# PROBLEMS

REVELATIONS OF A WIFE

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CHAPTER 52

THE STARTLING NEWS BESS DEAN GAVE MADGE AT THE with the men at the inn," he said,

As the realization came to me hat the hidden mysterious voice had heard in the reservoir warned him," I said. grounds was that of the man who calls himself Smith, who had later attempted to throw the blame for the attack on Trooper Crowley, turned to Col. Travers in frantic aste to undo the error into which the fallure to function of my usually unerring memory had led

In my antagonism toward Smith y fury at his insolence and arro which might give him a chance to was so cleverly disguised—"

afraid-he thinks we know."

Col. Travers rushed toward the door, turning only to ask: "You are sure?"

"Absolutely! Hurry! I'll explain when you come back." Back to the Inn.

two, and when he returned there was a constraint in his manner the door which the colonel had which had not been there before. "Hastings will get in touch

and I knew the reason for his "Capt. Hastings has told you

that it was my own folly which "That is too strong a word," he

replied with perfunctory courtesy. a bitterness of spirit which I knew would long be with me. To think that I had allowed the insolence of this Smith to goad me into so glaring an indiscretion!

"My memory never played me a trick like that before," I went on ce, I had given him a warning futilely enough. "But his voice

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"Smith was the man in the res- in the world," Col. Travers interervoir grounds!" I cried. "I know rupted, "so don't blame yourself it now. It was his voice I heard, on that score. Your only slip was beyond a doubt. Please telephone the little taunt you gave him, but to your men at the inn to have that was a thoroughly feminine—him held at once, for—I—am and, therefore, forgivable—proceeding."

He smiled indulgently, and I longed to slap him. I think he read my displeasure, for his face suddenly grew serious.

"Please don't let this trouble you, Mrs. Graham," he said. "He cannot have gone far if he did start, and-" He was gone but a minute or Capt. Hastings rushed through

> left open. "Something has happened to the telephone out here," he said.

"I can't get the inn." "We must reach there as quickly as possible, then," Col. Travers replied. "If-" he looked at me, and I seized the look, interpreted it joyously.

"I can drive you back in no time," I said. "My car is a splen-"No, it isn't," I returned with did hill climber, and it has plenty of gas, oil and water."

Where Is Dicky?

"Good! Hastings, you stay here to see if Crowley recovers consciousness. Get a full statement from him if he does-stressing the identification of Smith. Come down here with it when you get "He is one of the best mimics it if I haven't given you different orders beforehand. Now, Mrs. Graham, we'll pick up the man who came with you, Mr .--"

> "Cosgrove," I supplied. "Ah, yes! I didn't catch it before. We'll start at once if you

"Mind!" I ejaculated, and I think he understood the frantic wish which was mine for strenuous action to atone for my folly in giving the warning, inadvertent though it was, to Smith.

Thankful, indeed, was I on that return journey for the wonderful moonlight which made the road almost as safe to travel as daylight. Thankful, also, that the hour gave us the winding thoroughfare to ourselves. Neither Col. Travers nor Mr. Cosgrove spoke at all, evidently fearing to distract my attention for a second, and I sent the big car along the road at a pace at which-I would have shivered at any other

Yet, concentrated as I was on the management of the car, two thoughts obsessed me every inch of the way. One was the keen humiliation I felt for my childish yielding to temper in the taunting of the man named Smith.

The other, no less vivid, was the remembrance of Dicky's assiduous attention to Bess Dean dur-It was she whom he was assiduously shielding from all discomfort, all chance of rudeness, while

The zest I had felt in playing a role in the drama staged at the inn changed to the dust-and-ashes which a Thespian failure knows most poignantly.

And then we had reached the inn, to find an excited group of babbling people in front. Bess Dean, with Ted and Fred, stood a little apart, and when they saw the car they rushed forward. There was a malicious litle gleam in the girl's eyes which belied

her apparent solicitude.
"Oh, Madge," she said, "I don't know how to tell you! Dicky went after the man named Smith to thrash him for something he said to me, and neither has come

CHAPTER 53

THE SERVICE COL. TRAVERS ASKED OF MADGE

Col. Travers sprang to the turned on her swiftly.

