

# SPITE MARRIAGE

by Katharine Hazeland Taylor

## Chapter 4: AGREEMENT

"But you wanted to destroy the note!" Bob probed on, baffled. She dropped back to turn her face from him; her muted "Yes" failed to reach him.

"What, dear?" he asked, as he leaned over her. She turned to look up into the eyes that were so close. "Yes," she repeated.

"Why did you want to destroy it?" he went on. "Can you tell me that, or would you rather not?"

"I didn't want you to take me if you didn't want to, and I felt sure you didn't want to—" her voice broke, and faded to nothing.

"But Marsha—"

"I want to go with you! But I don't want you to take me unless you want—"

"I won't bother you in any way, you know, Marsha?"

She laughed shortly; mirthlessly. "You don't have to explain," she said, "I know how you feel about me!"

"No you don't," he combated. "No human ever knows what another thinks. I realized that, Marsha, after I left you last night. Will you go back with me and go with me wherever I go for as long as you feel you can stand it? I want you to very much."

She hesitated. She drew a sharp breath, and turned to him eyes in which were question and some fright. When she at length spoke it was to say "Yes!" and a trifle over-ly.

"So you feel that way!" he thought, certain of her fear. "It isn't he so bad," he promised; "I shall do my best to make things pleasant for you. We'll have a plane. We'll go to Mexico City whenever I can get away—you'll like the place." (He saw that she was listening to him hungrily) "and we'll try to be good friends, and I'll boss things . . . probably tell you not to step from the porch when I'm off work- ing. How will you like that?" he ended.

"Very well," she answered in a whisper. She hesitated; she said, "Suppose you want to marry some one else?"

"I am married," he answered coldly.

"Don't make me feel your disapproval of me so thoroughly!" she begged.

"I didn't mean to; but it's once for me. It could be only once for me," he said heavily.

"And for me!" she assured him with a leaning toward her old slip- pery, "so I presume we might as well make the best of a bad job!"

"If you look at it so," he replied, and again coldly.

He moved in a daze for hours that followed their "deciding upon what to do." The miracle of which he had dreamed was going to be, but the happiness that he had felt must come with it was denied him. Myriads of disturbing questions buzzed within him. Then, with a squaring of tired shoulders he dismissed the doubts that he saw as a weakening's. "God!" he thought, "I am no good! But I will make a go of it."

"Well, in a way . . . if you can forgive me. But I don't suppose you will or could," she responded slowly, levelly. "If a woman loves a man she forgives him anything; but if a woman errs, it's quite another story."

"Perhaps that is as it should be. I don't know. I know only that it makes life difficult. And you needn't be worried about my getting well. I shall, it may take a little time, but you won't have to see the struggle. I shan't be going with you."

His heart froze; but he managed to say a steady "No!" which she answered with one as even.

"I want to tell you about it," she said, "and I wonder whether you could come here to sit on the edge of my bed and hold my hands very tightly as you used to while I tell it? And don't, please, stop holding them so until I'm quite through, because . . . but you'll know later. You won't, Bob, stop holding my hands and holding them tightly?"

"I won't," he promised.

"It begins with Geoffrey Tarleton," she explained (for a second his hands relaxed and then grew tight again, as pain stood forth in her eyes), "whom I don't care for— don't care for at all, Bob."

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Tomorrow, Marsha tells her pitiful story.

EVERYTHING was being done for Marsha that could be done, Bob reasoned a week later. (And as he had a hundred times each day of that week) and she did not grow better.

The fever persisted; she was losing weight with alarming rapidity and during the morning, subnormal hours, she was pitiously white and chill. Bob was badly worried and his one outlet was sitting by her bed; caring for her as he could; planning small diversions for her; remembering everything bright he heard, to tell her.

And he learned sitting by her bed, his utter certainty which was his deep, and enduring love for her; a love that would live no matter what she did, or thought of him.

She depended upon him, he saw, and it helped her to have him near.

"Shall I read to you?" he asked often.

She usually answered with "No." Early in his vigil she had said, "Not unless you want to; unless it's too stupid for you to be here with nothing to entertain?"

"I love it!" he had said that day. "So do I," she agreed.

"You see, we're becoming friends!" he said triumphantly and to his surprise and his consternation, her eyes brimmed.

### TOO MUCH SALT FOR SALT LAKE

SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 23.—(P)—Great Salt Lake, 14 times as saline as the ocean and at the lowest level in recorded history, holds more salt than it can carry. It is laying its burden down in the form of fantastic rock salt crystals, which it deposits on the lake bottom and fixes to the keels and sides of boats and piers.

