

The SEA BRIDE

By BEN AMES WILLIAMS

CHAPTER XXVII

It Brander and deUberately planned to steal a pace in her thoughts, he could have taken no better means. Faith, with her glowing smile of responsibility, told the Sully, for the success of the voyage, for the good renown of Non Wing, was always concerned when anything threatened that success. The ambassador was properly a part of the Sully's baggage. Brander must see it so, that he must to push his claim, to make himself known.

She tried to find her answer to this question in Brander's face; she tried to study him only. She perceived the strength of the man, his force and assurance. Brander was very sure of himself and of his surroundings, without the least overbearing them. He knew himself for a man; he bore himself as a man. Faith respected him; without her realizing it, this respect and liking grew.

Unconsciously Brander was ranked now and then in her thoughts beside her husband, Non Wing; she compared the two men without being willing to make the comparison. And in the process, she studied Non Wing more closely than she had ever studied him before.

It was at this time that she first marked the fact that Non was shrinking, wasting the flesh from his bones. His skin was becoming loose; it sagged. His great chest was drawing in between his shoulders; his shoulders slumped forward. And Faith saw, without understanding, that the great cords of his neck were beginning to stand out under the loose skin, that hollows were forming about them. The man's built neck was melting away. Faith saw, though she did not fully understand, she knew that Non was aging, nothing more.

She was drawn to Non, at this discovery, by a vast tenderness; but this tenderness was impersonal. She thought it a recognition of her old, strong love for the man; it was in fact only such a feeling as she might have had for a sick or wounded beast. She pulled Non profoundly; she tried to make him happy and comfortable. She sought, now and then, to woo him to cheerfulness and mirth.

But Non was shrinking, day by day, into a more continued state of complaint; he whined constantly, where in the old days he would have stormed and commanded. And he resented Faith's attention, resented her very presence about him. One day she went into the gallery and prepared a dish, she thought would please him; when she told him what she had done, he exclaimed:

"God's sake, Faith, quit fussing over me! I got along more in twenty years without a woman."

Faith would not let herself feel the hurt of this. But even while she watched over Non, Brander more and more possessed her thoughts. Her recognition of this fact led her to be the more attentive to Non, as if to recompense him for the thing he was losing. She had never so poured out herself to him.

It was inevitable that this developing change in Faith should be marked by those in the cabin. Dan'l saw it and Brander saw it. Brander saw it, and at first his pulse leaped and pounded and his eyes alone with his thoughts. On deck, about his duties, he carried the memory of her eyes always with him—her eyes as she had looked at him that day and many days before—questioning, a little wistful, a little wondering.

But Brander was a strong man, and he put a grip upon himself. He was drawn to Faith; he knew that if he let himself go, he would be caught in a whirlwind of passion for her. But he did not choose to let himself go, and by the same token he took care to have no part in what might be taking place in Faith's heart.

He knew that he might have played upon her awakened interest in him; he knew that it would be worth life itself to see more plainly that which he had seen in her eyes; nevertheless, he put the thing away from him. When she was about, he became reticent, curt, abrupt. He took refuge in an appearance of tone, and absorption in his work. He began to drive his men.

Dan'l Tobey saw. Dan'l had eyes to see; and it was inevitable that he should discover the first hints of change in Faith. For he watched her jealously; and he watched Brander as he had watched him from the beginning.

Dan'l saw Faith and Brander drawing together day by day; and though he hated Brander the more for it, he was content to sit still and wait. He counted upon their working Brander's own destruction between them in the end; Dan'l was in a destructive mood in those days. He hated the strength of Brander, the loyalty of Faith, the age of old Non Wing, and the youth of Roy. He was become, through overmuch brooding, a

walking vessel of hate; it spilled out of him with every word, keep his voice as inaudible as he might, he noted them all!

But he was careful to hide his resentment against Roy; he cultivated the boy, he worked little by little to make Roy a standard-bearer, and he looked forward vaguely to a day when he might have use for the lad. Dan'l had no definite plan at this time save to destroy, and for all his absorption in Faith, he had not failed to see that Non Wing's strength was going out of him. If Non were to die, Dan'l would be master of the Sully and those aboard her.

Dan'l never lost sight of this possibility; he kept it well in mind; and he laid, little by little, the foundations upon which in that day he might build his strength. Roy was one of these foundations.

