

REVELATIONS OF A WIFE

The Story of a Honeymoon

A Wonderful Romance of Married Life Wonderfully Told by
ADELE GARRISON

CHAPTER CCCLXXXII

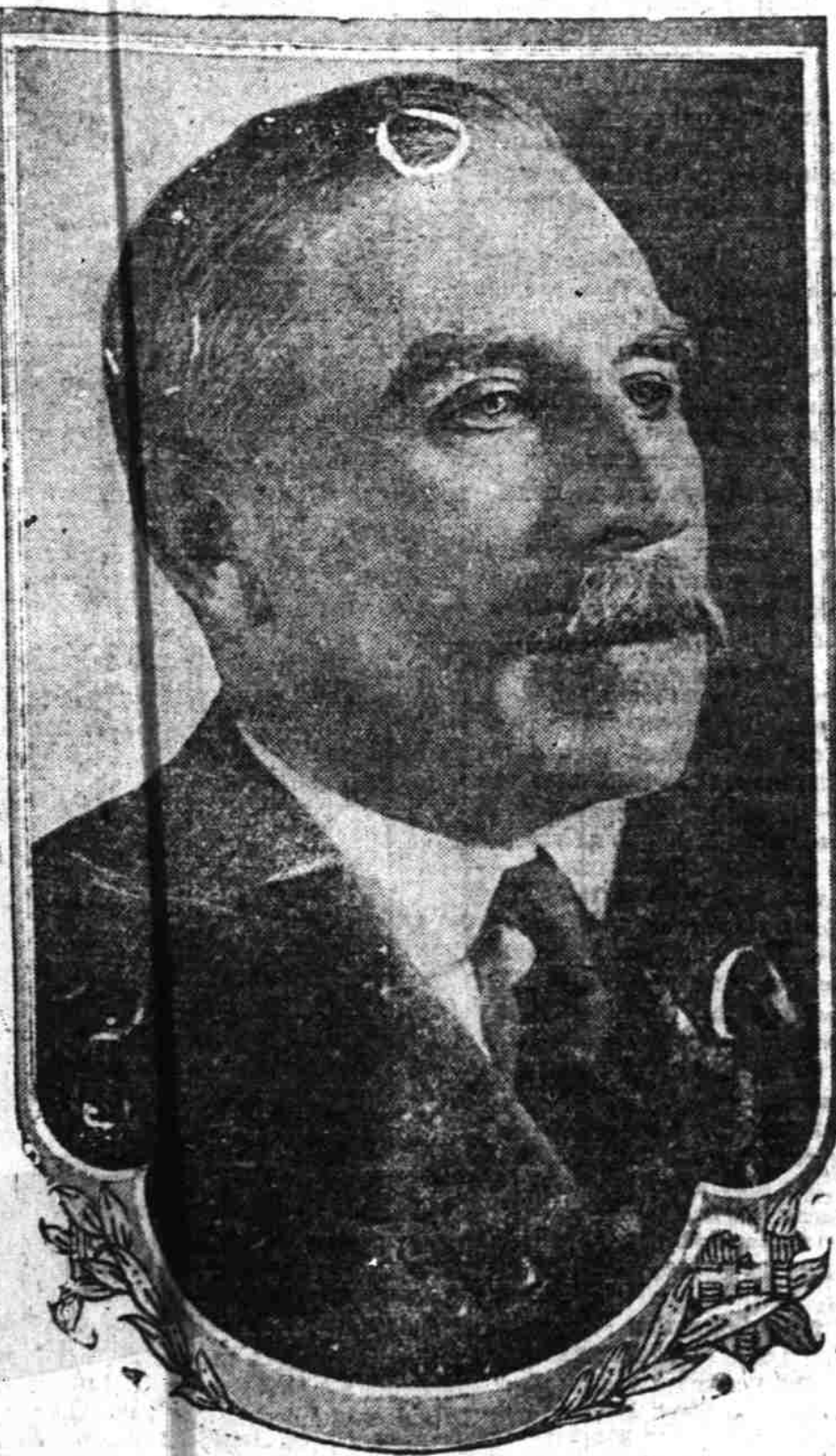
IS THERE A REAL CAUSE OF JACK'S JEALOUSY OF DR. BRAITHWAITE?

