

Zelda Dameron

By
MEREDITH NICHOLSON

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ZELDA DAMERON, an idyl of the Ohio Valley, a natural but entrancing romance, real as life. This is the truly charming serial which is now presented.

When you read this sterling story you will be delighted at its brisk, fresh tone of modern town life. The characters are genuine flesh and blood men and women. The

heroine is a girl who has seen travel abroad and society at home. Zelda Dameron is the typical American girl of the hour. She is something more—a dutiful daughter who sinks all her own individuality in protecting and elevating a miserly, and later a speculating father, whom she wins to the higher life of true manhood by her noble self-sacrifice. There is a war flavor to this charming story, a college tinge, and Western-Southern characteristics that will fascinate the reader. The hero is a type of the ambitious young man of the day, an aspiring lawyer, chivalrous and honorable in his dealings with all mankind.

This story is a series of vivid life pictures. You will find no unnatural coloring to its settings, no actors in the rapid life drama that you will not recognize as strikingly natural.

"Zelda Dameron" is sure to meet your approbation as a bright, wholesome story of to-day, full of sparkling incident and a coherent progressive plot that will interest all readers.

CHAPTER I

"She's like Margaret, she's really one of us," remarked Mrs. Forrest to her brother. "She carries herself as Margaret did in her girlhood, and she's dark, as we all are."

"I hope she's escaped the Dameron traits; they're unattractive," said Rodney Merriam.

Mrs. Forrest and Zelda Dameron, her niece, who were just home from a five years' absence abroad, had, so to speak, stepped directly from the train into Mrs. Carr's drawing-room. The place was full of women, old and young, and their animated talk blended.

Mrs. Carr was forcing the season a trifle—it was near the end of September—but the dean of a famous college for women had come to town unexpectedly, and it was not Mrs. Carr's way to let heat or cold interfere with her social inclinations. Mrs. Forrest and her brother had ceased talking to watch their niece. The girl's profile was turned to them, and the old gentleman noted the good points of her face and figure. She was talking to several other girls, and it seemed to him that they showed her a deference. Zelda turned from her companions suddenly. She crossed swiftly to her uncle with a happy exclamation:

"This is indeed an occasion! Behold my long-lost uncle!" She seized his hands eagerly.

"And you are Zelda—our little Zee!" "Quite that! We must be acquainted! Perhaps we shall be friends, who knows? Aunt Julia promised to arrange it—and I'm not used to being disappointed."

Zelda was a name that had, been adopted in the Merriam family long ago. A great many people had never known that old Roger Merriam's wife's name was Zelda, so generally was Zee applied to her even in her old age. Margaret Dameron's child had been called Little Zee while her grandmother lived, and until her aunt had taken her away; and now, on her reappearance in Marion, she was quite naturally spoken of as Zee Dameron.

There was a wistfulness in the girl's eyes that touched Rodney Merriam by the suggestion of her dead mother, the sister that had been the pride of the Merriams. Mrs. Forrest watched her brother curiously. She had speculated much about this meeting. Rodney Merriam was away from home a great deal. He had reached Marion at noon from a trip into Canada, and had gone to Mrs. Carr's in pursuit of his sister.

Mrs. Forrest understood perfectly that her brother had come to Mrs. Carr's tea chiefly that he might casually, and without apparent interest, inspect his niece. Rodney Merriam was wary of entanglements with his relatives. He and Mrs. Forrest were, it was said in Marion, the only Merriams who could safely be asked to the same table, or who were not likely to cause embarrassment if they met anywhere. He had not spoken to Ezra Dameron, Zelda's father, for ten years, and the name Dameron was an offense in his nostrils; but the girl was clearly a Merriam; she was the child of his favorite sister, and he hoped it would be possible to like her.

"Yes, we shall be friends—much more than friends," he said, kindly. "You must come and see me; Aunt Julia has graduated me, and I'm back on my native heath to stay."

"Come and tell me what you have learned in distant lands—and I'll tell you what to forget! Here's Morris Leighton; I want you to know him, Zee," said Rodney Merriam.

Merriam moved away through the crowd, followed by his sister. "You know Uncle Rodney very well, don't you?" said Zee to Leighton. "He was always my hero. When I was a little girl I used to sit on a trunk in his garret and watch him fence with a German fencing master. It was great fun."

"I sometimes fence with Mr. Merriam myself. I assure you that his hand and eye have not lost their cunning."

