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'A WIFE'S STORY'

By JANE PHELPS

CHAPTER II

I was very unsuspicious by nature, now I know I was, but as the weeks passed I constantly felt something, somewhere, things weren't as they should be. Then too, I was worried about Joan. She was now 17, and impatient of control, of criticism, as her father had always been; to be truthful, I was almost afraid of offending her as I was of offending Paul, although for a different reason. I feared Joan's leaving home if she became discontented.

Several times I discovered she had been drinking, and talked very seriously with her. When I threatened to tell her father she only laughed, a hard, peculiar laugh for one so young and made no attempt to ask me to hide it from him as she had on that occasion so long ago.

Of course I told Paul, and he promised to speak to Joan, but seemed to think I was making a fuss about nothing. He said:

"I am sure Joan never takes more than a little, and most young people do take a drink nowadays. You are terribly old-fashioned, Ruby. You must remember things are different now than when you were Joan's age. She is popular, gay, high-spirited, but she is a lady and will not compromise herself in any way. If you oppose her too much you'll drive her to extremes. No Norwood, and she is one, could ever be driven."

I tried to derive comfort from what Paul had said, but I saw dangerous rocks ahead for my lovely Joan, braved constantly for her. I did everything I could for her, hoping in this way to gain a stronger hold upon her, and dear, unselfish Laura helped me. I had hesitated long before taking her into my confidence. She was so young to learn of her sister's actions, but it seemed she had known as long as I—even longer, and had tried in every way to make Joan let liquor alone, while keeping her knowledge from me, fearing to sadden me.

My home was no longer the delight it had been at first. Joan spent much time in town, and Paul when with me had become strangely restless, preoccupied, or distressedly nervous. He couldn't sit still even for a few moments, and often was impatient, and a word would anger him. It was as if he had something on his mind, some great anxiety.

he does not have that to blame. Would I be wiser in taking my little girls and going home where I could at least find some contentment, or in staying, and hoping that he will finally do better?

X. X.: The home is one of the most important things in the world, and by breaking it up, you are taking a very serious step. Your little girls have a right to their father and to their home and if it is divided in the way you contemplate they will miss the sweetest and most precious memory they will have. I believe you will be wise in staying, and while it may be hard now, I feel that you will be glad some day that you decided as you did. Many of the married people who seem the happiest, and most contented in middle life, have gone through troubles as hard to bear as yours, and I think you will find that peace also, and that your husband's love will be proven in the end.

Dear Mrs. Ellsbury: I am a girl of 17, and I have always read that everyone has some one talent, something that they can do better than anyone else. I have never found mine and I don't know what I should take up and study. How can I find out what my talent is if it don't show? Should I send Christmas cards to my friends that I know?

SNAPPY: Study hard the things that you know will be good for you, and broaden you, and do not worry about your special talent just yet. It will show up in plenty of time, and usually in the most unexpected ways. If you have one or two very special friends you would like to remember, it would be nice to send them a card. But not to many.

OF INTEREST TO AUTO OWNERS

The Canada Cushman Brake—saves lives, saves money. Prevents wheels from locking. Silently, efficiently transfers the road grip from the front to the rear wheels. The brake band and the brake drum. See W. A. Moxley, or call 575-Y, for appointment and full particulars.

Yet he was evidently making more money than ever before, than ever I had dreamed he could make. My little board in the bank was growing to sizeable proportions, soon I would be able to take up the mortgage.

Another thing Paul did that I could not understand. He would wait until we were all in bed then he would leave the house, he gone for hours. When I questioned him he told me he couldn't sleep, so had taken a long tramp. This was so unlike my indolent husband I could not help but think something was wrong, that whatever had so changed him was no little thing, but something vital.

He often had callers, common looking men, with whom he would be closeted for hours. When I asked who they were, why they came to the house to see him instead of to his office he grew angry, and declared he'd be sorry he had given me the house if he wasn't to have any liberty in it, that the men came on business.

To stronger women, women of more strength of character, it may seem strange that I could be so cowardly by circumstances, by fear of distressing him as not to demand his confidence, and if he refused it, to find out for myself something of his affairs. But my home, my attempts to keep Joan happy and satisfied, my sewing (I still made most of our clothes) kept me busy, and as I was even yet feeling the effects of the years of strain and hard work I had been through, I had little time for interference in Paul's affairs, and I had been so inclined—which I was not.

I knew he and Dave Logan were no longer as friendly as they were, but when I spoke of it, Paul was evasive. Said he saw little of Dave, that he no longer had business relations with him, but that when they met they were as friendly as ever. Dave came out to see us occasionally but here was a constraint in his manner I could not disguise no matter how hard I tried. I never had seen him alone since the day he had made love to me when intoxicated, but determined to manage it, to tell him I had forgotten the episode. I laid the change in his attitude solely to his mortification because of his actions.

Tomorrow—Dave Logan Declares Himself

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Melt in steamy inhalant vapors; apply ready up nostrils.
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IN BIG DEMAND

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 28.—William Gahldorf, local dealer in dishes and glassware among other things, declares that the demand for whiskey glasses is greater now than ever, both men and women buying them. Wine glasses says Gahldorf, are often used for fruit cocktails, but the fact remains that there is an unprecedented demand for whiskey glasses.

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