

to get in a domestic scandal about; so, I'll quit."

She breezed out of the room. Leslie made a move to stop her, but his wife blocked his path. "Explain about the woman you are keeping in New York," she commanded severely.

"Just one of Rupert's lies," he snarled. "I have neither seen nor heard from Owen since I left New York, almost a year ago. I don't know where she is and I don't care; but your groundless suspicion, your pestering, and your continual nagging are sure to drive me to her."

"But you are responsible for my mistrust."

"I am not; it's your own damned fault, your teaching, your association with a lot of women, who like your-

self, don't have time to look after their own homes and get jealous when their husbands go elsewhere — your clubs, your card parties. Women who try to make a home what it should be don't have time to get jealous—women who are not afraid to have children. There is only one thing that can preserve our union—babies!"

"Babies! Why, Leslie, you are so old fashioned—remember my career."

"Career, hell!" roared Leslie, "what greater career could a woman want than to bring healthy, intelligent children in the world?"

"Come, come," interrupted Rupert, who had been enjoying the repartee with much interest, "I did not think my little remark would cause all this trouble. Make up and run along home." He laughed long and heartily as the pair left his office.

"Leslie, I sometimes wonder whether it was you I loved or the Leslie I loved as a child. You seemed so strong and manly then. Marriage has brought about a change in you."

"Marriage will bring about a change in any man," he grunted with a faint touch of his old hatred for the institution.

With Aileen gone, Leslie's troubles came in torrents. He could not remember his appointments; he forgot to file his cases; he left piles of letters unanswered; he cursed over the telephone to good clients who happened to call him while he was preparing a brief and broke his trend of thought.

He hired a new girl, and another, and another. None seemed to do just like Aileen did. He either discharged them or they left of their own accord, unable to stand his eccentricities any longer. More and more that old hatred of office drudgery seemed to get its grip upon him. Those piles of papers on his desk were an eyesore to him each morning. The easy going air in which Rupert strutted past his office en route to his own, galled him. Business began to drop off and he found it more and more difficult to meet his obligations.

There was but one consolation, one outlet for his feelings — his piano. Long into the night he would play—play his own tunes—play and dream—dream of, well, yes, dream of Owen and wonder what she was doing — where she was and did she ever dream of him?

One afternoon he won an exceptionally hard case, one of his few nowadays. His practice had dropped off, not that he wasn't recognized as an unusually brilliant lawyer in the court room, but because he just could not bring himself up to the office work. He tried his best to remember his appointments but with slow precision he was being branded among court circles as a lawyer not to be depended upon.

Elated with his success of the day, he stopped at Ford's Theatre on his way home and purchased tickets for a much heralded show. Before leaving the box office, he phoned the Club Arabia, and made reservations for a table for two. What a surprise he would have for Joyce; they would have a big night if it, they spent so little time together since she had insisted on teaching in night school. The fact was, they saw each other only at meal times and at night, and then she was too tired from her night classes to be sociable.

"Well, Joyce," he cried excitedly as he rushed into the house, "I won that case."

"That's lovely," replied Joyce disinterestedly. "What case?"

He was crestfallen "Why the case I've been raving about for the last two weeks. Don't you take any interest in my success at all?"

"Now, don't get peeved, dear. My mind was on my work at the time. What is that you have in your hand?"

"A couple of tickets for Ford's. I thought you would enjoy a good show tonight."

"Really, dear, that's awfully splendid of you but I promised Mrs. Dudley Monroe that I would attend her bridge party tonight and to back out would be social suicide."

"Say, Joy, let Mrs. Dudley Monroe and her society go to the devil for one night. Give your husband a little of your time. We are like perfect strangers."

"Now don't be unreasonable, Leslie; a woman can't have her husband any time, but an opportunity to break into this exclusive set comes once in a life-time."


"If you go to that bridge party tonight, I swear I'll call up one of my girls and take her to the show," threatened Kayne.

"That's your prerogative," snapped Joyce as she flounced up the stairs, calling his bluff.

Angered, Leslie seized the phone. He called several of his old friends who were still single. To each request he received the same reply. He was reminded by each one that he was married now and she could not risk her reputation by being seen in public with him. He banged the telephone down on the table. As he did so a card dropped to the floor. On it was written the name of Dr. Hargraves. A thought shot through his brain—the doctor was always in his office until late. He might call Cleo. She cared no more for conventions than he did. He was certain that she would accept either the theatre or something more exciting. No — he decided after a pause. He had had enough of married women.

As the door creaked on Joyce, he shook up a stiff brace from his wine closet, sat down to his piano. His vigorous pounding on the keys told the neighbors that the Kaynes had had another quarrel.

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He was waiting for a street car on Charles Street one afternoon, after a hard day's work when the honking of a horn near him attracted his attention.

"Want a lift?" called a cheery voice from the wheel of a handsome blue coupe. The driver was a pretty young woman, Cleo Hargraves.

"I appreciate your kindness," said Kayne, stepping up to the running board as the door was swung open. "My car is in the shop and I was preparing to use the trolley."

"Haven't been in an accident?" queried Mrs. Hargraves as she shot forward on the traffic officer's signal.

"Not exactly," rejoined Leslie, after a pause, "Just a little tire trouble." He was careful not to explain that the real trouble was that he could not

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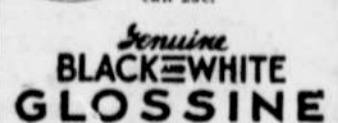
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