Fine crystals of salt cover the sand on the shores of the lake and boaters have sighted huge mounds of cube-like rock salt crystals.

J. Cecil Alter, government meteorologist here, estimates the salinity of the water at 28 per cent, and says it evidently is greater than when General John C. Fremont visited the lake in 1843. The famous explorer reported that he got one quart of salt from four quarts of lake water.

## CLOTHING NEEDED FOR CHILDREN TO WEAR TO SCHOOL

The time has come for another search through all clothes closets of the valley. Is the report issued yesterday from the Welfare Exchange, which will resume work next week for school days are almost here and mothers of school children are already wondering what their children are going to wear, and where that "what" is going to come from.

The Welfare Exchange will assist again in solving the clothing problem. Miss Helen Carlton, chairman, announced yesterday. And, in assisting, will need the generous cooperation of every person, who has something extra in the closet.

The Exchange will open in the city hall for rearrangement Monday and will be open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Anyone with any articles of men's, women's or children's clothing to give is asked to deliver them to the police station in the city hall or to call Miss Carlton at 896-J-1 or the relief committee headquarters at 224.

There is a great need this year for all types of clothing and mothers are more than willing to make over partially worn or off-size garments. The sewing room will be opened in the city hall at an early date to offer them an opportunity for this work.

It is necessary that these mothers do their planning early so a ready response and a generous one is urged of the public by Miss Carlton.

## PARKING LOT TEST ON AUTO STEALING

CLEVELAND—(UP)—Is a parking lot responsible for a stolen automobile?

The Ohio supreme court has under advisement a case that will decide this question and which may have a far-reaching effect on all parking lots.

The plaintiff, Frank T. Sheehan, whose sedan was stolen July 13 from the Syndicate Parking Lot here, received a judgment of \$680. This decision was later reversed by the Appellate court and is now before the supreme court.

Attorney J. R. Jewitt, in his brief, said that the negligence was obvious, since attendants should have been on hand to see if the person who took the car had his ticket.

"This court should lay down a rule of policy by protecting the public for such instances, as it lies in the hands of the parking station companies more adequately to protect their cars, and if they are not equipped to do so, the owner of an automobile had best leave it at home or park it on the street."

RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 23.—(AP)—Walker Legerna, charged with being one of five men who shot and killed a federal bank mail truck driver during a robbery, was found guilty early today at a trial which lasted only 13 hours. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair October 22.

## AWARD CONTRACT 24 NAVAL CRAFT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—(AP)—The program to raise the United States navy to a power unsurpassed on the seas swung forward today with award of contracts for construction of 24 fighting vessels.

Eleven of the ships will be built by private shipbuilding yards and 13 by navy yards.

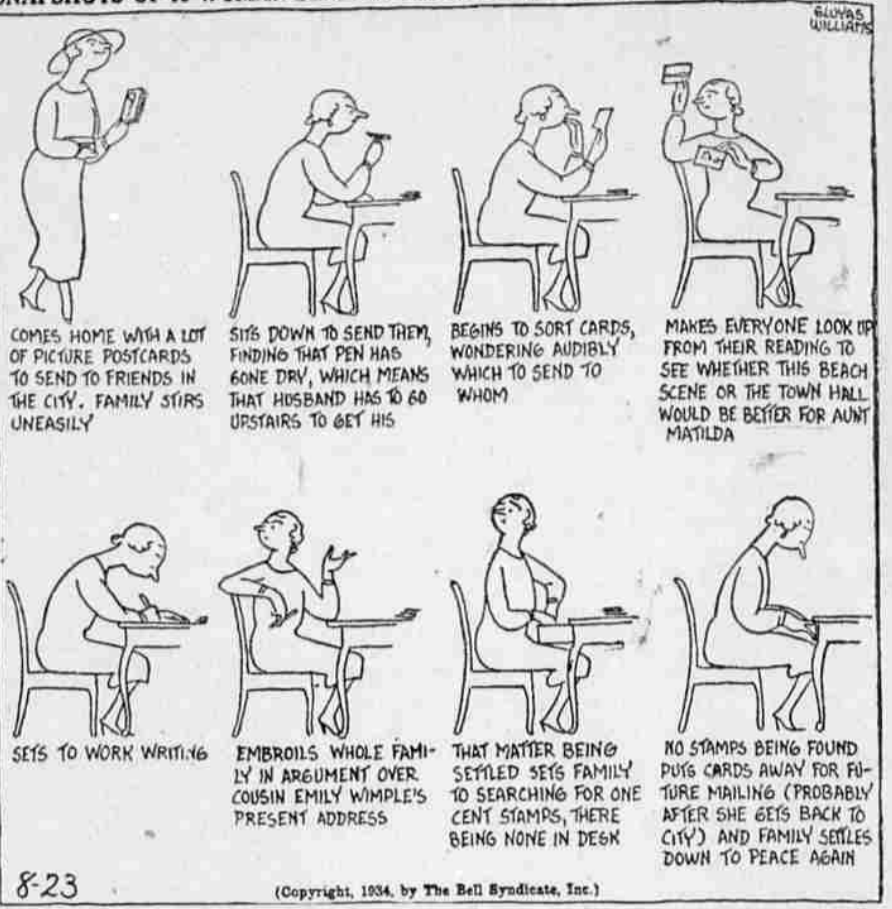
The construction awards were: One 10,000 ton light cruiser to the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company, Newport News, Va., \$11,480,000; another light cruiser to the New York Shipbuilding Corporation, Camden, N. J., \$11,975,000; two 1800 ton destroyers to the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock company, Kearney, N. J., \$3,946,000 each; two 1500 ton destroyers to the Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation, Quincy, Mass., \$3,784,000 each.

