

MY HEART AND MY HUSBAND

Adèle Garrison's New Phase of REVELATIONS OF A WIFE

CHAPTER 333

A WOLF WALKS INTO LILLIAN'S TRAP.

As I hurried to Lillian with the news that Alice Holcombe and the man Jake Wilsey were on

their way to our house I felt my knees shaking with nervousness, and I had to muster all my strength to keep my voice from trembling as I told my friend of the telephone message from Alice Holcombe's mother.

But the enforced calmness of my voice did not deceive Lillian. She looked at me keenly and spoke crisply:

"Look here, Madge. Are you going to funk this?"

The tone and words were just what I needed. I threw up my head angrily.

"You know I'm not!" I said. My tremors forgotten.

Lillian continued to look at me, a considering, speculative gaze that made my cheeks flush.

By the time she withdrew her eyes I was one hot flame from head to foot, and my terror of Jake Wilsey was swallowed up in the desire to strike that doubting look from Lillian's eyes—the very result which sober reflection a few minutes later told me she had striven for.

"The first thing to guard against is that we are not disturbed," Lillian said when she had finally taken her eyes from my flushed face. "No doubt we'll be late for dinner, so if you'll tell Kate to wait dinner indefinitely and tip Jim off not to let Kate into the garden, I'll fix things with your mother-in-law."

She only needs a hint of melodrama in the offering to be as meek as a dozen lambskins rolled into one. I'll have her keep Robert and Marion with her until we come back. It's sheer fool luck that the Dicky-bird is to stay in town for dinner tonight.

Lillian's Plan.

She paused, cupped her chin in her hands for a minute, and I knew that she was looking over her plan to see if there was in it some unsuspected weak spot. When she lifted her head again I saw that every link in the chain had been gone over and tested.

"Keep on your sweater," she directed, "something heavier if you think you need it, and as soon as you have spoken to Katie go to the summer house across the brook and stay there. Tell Katie if Miss Holcombe asks for you to send her out there, but to tell anyone else you are not at home."

She sent me a quick, shrewd glance. I think she half expected me to ask where she would be, but I remained stolidly silent, and saw a gleam of approval creep into her eyes.

"I shall be out there about as soon as you are, but you won't see me. I am going over to the Durkee house and follow their path through the woods to that clump of bushes which Alfred and Dicky wouldn't have disturbed because they were so wonderfully hung with vines. From there I can see and hear everything that goes on, and will be able to confront Mr. Wilsey when he needs it, at a second's notice. As soon as I'm safely settled in there

I'll give that little bird call we used to try. I don't do it very well, but it'll serve."

A Brutal Laugh.

With my heart much lighter for the knowledge that Lillian was "strictly on the job"—her favorite phrase—I did the things she bade me, and was soon settled in the summer house with a book, an accessory Lillian had suggested. A few minutes later the faint notes of the bird call came to my ears, and I knew Lillian was close by, although I had heard no rustling of the bushes—she is like an Indian in her ability to move without noise.

The next sound I heard—excluding the chirping of the birds and the rippling of the brook—was the chug-of a motor turning into the drive. And then, after an interval that was less than two minutes in actuality, but aeons in feeling, I saw Alice Holcombe, her face wan and pallid, but her eyes bright with determination, coming across the little footbridge which at this point spanned the brook feeding our little lake at the garden's foot. In her wake lounged the unspeakable man who had so frightened both of us. He was puffing vigorously at a cigar, and his whole attitude spoke loudly of his elation at having both of us in his power.

"Well, little lady!" he leered as he came up the one step of the summer house, "you're not quite so uppish as you were the last time I saw you. I owe you one for that, but I won't collect my pay—not yet—that is if you're reasonable."

That he would collect his pay on any grudge he had to the last drop of blood I saw by the wolfish gleam in his eyes. Alice Holcombe and I moved nearer to each other voluntarily. He saw the movement and laughed brutally.

"It's about time you two came to your senses!" he snarled. "A pair of fine prize idiots you've been, trying to dodge me, and refusing to give up what you know about Stockbridge when all the time I had the power to send both of you to the chair."

(To be continued.)

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SUNDAY SCHOOLS HOLD CONTESTS

Christian and Methodist Churches of Salem and Corvallis Rivals

Three weeks ago the First Christian church Sunday school of Corvallis challenged the First Christian Sunday school of Salem to a membership contest. The challenge was accepted. Two weeks ago Corvallis led with 70 members to spare. Last Sunday Salem had 36 members to the good, with a total attendance of 492. For tomorrow the Salem boosters expect more than 500 members and visitors.

From the first a series of special surprise programs has been presented, fine special musical or other numbers that are interesting, first for their mystery and then for their appeal. A program of superior quality is to be offered for tomorrow morning, the exact nature of which is not being divulged until the school convenes with its 500 members.

A like contest is drawing to a close between the First Methodist Sunday schools of the two towns. Corvallis is somewhat in the lead up to the present, with an average plurality of about 30 per Sunday for the whole ten weeks since the contest started. This attendance duel has run into big numbers, both schools having had records of more than 600 for single Sundays. It was figured that in order to win, the Salem school will have to have full 700 attendants each of the two or three remaining Sundays. A vigorous effort has been made to bring this many into the school, and it is understood that this record will probably be reached before the contest is over.

Delegates Elected to Attend County Session

SILVERTON, Ore., March 31.—(Special to The Statesman).—At a special meeting of the Parent-Teacher association held at the Silverton high school Thursday, delegates were elected to attend the county convention to be held at Salem Saturday. Miss Rosella Richardson and Mrs. John Fluhrer were chosen delegates, with Mrs. R. E. Kleinsorge and Mrs. A. L. Robenalt alternates.

DIMICK TALKS TO TAX LEAGUE

Organization at Silverton Has 260 Members—Another Meeting Called

SILVERTON, Ore., March 31.—(Special to The Statesman).—At the last meeting of the Silverton Tax Reduction club held at the G. A. R. hall, the report showed 260 members. The officers now in charge are J. L. Stalker, chairman; F. Bowers, secretary; J. H.

Porter, treasurer; J. F. Fisher, assistant treasurer.

Judge Grant Dimick of Oregon City was the chief speaker of the evening. Judge Dimick came down on the state executive, saying that Oregon more than ever needed a strong business executive and that the fault of the high taxes lay with the legislature and that that body coupled with the executive was responsible.

A motion was carried by the club to the effect that another meeting should be held next Wednesday evening for all the voters of the city of Silverton at which time candidates for city officers are to be brought up before the club. The men appointed by the chairman to select the names for the candidates are J. F. Fishwood, L. M. Larson, John Morley, M. P. Solberg, W. Bowers, T. M. Lukens and Frank Simera.

Six women in Illinois have announced their candidacy for the legislature. But it is a question whether being elected to a legislature is a move up the grade for the sex. It is often debated pro and con.

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