

When Beggar Lady Won.

A young Baltimorean and his wife celebrated the second anniversary of their marriage by coming over to Washington on Monday morning last to see congress assemble, and they remained over a day for the purpose of having a look at the Benning racing. Despite Tuesday's vicious weather, they went out to the track. It was the first time the young man had "seen 'em run" since his marriage, although before that solemn event he had been an often bitten victim of the "horse bug." Like all men who have sworn off on fooling with the thoroughbreds, how ever he had kept a pretty fair "line" on the runners by assiduously reading the results from all of the tracks. So that when he went to the track on Tuesday he thought that he had a fair chance of breaking about even with the layers of odds. His wife had never seen a horse race in her life before and when the horses clamped around through the mud in the first race she exhibited considerable excitement, despite the cheerless surroundings caused by the weather conditions. Her husband, however didn't look particularly inspired when the number of the winner was hung up. His face wore a sheepish grin, in fact.

Why said his wife noticing his chagrined look didn't the horse that you bet on win?

No he replied He was beaten a head on the wire.

Well it looked to me as if they both passed by just at the same time, she said with rather an aggrieved air. I don't think it ought to make any difference if one of them is just a teeny little bit ahead of the other do you?

Well he exclaimed there's got to be a winner you know unless the race's a dead heat wasn't.

I don't care one bit she replied, I think that horse that the old things in the judge's stand say came out second is just as good as the one they say came in first.

They wouldn't admit that though if you were to tell them said the husband. Funny I couldn't pick the winner in a field of only four horses, isn't it? Well I'll run down to the ring and see what the betting is on the next.

She looked as if she had something to say and she said it before he got away.

Jack she said in a wheezy tone let me bet a teeny weeny little bit, too, won't you? It makes it so much more exciting.

Jack looked at her with a grin. You bet eh? he said. What d'ye suppose your mother 'ud say to me if she found out that I had let you bet? And say isn't it enough to have one hoodoo loser in the family. Can't you have just as much fun rooting for the one I bet on?

Oh, but it would be so much nicer if I could bet just a teeny weeny little bit on one of the pretty things that I picked out myself on the programme, she answered.

Oh that's all imagination and you. Please she said still more wheedlingly.

Oh well, then, beggar lady, go ahead he said stripping off a \$5 note from his roll of bills, and then he rushed down the stairs to the betting ring.

Her eyes sparkled as she looked over the names of the horses for the second race on her programme.

"Beggar Lady!" she exclaimed half aloud, as her eye caught the name of one of the horses to run. Why that's just what Jack just this minute called me! Beggar Lady!

At that instant one of the grand stand messengers passed by with his list of odds against the horses in his hand. She stopped him.

Can Beggar Lady run real fast? she asked him demurely.

I don't know ma'am answered the messenger smiling. The filly's never run before in a race. This is the first time out.

Well if she wins how much do I get for this? she said showing him the five dollar bill.

The messenger grinned and glanced at his list of prices.

Beggar Lady's one o' the outsiders, ma'am he said. She opened at 40 to 1. Ill give you that. If she wins you get back \$205.

The little woman paled a little. Goodness gracious—very well then, handing him the five-dollar bill. I will bet you on Beggar Lady then.

The messenger do'ed down the bet and the young woman's initials immediately after which another Grand Stand messenger rushed up to him and said something to him in a low tone. The messenger who had registered the betting transaction with the young woman approached her again.

Well you just were in time ma'am he said to her. That beggar Lady filly has been hammered.

Hammered! exclaimed the young woman. Why the brutes! Is the poor thing.

Oh hastily exclaimed the messenger. I mean that they've been knocking her price down in the ring and now she's only five to one, so that it looks like she may be called a good thing.

Well I declare! ejaculated the young woman and just as the messenger went away her husband came up wearing an easy smile of confidence.

There's only one in this he said to his wife in a cock-sure tone pointing to Zenaide's name on the programme, and that's the favorite. Zenaide'll win romping all the way. I bet \$20 on her—got \$50 to 20 against her.

Can Zenaide run so much faster than all the rest of the horses in the race then? she asked him with big eyes.

Sure he replied. It's a cinch. A lot of yaps down in the ring think they've got a good thing in this Beggar Lady and they are more than eating it up. Played the filly down from 50 to 1 to five to one and they're still hammering at it. I've seen too many of these good things go wrong in my day, though. No more good things for me. Friend of mine out in the paddock told me that beggar Lady—she's never faced the starter before by the way stood a rattling show to land in the money and advised me to string a few along on her, one, two, three, across the board—but not for me! Zenaide's the trick. By the way what did you do with your money? Play any of 'em?

Yes I bet she replied. I felt awfully wicked, but I bet all the same.

Which one? he inquired.

It'll be more fun telling you the race is all over, she replied slyly.

Then the horses paraded in front of the stand and went to the post. After a short delay away went the large field, the favorite Zenaide, in front. It was a fair start for all except Beggar Lady, who was standing flat-footed when the flag dropped. A hugh went up in the stand. The good thing can't find her feet was the cry. She's all but left.

Beggar Lady was last away, is true but she quickly shot after her field and at the far turn, so great a flight of speed did she exhibit, she was right on even terms with the leaders, and still going like a seasoned campaigner. She led the field of 13 by a head in turning into the stretch.

By jing! muttered the young Baltimorean to his wife, why didn't I have gumption enough to put a few dollars on that Beggar Lady? She's passed the whole bunch and she's just galloping in that's all—just galloping!

Beggar Lady walks! howled the crowd the crowd of long-shot players who had taken a bit of the good thing. Beggar Lady swims in!

The little lady from Baltimore turned her pale face away from the sight of the horses tearing down the stretch and sat down.

And I had the tip strong! growled her husband, as Beggar Lady flashed by the good.

Then he noticed his wife's pale face. What's the matter? He asked her anxiously. Are you faint?

Well she replied a little bit, but it'll all pass, I suppose sudden great wealth always affects people this way.

He looked at her searchingly and amazedly.

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You don't mean to tell me that you put those five dollars on Beggar Lady he gasped.

Well what did you call me a beggar lady for when you gave me the bill? she asked regaining her color.

I've won \$200 just because of your habit of calling names!

Oh you can't beat 'em the Baltimorean said to a friend that night.

He wasn't referring to horses but to women.

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