

WILD BEAUTY by MATEL HOWE FARNHAM

SYNOPSIS: Her mother-in-law is a blight on the happiness of Fanny Frost. David, her husband, at first fights valiantly to protect his wife from the older Mrs. Frost's dislike. He moves out of his mother's home, quite his 19, at his uncle's bank. Then when family pressure is brought against him to return, he plans to move to the West but the illness of Sheila, his daughter, prevents. David has to take Fanny back to his mother's home and return to the bank. Mrs. Frost's domination and David's lack of sympathy with his wife's feelings for Fanny until Juliette, a distant cousin of the family who married an Italian prince, comes to visit them and insists on taking Fanny back with her to Washington for a month.

Chapter 15 NEW HAPPINESS NOT until they were on the train, not until they were leaving Philadelphia, could Fanny believe it was not a dream. Juliette settled herself comfortably in a corner of their compartment.

"Your David is a bit of a Puritan, is he not?" "Well, he has a terrible conscience."

"That is a pity. And yet he has a hint of the cavalier about his mouth. He is not cold—your David. And evidently he has an eye for beauty. You must not keep him too long in Gloucestershire."

"I keep him!" burst out Fanny. To anyone as open and natural as Fanny it had been an almost intolerable strain to keep her troubles to herself, and she had had no confidence since Amelia left. With very little encouragement, a word here and there, a sympathetic murmur or two, she poured out to Juliette the worries and disappointments, chagrins and humiliations of the past months, save only one. Her deepest trouble, her deepest disappointment she could not talk of.

"I lived with my husband's mother for six years—you can tell me nothing of what it means," said Juliette, when Fanny's tale was at last finished. "Madre was a subtle old devil. It was her plan to bury me in the country, producing an offspring every year, while Alfonso played about and had his little affairs."

"Do you never see him?" asked Fanny timidly. "Oh, yes, occasionally. Alfonso has periods of being excessively fond of me. Unfortunately I can't bear him—I pay him to stay away."

"What are your children like?" she asked to break the silence. "Unfortunately they are all like their father—I can't bear them either, except for a week or two at a time," said Juliette, regretfully. "Ah, but I have shocked you. I am always forgetting that it is a crime to speak frankly."

"Oh, do go on being frank. I'm such a provincial—but I adore being shocked. I'm the one usually who does the shocking."

"May I ask what you do that is so shocking?" "Oh, nothing interesting—stupid prying things like laughing in the wrong places, bobbing with the hot polio, forgetting my dignity as Mrs. David Brownbeck Frost."

"When you are a little older, my Fanny, you will find that women who are not naturally playful are extremely suspicious of playfulness in other women. Men on the other hand adore it."

"Bob Daniels has told me much of your family—really more mine than yours. I confess I was disappointed not to find them more formidable. Europe is full of similar cases—a little less kindly, a little more closely knit and more ruthless to outsiders because fearing to be dispossessed of their special privileges—they think of them as rights. I am afraid you take the family far too seriously."

"I know I do," said Fanny dejectedly. "but it's so hard not to. Some of them like me—Constance Louise, for instance, likes me a lot, and she's a lovely kindly person, but even she has the family holier-than-thouness to a superlative degree. They're all so frightfully self-satisfied; they're always know exactly what they think—never have the slightest doubt about anything. And they do the funniest things. When Lella bought a new lamp in Philadelphia, Cousin Emmeline and Sarah Brownbeck promptly ordered replicas."

"And they all have the same makes of cars. Uncle Judd or some body decided years ago on a certain not very expensive kind and if you offered them the best car made

at the same price they'd think you were trying to do them. "Amelia, David's sister, says one of the seven wonders of the world is a group of Brownbecks in church, announcing in unison that they are miserable sinners. She says they only do it to honor the Lord, and glance quickly from side to side to see if the congregation is enjoying the joke."

"What a beautiful state of mind," laughed Juliette. "And your David—is he so happily satisfied?" "Oh, no; but unfortunately David is a little ashamed of not being like all the rest. It's given him a sort of inferiority complex. You don't know, Juliette, how hard it is what it does to your self-respect, to live constantly with people who have different standards of value—and despise all the things you value most."

