'twas gone.

Just caught a glimpse of the sunny sky.

Just dreamed a dream of eternal love.

And my beautiful day had vanished elsewhere.

It was gone from my life; in the silence alone,

I sigh oft' times for the brightness flown;

But the clouds are less heavy to me overhead,

Less gloomy the shadows that darken my way,

Less stifling and damp is the air that I breathe

For the memory, lingering, of that bright day.

And I love to think, for it could not die—

Such fairness must live eternally—

That once again in the future somewhere,

Though it be at the end of my sorrowing way,

I in substance will find, as it dwells in my dreams,

So beautifully real—my beautiful day.

Tomorrow—Alicia Meets Duane

SCOUT NEWS.

All members of Troop No. 1, who are in the city Thursday night, Aug. 25, are requested to report for a regular meeting of the troop at headquarters sharply at 7:15 p. m. Several matters of vital importance to our troop will be taken up at this time. We are now making up our list for re-registration which must be sent to New York very soon. If possible bring your registration fee of 50 cents to this meeting to be sure of being a member of this troop for next year. Why? There are over 40 boys wishing to become members of Troop 1, and remember, 32 boys make a troop and no more unless we have a special permit from national headquarters, and this we do not have, consequently, the first 32 names signed and paid up will be forwarded to New York at once. First come, first served. If you are a Troop 1 man next year you better get moving and moving fast.

Those who have not passed their tenderfoot tests come prepared to take the examination Thursday night as we will not register any candidates at this time. In order to be registered you must have passed your Tenderfoot test.

There will also be one or two other surprises to be taken into consideration at this meeting. Let's have every fellow of troop 1 we can get hold of present at this meeting.

RUSSELL L. F. LINTOTT, Scoutmaster.

CITY NEWS

Moore Music Studio opens Sept. 1

Arundel, piano tuner, phone 139-L

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION—DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON.

Sealed bids will be received by the County Clerk of Douglas County, Oregon, at the courthouse in Roseburg, Oregon, at 10 o'clock a. m. on the 29th day of August, 1921, for construction work on a section of road between Elkton and Reedsport, known as the Paradise Creek Section. The work involves approximately 1900 feet of graveling, the limits being more particularly described as from Engineer's Station 64+00 to Engineer's Station 66+00.

Separate bids will be received on each of the above sections.

No bid will be considered unless accompanied by cash, bidder's bond or certified check for an amount equal to at least five (5) per cent of the total amount of the bid.

A sufficient bond will be required for the faithful performance of the contract in a sum equal to one-half the total amount of the bid.

Plans, specifications, forms of contract, proposal blanks, and full information for bidders may be obtained at the office of the county clerk or the county roadmaster, courthouse, Roseburg, Oregon, upon the deposit of five dollars.

The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept the proposal or proposals deemed best for the county. I. H. R. RIDGLEY, County Clerk of Douglas County, Oregon.

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by
H. R. NERBAS, D.D.S.

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