



Two KEYS to a CABIN

LIDA LARRIMORE

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THE STORY

CHAPTER I—Charming, wealthy Gabriella (Gay for short) Graham, engaged to Todd Janeway, returns to a cabin in the Maine woods accompanied by a friend, Kate Oliver. The idea of a stay at the cabin occurred to her when she received a key to it following the death of her godfather, Uncle John Lawrence. The two girls notice immediately that someone has been, and probably is, living in the cabin. Kate suspects that Gay knows the identity of the mysterious occupant.

CHAPTER II—While the girls talk the mystery man returns. Gay, surprisingly enough, introduces the man to her. He is John Houghton, a young doctor whom Gay had known in previous years. Soon after arriving at the cottage Gay discovered his identity through an old monogrammed sweater. Immediately aggressive, Gay asks him by what right he is in the cabin. His right, she finds, is greater than her own. He, too, possesses a key, but more than that, is heir to it from his Uncle John, Gay's godfather. Gay is high handed with him, and he states courteously that he will leave. Looking at him in the doorway, her old feelings return. She knows that he is more necessary to her than is Todd Janeway, the man she is to marry.

CHAPTER III—Before he leaves, John goes for a walk. When he returns he finds Gay sitting before the fireplace. They begin talking on a more friendly basis, and she asks him to reconsider his decision to leave. The next morning brings a different feeling, and John decides to remain for his vacation—one more week.

CHAPTER IV—The night before Gay and Kate are to return home to New York John gets an urgent request to call at a nearby farm. Gay accompanies him while he cares for the patient. Returning to the cabin at a late hour, John stops the car. He tells Gay that he loves her, and she admits that he is necessary to her happiness.

"You still resent me, don't you?" she asked.

"Not you as you are here with me."

"My life, then. I saw it tonight, when Todd and I talked of mutual acquaintances, of things that were happening in New York."

"But I was afraid—Seeing him here with you—He's known you all ways. You have things in common. And he is attractive. I was jealous and I despised myself for being jealous." He gave a short mirthless laugh. "I was—stuffy, wasn't I?"

"You were and it was silly of you."

"I know. I'm sorry and ashamed."

"I can't discard the years before now all at once as a snake sheds its skin."

"Of course you can't. I'm unreasonable. But when I've nothing to go by—"

"I'll give you something. Every hour of every day we're apart you can say, Wherever Gay is she's loving me and thinking of me and wanting time to pass quickly."

"Sweet!" His voice trembled. "I love you so."

"And I love you. Remember that and nothing can spoil it. Nothing!"

CHAPTER VII

Gay roused at a touch on her shoulder. She opened her eyes, and

blinked up into the pleasant placid face of Mathilde, her mother's middle-aged maid. For an instant she lay drowsily smiling, not fully awake, then her eyes widened, she sat erect.

"What time is it?" she asked. "Half past seven, Miss Gay," the woman said, smiling. "You asked to be awakened."

"There'd have been murder done if I hadn't been." Gay tossed back the covers and swung herself into a sitting position on the side of the bed.

"It's snowing." Mathilde held a blue silk negligee embroidered with daisies, knelt with blue satin mules for Gay's feet.

"Grand! A white Christmas." Gay drew the negligee around her, wriggled her feet into the mules. "That makes everything practically perfect."

"Your bath is ready." Mathilde smiled at Gay's excitement. "Will you have a breakfast tray?"

"Orange juice and coffee." Gay disappeared into the bathroom. "I won't have time for anything else."

On the walls of the bathroom wild orchids grew lush among tropical trees. The alcove in which the tub was set was paneled with mirrors. Gay, splashing vigorously, made none of her customary mental observations upon the results achieved by the young interior decorator who was her mother's latest protégée. All of her attention was centered upon the fact, incredible but excitingly true, that John was arriving in New York on this morning of Christmas Eve, for a holiday visit.

"Noel, Noel," she sang, rubbing herself with a soft warmed towel, or an instant the song recalled the Christmas Eve she'd spent at school in Switzerland. She'd like to go into a Catholic church this evening, at twilight, a French Catholic church, where candle-light would shine on brightly painted figures in the manger scene and a choir-boy with the voice of an angel would

sing the carol, running now, through her mind. That symbolized Christmas for her, had as far back as she could remember, before the school in Switzerland, since Madeleine Dupin, the governess of whom she'd been fond, had taken her, as a child, to her church on succeeding Christmas Eves.

Back into the bedroom again, Mathilde had laid out her underthings. "Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!"

she sang dealing hurriedly with chignon and silk. She stood before the row of hangers in the wardrobe. "So the keynote is simplicity." How long ago that seemed! She selected a wool dress the silver gray of a kitten's fur, the darker gray fur coat, the fur cap to match it which made her look like a Russian princess. As she sat at the dressing-table pinning red-brown curls in at the nape of her neck Mathilde came in with the tray.

"Would you like me to ring for Carl?" she asked, placing the tray on a low table beside the windows looking out over the river.

"No, I'll use a taxi." She didn't want her first moments with John to be spent under the discreet but interested scrutiny of Carl's lively blue eyes, behind Carl's attentive whip-cord back. The servants both here and at "Dunedin" were curious about John. No wonder, after what they'd heard and seen when she and Kate returned from Maine. Not that she cared, especially, but if it could be avoided—

"It's eight o'clock, Miss Gay," Mathilde, hovering, said.

"It is? Good Heavens! I must fly." She slipped into the coat Mathilde held, tilted the fur cap over one eye, caught up purse and gloves, paused for an instant to admire her reflection in the mirror and went hurrying out of the room.

Lights glowed in the hall of the apartment. Her step-father called to her through the open door of the dining-room.

"Good-morning," she said, standing poised for flight in the doorway.

"It's the early bird that catches the worm." Robert Cameron, in a silk dressing gown with a scarf knotted under his chin twinkled at her somewhat sleepily over a section of melon.

"Worm!" she exclaimed. "I hate you. Aren't you up rather early yourself?"

Continued Next Week

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ST. CECILIA CHURCH
Rev. George O'Keefe, Pastor
Mass 7:30 a. m. and 9:30 a. m.

BEAVERTON CHURCH OF CHRIST
E. E. Coulter, Minister

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Preaching at 11 a. m.
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HAZELDALE CHURCH
Sunday School 9:45, R. C. Doty, Supt.
Young Peoples meeting 7 p. m.

ALOHA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. B. Marcus Godwin, Pastor
Bible School, 10; morning church service 11; young people's meeting 7:15; evening preaching service, 8:30; Wednesday evening teacher training class and prayer service, 8.
All are cordially invited to these services.

ALOHA PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
F. J. Huntley, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a. m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a. m.
Young People 7:00 p. m.
Evangelistic 7:45 p. m.

METZGER COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH
Earl B. Horsell, Minister
Morning worship 10 a. m. Sermon topic The Mystical Approach to Religion.
Sunday School 11 a. m. Mrs. E. W. Conklin, Supt.

Womens Council Meets
The regular monthly meeting of the Womens Council of the Church of Christ, held their meeting and a picnic dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lyndon Myers Wednesday. The business meeting and a program was held after the dinner.

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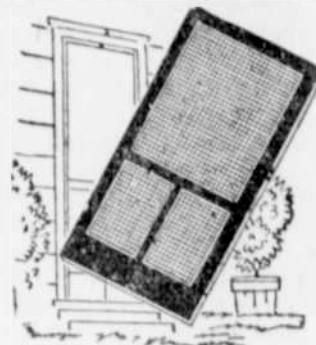
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