## GOOD CROP WEATHER DURING PAST WEEK

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—(P)—The most favorable weather in many months for growing crops was reported today by the weather bureau in its summary of conditions during the past week.

The best feature of the rains of the week was that they came to areas where the moisture will be of the greatest benefit to crops," it said.

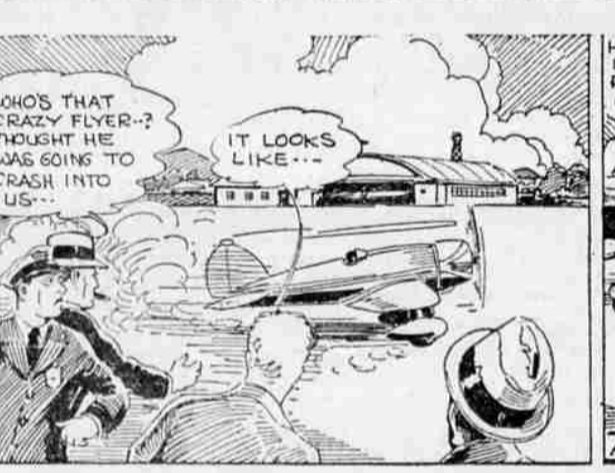
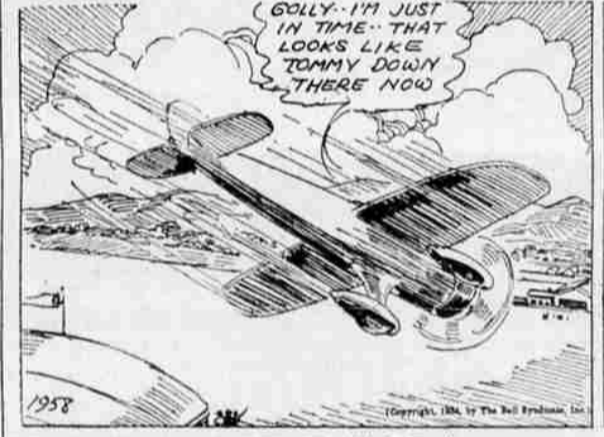
## SNAPSHOTS OF A WOMAN SENDING PICTURE POST CARDS



### S'MATTER POP—



### TAILSPIN TOMMY—Skeeter Arrives!



### BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The Night Trail



### THE NEBBS—The Spendthrift



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## HEARST SATISFIED WITH HITLER VOTE

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MUNICH, Germany, Aug. 23.—(AP)—William Randolph Hearst, American newspaper publisher, said today that the plebiscite in Germany last Sunday seemed to him to be tantamount to a unanimous expression of popular will.

Hearst discussed the German vote approving Chancellor Hitler's assumption of the powers of the reich presidency with Ernst Hanfstaengl, Nazi press chief.

Such overwhelming majorities for Hitler, which we have learned by this time to take as a matter of course, open up, in a sense, a new chapter in modern history," the American publisher said.

He added that anything that benefits Germany would, in the last analysis, benefit the whole world, and as such he cordially welcomed anything that would do good to Germany.

### BRINGING UP FATHER