Morris Leighton's social adventures had not lacked variety. He knew a good deal about girls, and while a

young man is still under 30 the delusion serves all the purposes of actual knowledge. Rodney Merriam had often spoken to Leighton of Zelda Dameron's home-coming.

Zelda Dameron's return to Marion was more of an event than she herself understood. The Merriams were an interesting family; they were, indeed, one of the first families. There were Merriams about whom people laughed cynically; but Mrs. Forrest did not belong to this faction, nor did Rodney Merriam, of whom most people stood in awe. There had been much speculation, in advance of Zelda's coming, as to her probable course when she should return to Marion with her aunt. Many had predicted that she would not go to live with her father—that Mrs. Forrest and Rodney Merriam would save her from that; but Zelda was already domiciled in her father's house.

Mrs. Forrest led her brother to an alcove of Mrs. Carr's library, and sent him to bring a cup of tea to her there. She was afraid to wait for a better opportunity; she must take advantage of his first impression at once. He brought what was offered at the buffet in the dining-room, and gave her his serious attention.

"This isn't quite the place I should have chosen for a reunion after three years," he began. "Where was it I saw you last? Geneva? I believe it was. The girl is very handsome. I suppose you found your house in good order. And Zee went with you without any trouble. That's as it should be."

"But, Rodney, she isn't with me! She has gone to her father; she wouldn't have it any other way."

"Oh! I'll fix that, I'll get her away from him. Now that you've given her to him, I suppose I'll have to take a hand," said Merriam, with frank displeasure. "I'll have to renew my acquaintance with that blackguard. I really suppose I'll have to call on him, or I might meet him accidentally, in the street, or at the bank. I might make a study of his habits and then lie in wait. I should like to give an accidental air to the meeting, to save my self-respect as far as possible."

"I suppose I might give a reconciliation dinner," she said. "We might as well go into it deep while we are about it."

Merriam shrugged his shoulders. "Don't push too fast. I don't remember Ezra as a good dinner man."

"I'll take you home if you're ready," said Mrs. Forrest, when, after some further talk, they returned to the drawing-room. "Zelda's father is coming for her."

"Thanks; but I'm going to walk down with Leighton, if I can find him."

It was nearly 6 o'clock, and a procession of women was coming down the stairs to Mrs. Carr's front door, as Rodney Merriam and Morris Leighton left the house with Mrs. Forrest and Zelda. The waiting carriages made a long line in the street.

"How gay it looks! The old town really has a metropolitan air at last. A tea—with men present—it's almost beyond belief!"

"The town's not so bad, Julia; and it's a nice comfortable place for one's old age. You'd better get reconciled."

Mrs. Forrest's carriage had drawn up to the curb and Leighton shut her into it.

"Be sure to come to my house tomorrow, Zee," she called to the girl. "Miss Dameron's carriage!"

ne struck his horse with the reins and drove rapidly away.

"Sorry I made a mistake," said Leighton to Merriam, as they turned toward the city.

"It was her father," said Merriam.

CHAPTER II

"The cost of living is high, very high."

"Yes, father; I know that things cost, of course."

"I have lived on very little while you were away, Zee. With one servant it's possible to keep down expenses. Servants are ruinous. And I'm not rich, Zee, like your Aunt Julia and Uncle Rodney."

"I want to do just what you would have me do, in everything. It was kind and generous of you to let me stay away so long. I know my expenses abroad must have been a great tax on you."

Ezra Dameron looked quickly at his daughter.

"Yes, to be sure, Zee, to be sure. Marion is a simple place and your sojourn abroad has hardly fitted you for our homely ways. You'll find that things are done very differently here. But of course you will accommodate yourself to the conditions. And you'll find the house quite comfortable. It's a little old-fashioned, but it was your grandfather's, and it rarely happens nowadays that a girl lives in the same house her mother was born in. Of course a few little changes that you want to make will be all right; but you must practice economy."

They were studying each other with a shrewd sophistication on the father's side; with anxious wonder on the part of the girl. She knew little of her father. Even the memory of her mother had grown indistinct. The thing that had always impressed her about her father was his seeming age; she remembered him from her childhood as an old man, who came and went on errands which had seemed unrelated to her own life. The house had stood in a large tract when Zelda went away, but this had shrunk gradually as Ezra Dameron divided the original Merriam acres and sold off the lots.