Dan'l saw one obstacle in his path, even with Non gone. The men forward, and some of the under officers, were hotly loyal to Non Wing; and by the same token they looked upon Faith with eyes of avowed affection. Faith had that in her which commanded the respect of men; and Dan'l knew that the roughest man in the crew would fight to protect Faith, against himself or any other. He never forgot this.

When Roy Kileup, last of them all, marked Faith's interest in Brander, the boy unwittingly gave Dan'l a chance to strike a blow at the men's trust in the captain's wife.

Roy, though he might quarrel with her most desperately, was at his heart devoted to Faith and wild with his pride in her. He marked a look in her eyes one day; and it disturbed him. Dan'l found the boy on deck, staring out across the water, his eyes clouded with perplexity and doubt.

Roy was all; there was one of the men at the wheel. Dan'l glanced toward this man—one of his own boat crew, by name Slator, with a sly eye and a black tongue. Dan'l spoke to him in passing—some command to keep the Sully steady against the pressure of the wind—and stopped beside Roy, dropping his hand on the boy's shoulder.

"Hello, Roy!" he said amiably. Roy looked up at him, nodded. Dan'l caught a glimpse of the shadow in his eyes and asked in a friendly tone:

"What's wrong? You're worried about something?"

Roy shook his head.

"No."

Dan'l laughed.

"Shucks! You can't fool any one with that, Roy. If you don't want to talk,

for a moment."

"Dan'l," he said, "you've known Faith and me all our lives. I guess I can talk to you, if I can to anybody; and I've got to talk to somebody, Dan'l."

Dan'l nodded soberly.

"I'm here to be talked to. What's the matter, Roy?"

(To be continued tomorrow)

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PULP WOOD MEN URGE BARRIER ON RUSSIAN IMPORTS

SALEM, Ore., Aug. 12.—Steps on behalf northwestern lumber and pulp wood men to protect them from what they say is ruinous Russian competition were taken here yesterday when Senator McNary sent a message to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Lowman, urging him to do everything possible to exclude importation into the United States of lumber and pulp wood from Russia. The predicament in which the western American manufacturers find themselves is described in the message which declares that "Western pulp manufacturers have no orders for pulp or pulp wood, and eastern manufacturers can acquire western material at reasonable price, hence there is no reason for admission of Russian pulp wood on the ground that the mills would be closed if it is excluded."

McNary told the delegation that

CHINESE AND JAP DISASTERS CLAIM SCORES OF LIVES

TOKYO, Aug. 12.—Seventy-nine persons were missing as the result of a collision between the Chinese steamers Tung On and Lien Hsiang in a heavy fog off the tip of the Shantung peninsula (China). Rengo News agency dispatches from Dairen said today.

The Tung On, a twin screw steamer of British registry, sank immediately after the collision. All passengers and crew were believed lost. The Lien Hsiang was disabled in the crash.

CANTON, China, Aug. 12.—Seventy persons, most of them women, were drowned Monday evening when a large Chinese launch proceeding from Hongkong to Kongsmoon on the Sikiang estuary was blown up by a mine.

TOKYO, Aug. 12.—Twenty persons were reported drowned today

MRS. S. J. HOWARD OF ELKHEAD DIES

Mrs. Sarah Jane Howard, a resident for many years of the Elkhead district near Yoncalla, passed away at the home of her son, Wm. J. Howard, yesterday afternoon. She had been ill for several months. She was born in Virginia, Sept. 24, 1855, and from there went to Texas, where she was married to Wm. Howard, in 1874. Shortly after her marriage she and her husband came to Oregon and located near Yoncalla, where they have since resided, being engaged in farming. She is survived by six children, Mrs. Fannie Watkins Comstock; Melvin Howard, Oakland; Mrs. Lula Willis Lorane; Mrs. Velorie Trobee, Saginaw; Mary Caldwell, Portland; and Wm. J. Howard, Elkhead. Services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 at the home cemetery near Elkhead. Services are in charge of H. C. Stearns.

GIVE OFFICES TO THOSE EDUCATED, DURANT ADVISES

UNIVERSITY, Va., Aug. 12.—Will Durant, New York author, told the Virginia Institute of public affairs here last night there was no way out of the domination of political life in the United States by men of the third-rate ability, except to make education a qualification for public office.

In his address on "Is Democracy a Failure?" Durant said the final breakdown of democracy appeared in the increasing insecurity of life in our cities, where political machines were in league with the world of crime and in the inability of congress to face the complex economic problems confronting it every day.

"I should like to see in all our great universities, schools of public administration in which students would be prepared as specifically and technically for the tasks

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