

### JESSIE'S HERO.

From People's Home Journal.

#### CHAPTER II.

"Hold on there, John! I'll be with you in a minute."

"Hurry! I can't hold much longer," came up the faint answer.

"Aye, aye! I'm coming," shouted Will. He sprang to his feet as the rope was brought up, and knotting one-half the long cord firmly about his waist, had the centre passed round a stout young tree near the brink of the cliff, and taking the loose end in his hand, lowered himself over the edge. Obeying his rapid orders, four strong fellows let him down the face of the precipice until he could reach poor John. Then he shouted "Hold!" to those above.

There was a moment of deathly stillness. Those who dared, looked over the edge of the cliff, watching the scene below, where Will was rapidly knotting the rope about the helpless form of poor John. Those who dared not, stood back with pale lips and clasped hands, waiting breathlessly for the shout from the gorge.

"Ready! pull!" came at last.

They pulled at the word. Slowly, cautiously, lest the sharp rocks should cut the frail rope, and the figure they were lifting be dashed to pieces far, far down the abyss, they pulled, until at last willing hands reached out to lift the fainting John, and he was laid safely upon the ground, with only a dislocated shoulder.

But his brave rescuer yet dangled in the chasm below, and, while some brought water to restore John to consciousness, the rest gave themselves up, with bated breath to the task of drawing Will up. He was much heavier than John, and if the rope should break, what then? Carefully, gently, yet firmly, they drew in the cord, hand over hand, until he could grasp the edge of the rock. Then, with garments torn, bruised and bleeding from the sharp faces of the stones, he was dragged in, and laid senseless and exhausted beside John.

At this moment, a little figure in blue came flying up. It was Jessie. Kneeling by his side, she caught his bruised hands, and bathing them with her flowing tears, sobbed out piteously:

"Oh, Will, Will, speak to me. Forgive me. Oh, forgive poor foolish Jessie, my dear brave Will!"

There seemed to be a spell in the tearful words, more potent than the cool water with which the others had dashed his brow. For presently Will opened his eyes, looked up into the sweet anguished face bending over him, and said:

"Kiss me, Jessie?"

And Jessie stooped before them all, and laid her soft lips to his.

But she did not care now. She had found her hero, and all the love and gratitude she could shower upon him would hardly make amends for the taunts she had hurled at him earlier in the day.

Tom slunk away. There was no chance for him now, he knew. Jessie would never be his, and Fern Glen must ever remain a bitter memory in his mind.

Jessie blamed herself for the nearly fatal occurrence. It was in leaning over to look at the flower which had been the cause of the quarrel that John Freeman fell, and she thought it incumbent upon her

to show both John and Will every attention until they were fully recovered to which they certainly had no objections. By the time he was quite well, Will had won from Jessie a promise to take him for life. She has found her hero.

THE END.

#### JUST TO BE CONTRARY.

From The Hearst Magazine.

#### CHAPTER I.

"Rosalie, it is my earnest request, not to say command, that you do not go down to the gypsy encampment to-morrow."

The girl addressed flashed around upon him with an odd mixture of surprise and defiance shining in her gray eyes, and lighting up her lovely, riant face with that wilful look he knew so well.

She could not fail to notice the expression of deep anxiety that overspread his handsome features; but she was in mood to care for it just then.

How could he have learned about that projected expedition, which had been planned in secret—suggested, had he but known, by the very one of her admirers whom he liked least—whom he not only disliked, but distrusted, and which she had intended to carry out in secret, knowing well with a grim sort of satisfaction that it was in direct opposition to his wishes.

"I am obliged to go away to-morrow on business," he went on, with the shadow deepening on his face, but deigning no other expressed in her eyes. "Otherwise, although I very much dislike the thought of your going near these people I would not have prohibited it utterly, but had intended going also as your escort—"

"Spy, you mean!" Rosalie burst forth at this point, all her pent up resentment blazing in her eyes. "An uninvited escort, most certainly!"

"I am well aware of that latter fact," replied Allan Keith, with a quiet sadness that well nigh broke down the perverse spirit within her by the power of its own unwearied patience and gentleness. "I can realize that I am poor company for anyone of your disposition at any time; but I am your guardian, and as such am held to duties which I must not disregard, even though they clash with your feelings at times; and, Rosalie, I must be obeyed in this. These people have a very bad name, and although they are ten miles away, it is too near for my peace of mind, and I shall be glad when they are gone. And"—and his brow grew still more troubled—"there is another—another reason why I must insist that you give up this expedition."

"And that is?" demanded Rosalie, saucily.

"I cannot tell you," was the low, even agitated answer. "You must simply obey me, that is all."

"Must?" echoed Rosalie, with a curl of her pretty lip. "That is a new word to use to me, sir. Perhaps you mistake me for one of the servants. Do you know how much I care for your 'must,' Mr. Keith?"

"Enough, I hope, to yield your obedience, Rosalie," was the firm reply.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

## Heart Failure.

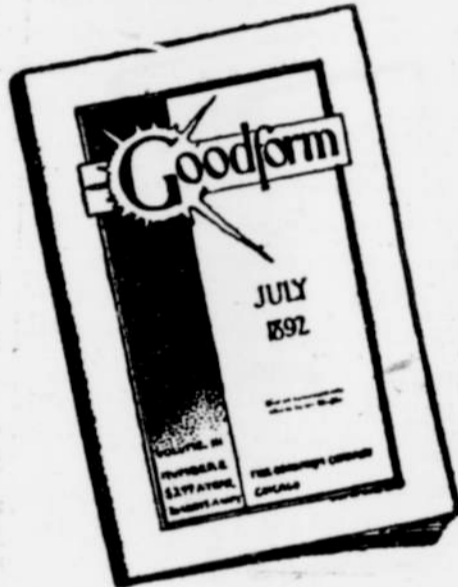
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