The front of the homestead was now only a few feet from the new cement walk on what was called Merriam street, in honor of Zelda's grandfather. Sun and wind had peeled the paint from the brick walls and the green of the blinds had faded to a dull nondescript.

"Your aunt probably told you something of your business affairs—of the trusteeship," he said.

"Oh, no! Aunt Julia never discussed it; but I remember that she told me once I had some property. I know nothing more—except that there is a trusteeship—whatever that is!" And she laughed.

"Yes; it was a very wise idea of your mother's in providing for you. She always maintained her separate estate. She inherited some property from her father. I never touched your mother's property at all; never a cent," the old man went on. He did not know what Mrs. Forrest might have told Zelda. He was dropping down his plummet to measure her ignorance. Zelda knew nothing; and she cared very little. Her wants had always been provided for without any trouble on her part. Mrs. Forrest indulged herself, and she had indulged Zelda. Ezra Dameron was wondering just what Rodney Merriam and Mrs. Forrest would expect him to do for the girl. His position as her father had been anomalous ever since his wife died, ten years ago. The Merriams had taken his daughter away from him at once and then they had sent her out of the country, and now that he had brought her back he was not without curiosity as to what their attitude toward him would be.

"The trusteeship will not be terminated for a year—on your 21st birthday, unless you should marry before the end of that time. This is always an emergency to look forward to; but I trust you will be in no hurry to leave me."

Zelda laughed abruptly.

"It's funny, isn't it?—the getting married. I honestly hadn't thought of it before. I don't know any young men. We didn't meet any men abroad except very old ones. Aunt Julia was afraid the young men weren't respectable."

"There's nothing like being careful where young men are concerned. There are many bad ones about these days. The temptations of modern life are increasing fast. A young girl can have no idea of them."

(To be continued.)

"Jim" McDermitt, the lawyer, has a great fund of "darker" dialect stories. The one he most delights to tell follows:

"A traveling salesman in a southern town came to a small pond. An old negro was looting contentedly in the sun with fishing rod in hand. The salesman paused and watched the fishing. After watching for half an hour without seeing the least sign of a bite he asked how the fish were biting. The fisher looked surprised.

"Why, boss," he exclaimed, "dere ain't no fish in dis yer pond. Dere never was a fish in it."

"Well, what do you fish here for?" the salesman wanted to know.

"So's my old woman can see dat I ain't got no time to chop wood fer de fire," the negro answered.—Newark Star.

Medical Understudy.

Dr. Allwise, have you decided whether or not Mr. Speckham has appendicitis? You said you were going to read up on the case.

Dr. Allwise—Glad you reminded me of that. Hand me that last Bradstreet's.—Exchange.

His Whole Business.

Tar water as a remedy many years ago in England became the universal nostrum. Horace Walpole tells that a man went into a chemist's shop and asked, "Do you sell tar water?" "Tar water!" replied the apothecary. "Why, I sell nothing else."

Good sense is not a merely intellectual attribute; it is rather the result of a just equilibrium of all our faculties.—Bulwer Lytt.



Round Dairy Barns.

The Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station has sent to press a bulletin in which the economy of the round dairy barn is discussed at considerable length. Comparison of the cost of round dairy barns is discussed at considerable length. Comparisons of the cost of round barns with rectangular ones, including the amount and cost of material, the cost of construction, the amount of stock that can be sheltered, the convenience in storing, handling, and distributing the feed, etc., are brought out very clearly.

The bulletins include cuts and plans of several round barns in actual use, an itemized statement of the cost of a 60-foot round barn, and cuts showing how the round barn at the agricultural college was built, etc. The conclusions arrived at by the author of the bulletin are that the round barn has a great advantage over a rectangular barn in convenience, strength and cheapness.

It is found that the round barn is more convenient because of the compactness with which it is built and the ease of getting the feed to the cows. Investigations show that the round barn costs from 34 to 53 per cent less than the rectangular barn containing the same amount of space and built of the same grade of material.

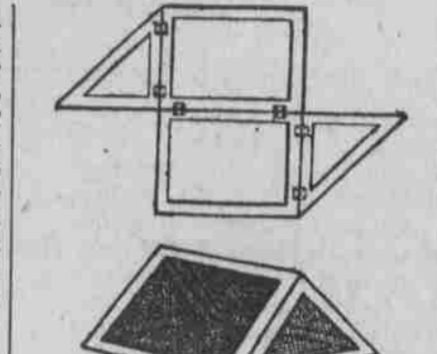
Pasteurizing Milk at Home.