"Perhaps not. But you and David have each other. Does that not compensate?" "Yes—or rather it did as long as we were by ourselves and David wasn't under his uncle's thumb daily. Uncle Judd adores David, but it hasn't ever occurred to him that David is grown up. He interrupts his work to send him out on errands, as if he were an office boy, and arranges at him before other people, even before David's own subordinates. And whenever David has an original idea about the business his uncle dismisses it as utterly inconsequential, no matter how good it is. He keeps David in a stew most of the time—just as Mother Frost keeps me in a stew."

"And I tell him she shouldn't take Uncle Judd so seriously and he tells me I make mountains out of his mother's molehills. And we're both right—but that doesn't change the status quo any—except to make us both a little madder."

"Poor babes," said Juliette sadly. "But David is his uncle's heir, is he not?" "David and Amelia."

"Well then, chérie, I should not worry. Lella tells me that the good uncle is a very rich man. Men of his size and type who indulge themselves so freely at the table do not live to be old. Uncle Judd's roars will be ended in another year or two. If I am not much mistaken, then the bank will be David's—let him comfort himself with that."

"Oh, I suppose you think it's silly, but the surest way to make David thumb his nose at his uncle never said so but I think his conscience is constantly pricking him for not being fonder of his uncle—and of his mother too. He's terribly suspicious of his own motives, poor darling. That may sound surprising—but that's David."

"When you are as old as I, my Fanny, nothing in human nature can surprise you."

"But, Juliette darling—you're not old."

"I think I was born old. And anyone who lived so close to the hideousness of war has forgotten to be young. Do you know why I asked you to stay with me?"

"No, and I've wondered."

"Because you are so lucratively youthful. I had not believed it possible that there was anyone left in the world with a shred of illusion—anyone who could wake in the morning and tell himself that life was good, that the sweet was worth the bitter and the heartache; that there were such things as justice, and honor, and keeping faith, and a God who didn't laugh."

"Dear Juliette! But you do believe in something?"

"I believe," said Juliette, "that a healthy animal, all things being equal, should be a happy animal, but things haven't been equal the last four years. If you had slept for months in a dilapidated rooming-house, but it is best not to talk of it. I realize that I have lost all sense of proportion. I am trusting you to help me get it back."

"Oh, if I can, if I know how."

"Fanny's eyes had filled with tears, but she was uplifted as she had not been in months, enraptured to feel of slight service to this fragile fairy godmother—she, Fanny, the unwise, the inconsequential, with little wisdom and no gifts, except her little gift to be happy and make others happy. But had she ever made anyone really happy—ever David?"

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The gay life of the nation's capital is like a fairyland to Fanny. Follow her social triumphs—tomorrow.

RURAL AND SUBURBAN NEWS

PHOENIX

PHOENIX, Ore., Dec. 12.—(Special)—The Thursday club enjoyed an all-day meeting at the Presbyterian church Thursday at which time Mrs. Mack, home demonstration agent, was present to give suggestions for Christmas gifts, candies and fruit cakes.

Mrs. Ted Littlefield entertained with a bridge party Wednesday for Mrs. M. J. Norris, Miss Helen Norris, Mrs. Phil Gerst, Mrs. A. W. Shepherd, Mrs. Miles Gammill, Mrs. T. V. Williams, Mrs. Alvin Innman, Mrs. B. H. Wilcox, Mrs. Harry Young, Mrs. O. C. Maust and Mrs. Jess Edwards. Prize for high score was won by Mrs. T. V. Williams; consolation by Mrs. Harry Young.

Ted Littlefield is reported on the sick list this week. He has been confined to his bed for the past four days and is still under the doctor's care.

William Cottrell had the misfortune to cut his hand badly last week while chopping kindling.

Mildred Poling ran a pitch fork into her foot Sunday but is able to be back in school at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. N. Polin and family were guests Sunday at the home of Mrs. Standard.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Judd of Medford were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Watkins Monday evening.

Word has been received from Mrs. Malmgren from Minneapolis that she will be back home here shortly after the first of the year. She spent the summer in the old country.

Mr. and Mrs. Butler, who have been occupying the house of Mrs. Malmgren during her absence, are making plans to leave for southern California, where they will spend the winter.

