

Nothing Venture

by Patricia Wentworth

SYNOPSIS: Nan Forsyth demands ten thousand dollars to marry Jervis Weare, who must find a wife within three days or lose a great fortune to his former fiancée, Rosamund Carson. Rosamund has killed him at the last moment because his grandfather's will makes her his heir if Jervis fails to marry by a stated time. Considering the arrangement a matter of business, Jervis agrees to pay Nan, who again conceals her secret love for him. She wants the money to make possible her sister's marriage.

Chapter 6
MYSTERY FROM THE PAST
At nine o'clock on the morning of August 16 Jervis Weare was married to Nan Forsyth in St. Bartholomew's church. Outside it is a peculiarly ugly church. And when Nan passed from the bright morning sunshine into the dusk of the interior she found it arched with dusty pew cushions and varnished—a very depressing smell.

Mr. Page gave her away disapprovingly, and he and the sexton were the only witnesses. She looked once at Jervis, and saw him as a tall, aloof shadow. She could guess at the frown she could not see. When he took her hand and put the ring on it, his was hot and dry. He rammied the ring down, and there it was.

They got up from their knees and went into the vestry. She



Jervis Weare was married to Nan Forsyth, his \$10,000 bride, in St. Bartholomew's.

wrote herself for the last time Nan Forsyth.

"And now your father's name here, Mrs. Weare."

It was the two things coming together that took her off her balance. Mrs. Weare—and her father dead in a far country, not knowing. Tears stung in her eyes; the register disappeared in a mist. She closed her eyes for a moment hard, then, opening them, bent and wrote, "Nigel Forsyth," and stood aside while Mr. Page and the sexton signed.

They taxied to the house in silence. Jervis' room was not dark like the church, and the two windows were open to the garden. Nan stood by the windows so as to get as near to the garden as possible.

"What did you want to talk to me about?" she said.

"I wanted to tell you that Mr. Page is seeing about that ten thousand dollars. Have you a banking account?"

He saw her smile for the first time.

"Oh, no," she said.

"You will have to have one. You'd better see Mr. Page about it, and when you have opened the account he will pay the money in. Then, as regards yourself, I have signed a settlement which gives you five thousand a year."

The colour flamed into Nan's face.

"I don't want you. I can get a job."

Mr. Jervis Weare assumed a lordly tone.

"As to that, you can please yourself. Twelve hundred and fifty dollars a quarter will be paid into your account."

"I can't take it," she said in a voice whose distress pierced Jervis Weare's self-absorption.

He reacted with a feeling of acute annoyance.

"Do you mind considering my position for a moment? Do you really expect me to marry a girl and leave her penniless? Why should you have married me if you were going to take up a position like this?"

Why! Nan could have laughed and wept at the question. If they had been in the Palace of Truth,

Leonard—a connection of—my grandfather's. I don't think you are very likely to have met him."

"You are thinking it's very strange that I should ask questions about Mr. Leonard, but I've got a reason. Will you please tell me where he has been for the last ten years?"

"Why do you want to know?"

"Because I think I saw him once ten years ago."

"Why, the photograph doesn't even show his face!"

Nan wasn't remembering a face; she was remembering just that square thickset figure, and just that turn of the head.

"Tell me," she said.

"What do you want to know? Ten years ago—ten years ago... well, exactly ten years ago he was up on visit from Latin America staying with my grandfather. I remember that because I know he was staying in the house when I nearly drowned myself out on Croyston rocks."

Nan had turned very pale.

"Mr. Leonard found you?"

"Oh, no. It was a British fellow who was taking photographs."

Ferdinand Francis rushed into Nan's mind—important, efficient, and immensely talkative. And then he was gone again, and she saw the thickest figure of a man coming from behind the Croyston rocks and walking away towards the headland. He was walking away from her, and he was walking away from Jervis, who lay half in and half out of the pool with a hole in the back of his head and the tide coming up. She said breathlessly,

"I want to know about Mr. Leonard. What happened to him after that?"

"He went back to Latin America."

"Where is he now?"

"Down at Croyston. He's got a chicken farm."

"Thank you," said Nan.

She put out her hand again.

"Good-bye," she said. She had wanted to add something—but what?

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Nan overhears a terrible plot, Monday, and recognises one of the conspirators.

PUPILS HAVE CHANCE FOR SPECIAL EXAMS

Special examinations for the placement of elementary and junior high pupils in the Medford schools will be held next week at the Junior High school on Second street, on Monday and Tuesday, August 29th and 30th. All elementary and junior high pupils, who on account of illness or for any other reason may not have taken the final examinations in the spring and who wish to have their grade placement determined, should report to room 19, of the junior high school at 9:00 a. m. on Monday for these examinations.

VEGETABLE BUYER'S CHECKS BOUNCE BACK

J. F. Hallett was arrested Saturday morning by city police, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses, a number of bad checks having been turned over to the officers. Hallett will be taken before Judge Glenn O. Taylor in justice court Monday.

EXAMS WILL BE HELD FOR TIMEKEEPER JOB

Announcement has been made by the U. S. civil service commission that competitive examinations for the position of timekeeper will be conducted in Medford. Applications for the position must be on file in the Seattle offices by August 31.

GRAVES' JEWELRY SHOP, NOW LOCATED 41 So. Front.

August special. Three loads 16-in. slabs for \$6.75. Med. Fuel Co. Tel. 831.

THE POSITIONS PAY \$115 TO \$135 PER MONTH FOR THE DURATION OF ACTUAL EMPLOYMENT.

In this position the period usually extends five months, according to the bulletin issued.

BERLIN, Aug. 28 (AP)—Adolph Hitler had disappeared from his accustomed haunts today and a rumor spread that he had been taken to a sanitarium after a nervous collapse. Two newspapers carried the story, and Hitler's associates in the National Socialist party spent most of the morning in describing the rumor as utter nonsense.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—A Lucky Shot!



BOUND TO WIN—Mel's Conclusions



S'MATTER POP—Serious Thoughts On The Elephant



THE NEBBS—The Boss



MUTT AND JEFF—Medicine For a "Sick" Man



BRINGING UP FATHER



CHARGES DROPPED BY WILSON'S WIFE

Mrs. Vera Wilson, who ten days ago, filed a complaint against her husband, Clifford Wilson, alleging a statutory offense, failed to appear when the case was called in Ashland justice court Friday, and the complaint was dismissed. The joint complaint against Mrs. Lila Payne of Roseville, Calif., alleged companion of Wilson, will be automatically dismissed.

Wilson was brought back from Auburn, Calif. last Monday by the sheriff's office.

At the hearing held before Justice L. A. Roberts at Ashland, a bitter exchange of words with threats of

battle, passed between Attorney T. J. Bright, representing Wilson, and Attorney M. O. Wilkins, of Ashland, an independent candidate for district attorney, representing Mrs. Wilson. The defendant also uttered challenges against Wilkins, it was reported. Attorney Wilkins threatened to file contempt charges against Attorney Bright.

The defense contended that the complaint was due to legal overzealousness and that the charges were unfounded.

Idaho Forest Fire Placed In Control
BOISE, Idaho, Aug. 27.—(AP) A fire in the Challis national forest was under control today after burning more than 800 acres. The largest fire in southern Idaho this season, it was brought under final control with the assistance of cool weather and upwards of 100 fire fighters recruited from the district.

By EDWIN ALGER

By C. M. PAYNE

By SOL HESS

By BUD FISHER

By George McManus