

REVELATIONS OF A WIFE

The Story of a Honeymoon

A Wonderful Romance of Married Life Wonderfully Told by
ADELE GARRISON

CHAPTER 571

HOW MADGE READ LILLIAN'S
PLAN TO AID KATHERINE.

"Well, that's over with, thank goodness!" Lillian Underwood came back into the library where I sat "on guard" as she had left me. Katherine came

behind her, and both faces showed a decided lessening of the strain they had been under while supervising the exodus of Anna Berg, the nurse, who for weeks had been masquerading in Lillian's home as Mary Bu Ke. Katherine had recognized her, and Lillian had at once suspected the woman of being a Prussian spy set to watch her home because of Lil-

lian's connection with the government secret service, a connection jealously guarded, but of which the woman or her employers must have received an inkling. But while Lillian's face had lost the tense grimace it had worn while banishing the spy from her home there was a worried expression in her eyes that told me something else was troubling her greatly. She stood silent for a moment, apparently studying the wonderful pattern of the rug at her feet. Then raised her eyes to ours.

"From now on I shall have to watch carefully every person who comes into this house," she said. "I have been in this service for years, and not even Harry guessed it."

A swift doubt leaped into my mind, not of Lillian's veracity, but of her judgment. But a few hours before, at the cafe, she had thought that, cleverly disguised as she was

as a South American woman, she could elude the scrutiny of her recent husband's eyes by shrinking into her seat and making herself appear a tiny old woman. But those brilliant eyes had not only recognized me, but her as well. Might they not in the years that had passed, have penetrated the secrets she thought she had guarded so carefully? But it was not in my province to voice such a thought. Besides Lillian was speaking again after the thoughtful pause she had made on her utterance of Harry Underwood's name.

What Troubles Lillian.

"My connection with the service has always been so specially guarded," she went on, "that very few know of it. But there must be a traitor somewhere in our ranks. I tell you this country is honeycombed with agents of the enemy. The greatest espionage system the world has ever known is working against our national life, but thank goodness these United States have not been in as drugged a sleep as they seemed to be. Our secret service, hampered in a thousand ways by the sloth and indifference of those who should have backed it up, hasn't been idle all these years. Some time the history of their labors will be made public, and then the people of this country will know to whom they really owe their deliverance from the Prussian menace of civilization."

Her voice rang out like a clarion. I saw that she had been carried out of her own special worries by her enthusiasm for the service she loved. Then her voice trailed away into silence and the troubled look came back to her eyes.

"Betty will be all right," she said. "She's naturally close-mouthed—a wonder for one of her color—she is devoted to me, and I think she is thoroughly frightened because I found out that the nurse had wormed from her the secret of the wall safe which she had accidentally discovered while cleaning the bookcases. Fortunately, she has been in her room indulging her 'weeps' while we've been holding the seance with the Berg lady, so she doesn't dream that the nurse was here under an assumed name. She thinks her a common thief, and that impression is the safest for her to have."

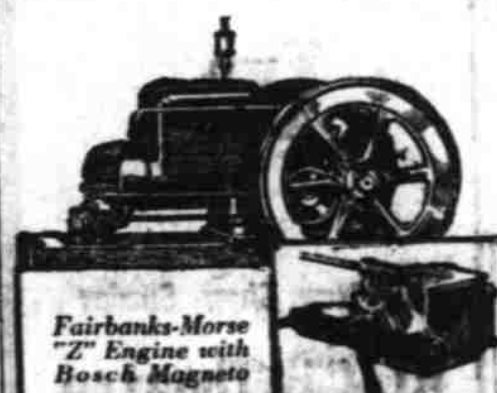
"But I cannot have her or anyone else cleaning the library again unless there is one of us three there to watch her," Lillian went on. "And Betty would never cease conjecturing if I cleaned it myself. And then there is old Mrs. Morton. I must have a nurse for her. That brings another element into the house. Marion's governess needn't be considered. She's only here a few hours, goes directly to a room downstairs I have fitted up for a school room, never comes upstairs, and is a most fiery little patriot anyway. I know all about her and her people."

A Way To Peace.

She stopped and looked straight at Katherine. I knew that she must have seen as I had the little start Katherine gave when Lillian mentioned the need of a nurse for Mrs. Morton, the old mother of her first husband. Will Morton, Marion's father. It was characteristic of Lillian's greatness of heart that she should be making easy the last days of this feeble old invalid, whose son had well nigh blasted Lillian's life and her reputation, dearer to her than her existence, and who until his death had kept from her the little daughter she adored.

I felt my heart beating as if I had been running as I waited for the words I was sure Lillian meant to say to Katherine. For in a moment there had flashed upon me how these words might unravel the tangled, twisted threads of the misunderstanding between Katherine and Jack.

(To be continued)



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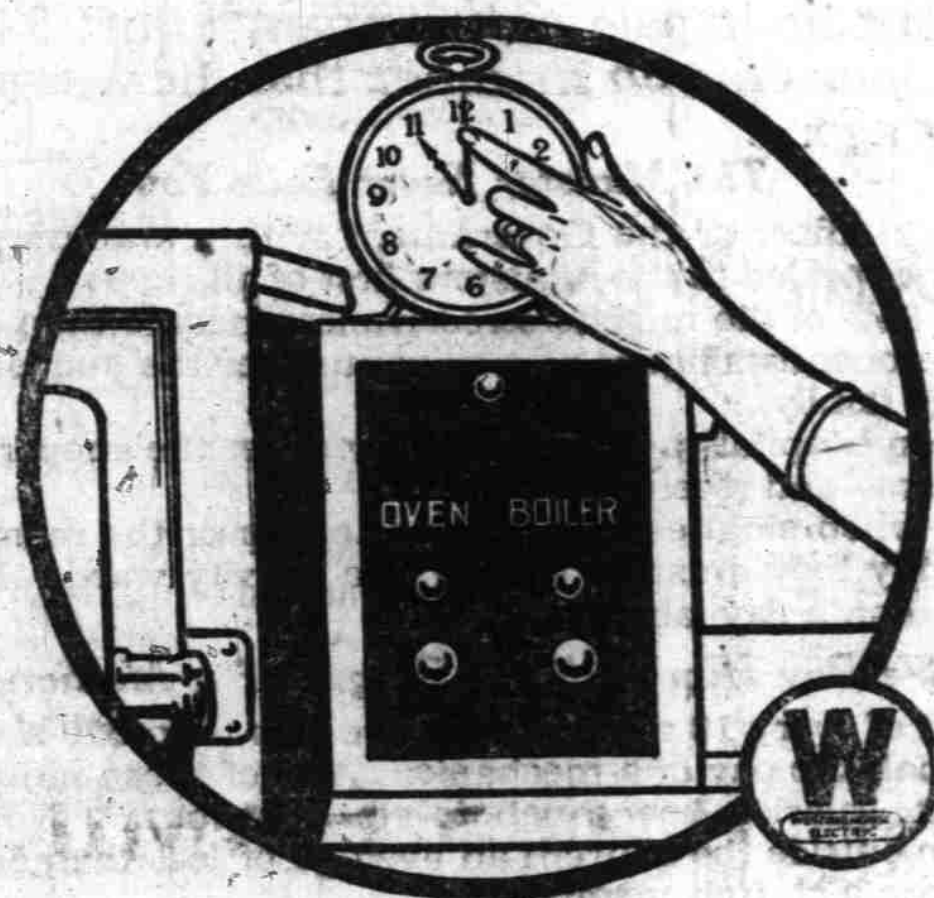
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