Mrs. Mary Ellison spent a few days in the latter part of last week with her daughter, Mrs. L. O. Caster.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Watkins of Medford were dinner guests Monday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George McClain. They called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Watkins, where they spent the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Watkins and Mr. and Mrs. George McClain of Phoenix and Mrs. Witcher of Medford were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Watkins of Medford Sunday at a dinner given in honor of the birthday of little Evelyn Watkins.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Odeana Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kee, Naomi Van Groes, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jackson, Mrs. Earl Hoover, Miss Hazel Taylor, and Mrs. Harriet Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Herendeen and Roy Casey were among those from Butte Falls who attended "The Big Trail" at the Crater.

Several people attended the Grange dance at Central Point Saturday night. Moore's orchestra of Butte Falls plays for these popular dances.

W. Weil and B. T. Merrill attended the Schoolmaster's club at Medford Tuesday night.

Butte Falls stores are assuming a holiday atmosphere with Christmas scenes and decorations. Students are especially unique. The Holy Land scene with the wise men traveling across the desert is the theme.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Wymore and Will Marion were Medford visitors one day last week.

Mrs. Comings is home after spending several months in Medford.

Practically all members of the Thimble club attended the worst party at the home of Mrs. C. B. Ward last Friday afternoon. All report a very enjoyable time.

SAMS VALLEY

SAMS VALLEY, Dec. 12.—(Sp.) Mrs. Wagner, mother of Mrs. J. E. Weaver, passed away last week after an illness of 10 months. Funeral services were held at Medford and the body was taken to Cove for burial. Mr. and Mrs. Weaver will not return for several days.

Grange will give an interesting program at their next meeting, December 20, and will serve a jifney supper immediately afterwards.

Kind old father stock is delivering yet in spite of the hard times and left a baby boy at the home of A. J. Milkowik November 29, and a baby girl for S. Shonklins December 1.

Max Schulz, who is slowly improving from a lingering illness, was able to make a trip to Medford Monday for the first time for many weeks.

Pupils and faculty are preparing an interesting program to be given near the Christmas holidays.

Miss Naomi Magister, Catharine Koger and Mrs. O. T. Wilson were members of the Jackson County Recreation club who attended the monthly meeting at Central Point Wednesday night.

BUTTE FALLS

BUTTE FALLS, Ore., Dec. 12.—(Special)—J. J. Skinner, of the California Oregon Power Co., in-charge department, spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Butte Falls and Camp Three.

Ernestine Fredenberg is spending her month's vacation with her parents here. She is employed in the Interstate Commerce Department in Washington, D. C.

Miss Annie Kent and Ralph Nelson attended a show in Medford Saturday night.

Jeff Crumley and Miss Frances Cool of Medford were married Saturday afternoon in Medford. They will make their home in Camp Three.

Mrs. Leonora Colson has returned home to San Francisco after a several weeks' visit with her mother, Mrs. Charles Page.

The Woodman lodge is making further improvements to their hall here by the erection of rest rooms.

The Woodmen are giving another of their popular dances here Saturday night.

Clyde Moore is ill with the mumps.

The Hustler's club took in \$77 at the bazaar and play last Friday. They still have articles to sell, so they will take in more money.

Charles Hallelt, formerly of Butte Falls, is very sick with flu in Klamath Falls.

Earl Hoover was home several days from Weyerhaeuser. Earl was unable to work because of an infected tooth.

The high school has put up posters advertising their play, "His Uncle Sam."

Miss Hazel Taylor and her mother, spent Saturday in Medford.

George Stewart and family spent Saturday in Medford.

Mrs. Kizie Edmondson is ill. Mark Koontz and Ben Edmondson went to the homestead Wednesday.

Deborah and Mary Kent have had colds.

Mrs. Mabel Mack, county home demonstration agent, will spend all day Friday in Butte Falls. All wishing to attend all day may bring their lunch. Mrs. Mack will give suggestions for Christmas articles.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Odeana Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kee, Naomi Van Groes, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jackson, Mrs. Earl Hoover, Miss Hazel Taylor, and Mrs. Harriet Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Herendeen and Roy Casey were among those from Butte Falls who attended "The Big Trail" at the Crater.

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