'Is Smith gone? Here-Raynor!

the men came running toward gone.' "Yes," she responded. "Mr.

she achieved a becoming blush. cal."
"He wanted Smith to stand up "T and fight, but like most bullies,

Smith ran away and-" rupted her curtly, and she had the which I still sat, bewildered, stunquickness to see that she was an- ned by the news which Bess Dean sound of laughter and sobbing, noying him by her loquacity. "Into the woods-there!" She

for the officer's next question. commands like bullets.

you you can trust, and track ate man to-what? Smith down. I'll get more help here as soon as I can get in touch with Kinkston. Arm your help- in the forest where my husband the room. ers, and get him dead or alive, had gone. preferably living however, Jones!" "Yes, sir." A tall, picturesque youth saluted as the trooper addressed as Raynor singled out two must have called me more than men from the excited loungers once. about the inn and disappeared in the forest back of the house, From the looks on the faces of the men selected I guessed that they would have an especial zest in hunting down the man named Smith. His would be the fate of most tyrants Madge Summons Courage. dreaded and fawned upon for their

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and at Bess Dean's excited words before the inn, questioning each hysterical, old woman," he said. high, clear tenor voice, with good letto." Alfred Jensen played the Rev. O. Skilbred and Tom Knar closely. But at Jones's return, "Is that right?" he demanded. alone, his face darkened.

"Kronish is nowhere to

"Where's his wife?"

"Take me to her." "Which direction?" he inter-turned abruptly to the car in at least in part. had given me concerning Dicky. and I recognized the unmistakable Dicky had been so occupied with hysteria. Without ceremony lifted her hand, pointed to the for- Bess Dean's smiles and chatter pushed the door open. I found est back of the inn, and waited that he had not observed the in- myself in a spotless kitchen with solent treatment which the man a table in the middle of it, seated But he evidently was through Smith had accorded me, but at there was the swaying figure of with her. His next words were some real or fancied insult to her a woman with an apron thrown

My heart quaked with the pos-

"Mrs. Graham! Please!"

pardon me. I-" "Will you come with me, please at once?" he said, holding out his hand to help me from the car.

I accepted his aid mechanically and wondered vaguely as I walked beside him where he was taking me, what he wanted me to do.

door at our right.

mind. For the time I was a soldier under Col. Traver's orders, He waiked perhaps three steps and-I hugged the thought-with in the wake of young Jones, then the chance to atone for my idiocy, planist of considerable ability.

Through the door came the he had made a scene and had fol- over her face. Two other women "Raynor, take two men with lowed a furious, perhaps desper- were trying half-heartedly to pull the apron away, and I touched each on the shoulder and signallsibilities that might lie out there ed them authoritatively to leave

They obeyed instantly-I guessed that they knew I was represent-I came to myself with a start, ing the officer. When I was left and realized that Col. Travers alone with Mrs. Kronish I stooped and took the twisting hands of the old woman in my own, held them "Yes', I returned. "You must so firmly that she could not squirm away, and shook the apron utes it warms the sore spot from her face.

(To be continued)

Scandinavian Singer

Jones rushed into the house into a smaller room beyond before sang to a small but appreciative genuine, with the name Rowles

"I want you to find out from Mrs. quality. The songs he sang were ever popular "Souvenir," as a vio- hus of Eugene, Mr. Norby. Miss Kronish when she last saw her well chosen, showing a thought lin solo. Miss Marie Corhouse Marie Corhouse, Mr. and Mrs. be husband. Use any means you for the audience, which was made was the accompanist. found, sir," the young trooper re- wish. I will be right here if you up largely of Scandinavians. The Honoring Mr. Norby, Rev. and sen, Miss Florence Jacobsen, Mrs. He gave the call for the troop- ported. "I've been in every pos- need me. She is in there, Jones group of Scandinavian folksongs Mrs. George Henriksen entertain- M. J. Madsen, Miss Lillie Madsen ers even as he questioned her, and sible place in the house. He's says." He pointed to a closed was especially appreciated. Dur- ed a few friends following the and Miss Cora Satern. With a mighty effort I pulled groups of songs three instrumen-"Wringing her hands and mut- myself together as I walked to- tal numbers were supplied by local Graham knocked him down be- tering to herself! I can't get any- ward the closed door, trying to talent. Miss Dora Henriksen, orcause of a name Smith called me," thing out of her. She's hysteri- put all thought of Dicky out of my genist at Trinity church, played an organ solo, "The Palms," Miss Esther Towe, a young Silverton

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