If milk is not drawn under the most sanitary conditions it is not advisable to feed it to children without being

Collapsible Chicken Coop.

The average chicken coop made of a soap box or some other small box is not always convenient for carrying around, and use in different places. An A-shaped coop is little better than an ordinary box. The accompanying sketch, says a Georgia writer in Popular Mechanics, shows a collapsible A-shaped coop that can be folded and stored away or carried set up for use anywhere.

The main frame is made in four

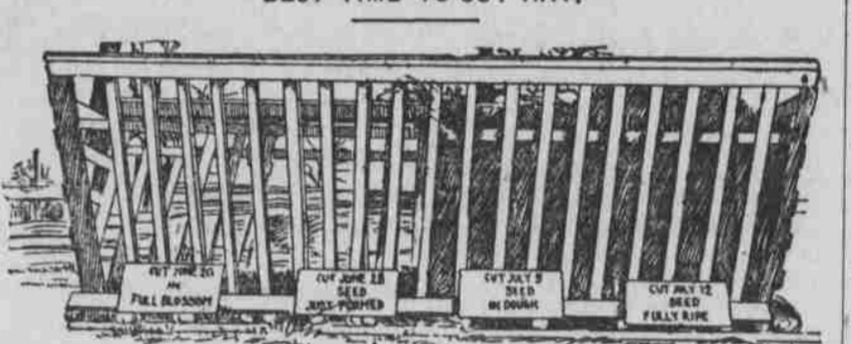


parts and joined together with hinges as shown in Figure 1. The frame can be covered with wire netting or boards on top part with netting on the ends. The hinged frames provide a way to open either end. A small hook and eye should be provided at each end to hold the parts in place.

Alfalfa Needs Food.

It is important to know that there is little difference between successful alfalfa growing and the successful growing of other crops. Poor farming never brings big crops, nor will poor land produce as big yields as the more fertile. Failure to restore to the soil the necessary elements of which it has been robbed means the same in New York, Kansas, Virginia or anywhere else. Every farm plant, to prosper, must find in the soil, readily available,

BEST TIME TO CUT HAY.



To get the best quality of hay the timothy plants require to be cut when in full bloom. In an experiment made by Prof. Waters of Missouri racks were filled with hay cut in different stages of ripeness. As shown in the illustration, all the early-cut hay was eaten before the late-cut was touched. The largest yield of dry matter was obtained by cutting at the dough stage.

pasteurized. It is very easy to accomplish this without any special apparatus.

Put the milk in a milk bottle. Take tin plate and punch the bottom full of holes. Turn this upside down in the bottom of the kettle and set the bottle on it. This will prevent bumping when the water is heated.

Punch a hole through a piece of cardboard and insert in the top of the bottle. Through this hole suspend a thermometer. A good thermometer

the elements needed for its development. If a farmer finds the soil lacking in elements needed for certain crops he should either supply the deficiency or not attempt their raising. This is true of corn or wheat, cotton or tobacco, no less than alfalfa.

To Control Gray Rot.

For the prevention of gray rot of grapes one investigator recommends a treatment which he claims is very simple and efficient. This consists of thinning the leaves on the north side of the vines and spraying with Bordeaux mixture, to which soap is added to make it more adherent. The treatment should be made about July 25, or at the stage when the grapes have just about reached their full size. If the fungicide is thoroughly applied at this time no further trouble may be anticipated from this disease.

Paper Milk Bottles.

The new paper bottle for milk is attracting some attention. It is shaped something like a large jelly glass and made of stiff paper paraffined and water proof, and folded in such a way as to protect parts through which leakage could occur. Cost is expected to be small and the bottles are to be thrown away after once being used, thus saving labor of cleaning and insuring a fresh bottle each time.

Wide Wagon Tires.

As to the desirability of the use of the wide tires there can be no question. The most casual observation will suffice to convince any one of the damage which a heavily laden wagon, equipped with the ordinary sharp, rounded, narrow tires, will produce on any road. There is also another, and perhaps even greater advantage to be gained by the use of the wide tires—viz., the increased hauling capacity attained.

Forecasts for Farmers.

The Weather Bureau has arranged to give daily weather forecasts by telephone to farmers in Texas. At noon each day rural subscribers are called up, and the weather forecast is announced to all simultaneously. Subscribers in towns and cities can obtain the weather forecast at any time of the day after 11 a. m. by calling up central.

Rural Phone in the South.