"Now, Katherine, dear, tell me all about it." We were safe from intrusion. Katherine Sonnet and I, in my own room. She had arrived on so late a train in the afternoon I had no time to talk to her before Dicky's arrival and dinner. And after dinner, my husband, who appeared to have gotten rid of his sulkiness toward me with his ebullience of temper concerning Dr. Pettit, had kept us royally entertained as only Dicky can when he is in a good humor. It was late when he finally went to his room, but I knew from the look in Katherine's eyes that tired

as she was she wanted to unburden her heart to me before she slept. At Lillian Underwood's dinner in honor of Robert Savarin I had noticed the boorish manner of Jack Bickett, her fiancé and my cousin, toward her, and later guessed that the reason for his actions was his jealousy of Dr. Braithwaite, Dicky's brother-in-law, the head of the hospital unit to which Katherine belonged, and because of whose work here she had come back from the front. Katherine's answer startled me. She turned from the mirror in front of which she had been braiding her long, beautiful hair for the night, and sank to her knees at my side and burst into tears. I put my arms around her, drew her close, and tried to apologize. "Why, Katherine, I didn't mean to make you feel like this. I never

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should have asked you that question, but I thought you wanted to tell me about it." Her answer came brokenly. "Don't. I want to tell you, but please let me cry—it's the first time." I said no more, only held her close

and smoothed the satin softness of her brown hair. The words, "It's the first time," struck a responsive chord in my heart as I gazed down at her. I, too, knew also what it meant to repress tears, knew also what it meant to a woman in trouble to have somewhere in the world another woman's shoulder to "cry on."

When she finally dried her tears, she sprang up with the pretty impetuosity I had always loved in her.

"What a fool I've made of myself," she said practically, going over to a stand in the corner and pouring cold water into a basin. As she bathed her eyes and face she gave a little sardonic laugh.

"Tell me, Madge," she said, "did you ever see a woman who could cry becomingly? I've read of them, but I've yet to see one, and I've certainly watched all varieties of weeping females."

"There isn't any such article," I rejoined, and then I drew up a chair near mine, afraid lest the bitterness of her tone meant that she had drawn an armor over her face and confidence. But she sank obediently into it when she finished bathing her face and she clasped her hands around her knees.

"There's only one thing the matter," she said, "and you couldn't help seeing the other night at Mrs. Underwood's dinner."

Katherine Explains.

"You mean that Jack objects to Dr. Braithwaite's work taking so much of your time?" I replied, temporizing, for I did not wish to put my real conviction into words until Katherine herself should give me the cue.

"I mean that he is actually jealous of Dr. Braithwaite himself, imagines that the physician himself is in love with me and that I am more interested in him than I have any right to be."

She stretched her beautiful arms above her head with a gesture of important irritation.

"Sometimes I think all the business and professional world ought to be divided like a Quaker meeting, the men on one side and the women on the other," she said with a tinge of bitterness. "It seems almost impossible for a man and a woman to be associated closely in and business or profession without causing unpleasant comment or actual trouble if there's a husband, wife or fiancée of either on earth."

"And it's so unjust," she went on. "You see, in this particular case, I happened to do my work in the special way that suited Dr. Braithwaite, and he was kind enough to remark it, and gradually to give me the most responsible work he had." "Of course you just happened to do your work well," I put in affectionately, for I knew Katherine's reputation as one of the best nurses in the city.

A little mouse was the only indication that she heard my interruption.

"And then Dr. Braithwaite's wife fell ill. Of course you knew about that," she continued.

"To My Sorrow."

I nodded. Dicky's sister had indeed been taken ill shortly after she had gone to Paris with her big surgeon husband. I had wondered often how the big surgeon had gotten along without her, for her efficient care of

him and his absolute dependence on her had aroused my admiring wonder when they visited us before sailing.

"Well, then, of course, you know how dependent he always was upon her. And the thing that worried her most in her illness was the fact that she could no longer look after him. So she asked him to select a nurse to come to the apartment, and look after housekeeping, servants and friend. Husband especially while she was ill."

"And he selected you?" I asked. "Yes," Katherine returned soberly, "much to my sorrow." (To be continued.)

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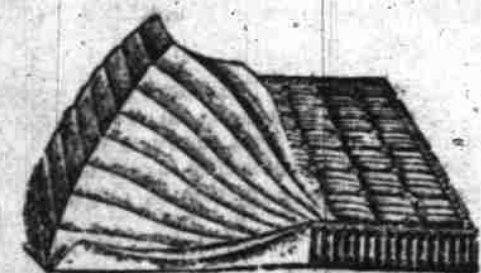
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