

Rash Romance

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by LAURA LOU BROOKMAN

CHAPTER XXIII

It was a long letter that Judith wrote. Afternoon shadows were lengthening and the sunlight had faded from the room by the time she laid down her pen, folded the notepaper and slipped the sheets into an envelope.

She added an address and stamp but she did not seal the envelope. Instead she drew out a drawer of the desk, dropped the letter into it and shut the drawer.

Then she arose, slipped off her dress and went into the bathroom to repair the damages of her tears.

Arthur Knight, arriving home an hour later, found a smiling, self-controlled wife waiting to greet him.

Knight was looking tired. Judith noted the lines of weariness in her husband's face; noted, too, that there were shadows beneath his eyes, and that Arthur's step lacked its usual impressive vigor.

"Come in before the fire," she said, after he had shed his wraps. "It's cheery in here, Arthur. There's plenty of time before dinner."

Knight followed his wife and sat down beside her on the davenport.

"Judith, I know that nonsense of Tony's didn't amount to anything at lunch time."

Judith smiled.

"Of course not," she agreed. "I knew you'd understand, dear."

But neither of them explained just what they meant by "that nonsense of Tony's," and the fact that Arthur understood one thing and Judith another means that the episode was not ended.

"I was worried some this afternoon," Judith added as an afterthought. "That was why I stopped at the office."

"You stopped at the office? You mean my office? Why, I didn't know that."

"Didn't Miss Tupper tell you I was there?"

Knight shook his head in denial. "She certainly did not," he said. "What time was it?"

"But—why, how funny! I was on my way home. I don't know—it must have been about 2:30, I guess. Why, Arthur—Miss Tupper said you were in conference and if I wanted to see you I'd have to wait half an hour!"

"Well, of all the—! She told you that?"

Judith nodded.

"Confound that woman! That's the second time I've caught her interfering in my affairs lately."

I'll not have it. I'll discharge her tomorrow!"

But Judith caught his arm.

"Don't do anything hasty, dear. She's really valuable to you, you know. How long has she been with the firm?"

"That's not the point. That's not it at all! The idea of her telling you I was in conference! Why, I was at my desk all the afternoon. The very idea—"

He turned on for several moments. Arthur Knight's ritual of office discipline had been interfered with, and he was aroused.

"But don't discharge her this time," Judith urged. "Think how much she knows about your work and what a trial it would be to break in someone new! If you talk to her about it in the morning I'm sure it won't happen over again. You ought to give her one more trial, Arthur."

Pity for Katherine Tupper was not prompting Judith's words. She knew exactly how much effort the private secretary saved her husband each day, and that for Arthur's own good Miss Tupper should be given another chance.

Besides, she felt a verbal reprimand would be effective.

They had dinner alone. Tony came in for a short while, later disappearing with Andy Craig as an escort. While Knight and his wife were at the table he announced a piece of news.

"By the way," said Arthur. "we are going to give a party next week."

"But the house is torn up!"

He smiled good-humoredly. "I know. That won't make any difference. This is going to be a theatre party, Judith. Some place in town. Johnstown, our London representative, is getting in Monday. It's just a piece of business courtesy. I'll ask R. G. and his wife and one or two others. Johnstown's typically English, and I know nothing would please him so much as seeing an American play and a little night life. Have to find out later what evening we can make it."

Judith and Arthur had been guests at the R. G. Hunter home. Hunter was the present chief executive of the publishing company. It had been a formal, uncomfortable dinner party. Judith was pleased to hear that no such entertainment was to be expected in her home.

"All right," she said. "If it's that kind of a party I guess it won't be hard to manage."

"Oh, no. You'll like Johnstown. He's all right. By the way, get yourself a new dress, why don't you, Judith? I want you to look your best."

She considered this.

Her one really formal gown was the black, which she had worn to the Hunters' dinner. Perhaps she did need something new.

"I'll get it," she promised, smiling. "That is—I'll look for something."

Judith spent a happy and contented evening with her husband. Tony's efforts at trouble-making, after all, had been unavailing. Arthur's loyalty was proven and Judith felt that she had been silly in giving way to tears.

After she was in her own room that evening and had changed her dinner frock for a soft negligee, Judith went to her writing desk, took out the letter she had written so carefully, tore both letter and envelopes into little bits and dropped them in a wastebasket.

Sandy, the Scotch terrier, arrived next afternoon.

It was the same pup Judith had admired at the dog show, and when he was led into the front hallway the little animal came directly up to the girl, wagging his bit of a tail expressively, and sniffing as though to say, "How do you do?"

Judith was delighted.

She stroked the dog's head, rubbed his chin and before half an hour had gone by they were old friends.

Sandy was given an elegant bed of soft cushions and made himself at home immediately. Taking the dog for daily airings, romping

with him about the house, and teaching him new tricks brightened Judith's days immensely.