Merchants in the South have awakened to the value of rural telephone lines, and are seeking to develop them, with a view to increasing their trade among the rural population. In certain sections they have made large contributions to aid the farmers in building their lines.

Collecting Nitrogen From the Air.

Nitrogen is contained in great quantities in the air above us, but it cannot be purchased and used with profit in farming, except under special conditions. Clover and other leguminous plants can draw all they require from the atmosphere by means of bacteria that live on their roots.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



LABOR NOTES.

The Income for the last year of International Cigar Makers' Union was \$228,498.57. Benefits paid out for the year were \$553,832.34.

Another attempt is being made to unionize the housemaids of Boston, Mass., and vicinity, and it is said the movement is meeting with success.

The school teachers of the State of Colorado, with a membership of 7,000, have decided to apply for admission to the American Federation of Labor.

The labor temple recently opened at 14th street and 23 avenue, Manhattan, by the Presbyterian department of church and labor, has proved itself to be one of the most successful things ever undertaken by the department.

Benjamin Weinstein, general organizer for the United Hebrew trades, an organization of 125 Jewish unions with a membership of 70,000, in Manhattan, has issued an order to the subordinates to take a referendum vote on a proposition to levy a \$1 per capita tax on all the members to start a fund for a Hebrew labor lyceum.

1642—The "Trial," the first ship built in Boston, sailed for Bilbao with a cargo of fish.

1672—Union between the colonies of Massachusetts, Plymouth and Connecticut.

1686—Sir Edmund Andros appointed Governor of all New England.

1775—Gov. John Murray of Virginia took refuge on a British man-of-war.

1781—The Virginia Assembly elected Thomas Nelson Governor.

1791—United States army under Gen. Charles Scott exterminated the Kickapoo villages on the Wabash River.

1792—The first State Legislature of Kentucky met.

1800—First municipal court established in Boston.

1809—Christopher Gore inaugurated Governor of Massachusetts.

1812—The territory north of Louisiana was given the name of Missouri.

1819—Cornerstone laid for the Pennsylvania State capitol at Harrisburg.

1831—The Boston and Worcester Railroad incorporated.

1838—A band of Canadian rebels landed on Amherst Island, near Kingston, and plundered the vicinity.

1845—The "True American" appeared in Lexington, Ky., edited by Cassius M. Clay.

1846—A convention met at Albany to revise the constitution of New York.

1848—Whig convention at Philadelphia nominated Gen. Zachary Taylor for President of the United States. . . . First Sisters of Charity arrived in Buffalo.

1849—The first authentic case of Asiatic cholera appeared in Boston.

1850—The line of the Pennsylvania Railroad was completed to Huntington, Pa.

1854—Reciprocity treaty concluded between the United States and Canada.

1861—Gen. Beauregard assumed command of the Confederate forces at Manassas Junction.

1862—The Confederates, commanded by Gen. Johnson, attacked the left wing of the Army of the Potomac at Fair Oaks, Va. . . . Memphis surrendered to the Union forces.

1865—Galveston, Texas, surrendered to the Federal troops.

1869—The Massachusetts State Senate refused to grant the right of suffrage to women.

1872—Construction of the St. Gothard tunnel through the Alps begun.

1876—Royal Military College opened in Kingston, Ontario.

1878—One hundred houses destroyed by tornado at Richmond, Va.

1887—Edward Blake temporarily retired from the leadership of the Liberal party in Canada. . . . First United States patent granted for monotype machine.

1888—National Democratic convention at St. Louis renominated Grover Cleveland for President of the United States.

1899—Flood at Johnstown, Pa., resulting from the breaking of a dam, destroyed 2,295 lives.

1890—The Duke and Duchess of Connaught welcomed at Ottawa. . . . Duke and Duchess of Connaught welcomed to Montreal.

1892—The "High-Water Mark" monument at Gettysburg dedicated.

1895—Status of Sir John Macdonald unveiled in Montreal by the Earl of Aberdeen. . . . Judson Harmon of Ohio appointed Attorney General of the United States.

1899—P. A. McIntyre became Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island. . . . French Court of Cassation decided in favor of the revision of the Dreyfus verdict.

1900—Gen. John B. Gordon elected commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans.

1902—Peace of Pretoria, ending the war in South Africa.

1905—President Roosevelt offered his services as a mediator to end the war between Japan and Russia. . . . Norway withdrew from the union with Sweden.

1909—Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition opened in Seattle.