She really hated to steal time from Sandy to shop for the new evening gown, but shop Judith did. She made three trips, and the third day stepped into a fifty-seventh street shop and there—waiting as if to greet her—was The Gown.

It was a lovely thing of silken Spanish lines made from glowing dahlia purple tulle. It clung close to the figure as far as the knees, then the filmy fabric billowed and cascaded exactly like a Castilian dancer's skirts. There was clever banding breaking the simplicity of the bodice and the low-cut décolletage completed the perfect sophisticated effect.

Judith, with the gown slipped over her shoulders for a fitting, held her breath.

By all odds it was the most becoming, the most exquisite garment she had ever worn. Arthur would be proud of her in this dress. She was sure of that. The rich, dark shade was the perfect complement for Judith's coloring. It made the blue of her eyes seem darker, and her hair more radiant. The dressmaker's skill was shown to highest advantage over the girl's slim, rounded form.

"I'll take it," Judith announced decisively, and the next afternoon it was delivered.

She untied the wrappings with eager fingers, drew away the folds of tissue paper, and held up the beautiful gown. Yes, it was as perfect as she remembered.

That evening after dinner was served Judith disappeared. Knight devoted himself to the evening newspaper until something made him glance up.

There in the doorway stood Judith, arrayed in her new finery. The girl's eyes were starry and her cheeks bright.

"Do you—like me?" she asked, slowly turning to give her husband a complete view of the costume.

Knight was on his feet.

"Judith!" he exclaimed. "Why, you're wonderful!"

She came forward.

"You told me to buy a pretty dress to make you proud of me," said Judith, happily. "I hope you like it."

Knight held her away from him, staring down at her, then caught her close.

"Oh, my dearest!" he whispered.

Tony Knight, passing through the hallway, glimpsed the scene. She saw her father lift Judith's lips to his own and press them with a long kiss. She caught the glowing adoration in the man's eyes.

Then Tony Knight went out of the house, and neither Arthur nor Judith was aware their moment of affection had been observed.

For Judith there was not the slightest preparation for what was to follow. She entered her bedroom late the next afternoon as usual, to dress for dinner. The door of the closet in which her clothing hung was open.

Judith went across the room to close the door. She drew it back, looked at the closet floor, and then stopped in amazement.

There on the floor lay her beautiful new evening gown—cut to ribbons!

(To Be Continued)

The liner Majestic is about 17,000 tons the size of the Santa Maria, flagship of Columbus.

MAYOR TELLS TAXI MEN TO CLEAN HOUSE

Council Sells Bonds to State; Will Sell More on February 11; Lets Contracts

The meeting of the city council last night did not offer as much fireworks as did a meeting of the police committee following the regular council meeting in the city hall.

At the police committee meeting two taxi company owners appeared and asked permission for one car on Main street heavy traffic zone. They were told by Mayor Waters that there were too many taxis. That if they would cut out the bootlegging and do a legitimate business there would be enough business for those that remained. "Clean house before you come to the council for concessions," he stated.

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a taxi stand at 626½ Main.

Carolina Robie asked to operate the O. K. Rooms at 1009 Main.

Waters and Gruenhagen applied for a master plumber's license.

The Enterprise Dairy asked to operate a milk route.

J. A. Cornforth asked to operate a taxi stand at 5th and Main.

The Spar pool room asked for a license to operate.

E. G. Murphy asked license for a one-chair barber shop.

John Millan asked license to operate Mickey rooms.

Mrs. Ina Preffer asked license for York Rooms.

All applications accompanied by fees were referred to police committee. Those without fees referred back for fees.

On motion of the council the Klamath News was again made the official advertising organ of the city on a bid.

Ordinance licensing restaurants and soft drink parlors was passed to second reading. \$5 fee set for restaurants; \$15 for restaurants; combination houses to pay both. Bottled goods come under ordinance but not to be enforced.

Olds asked a fee for "ard drink places, said surely must have come here. Attorney Schupp said after happenings at Mullin, Idaho he thought it best not to include such places.

At first \$25 was suggested as fee for restaurants. Van Camp stated that they would make the pancakes thinner than at present. The council cut the fee to \$15.

K Cafe given contract to feed city prisoners on recommendation of committee.

Oscar Smith Tire Shop given contract for tires and tubes for city cars on recommendation of committee.

Finance committee, through Councilman Olds, recommended special bill of \$20 be allowed Oregon state board of health for recent special trip of inspection. Moved, seconded and passed.

Moved, seconded and carried to allow Chris Blanas to take Bancroft privilege on a lot by paying three years' assessments and interest to date.

Moved, seconded and carried that C. C. Kelley's fee for joining an engineer's society be paid by city so he can get reports. The fee is \$15.

Mayor reported that the state would buy issue of \$310,000 Bancroft bonds of city on February 11 if the city would buy \$47,000 state bonds. Premium to be paid by city for state bonds. City to take money from bond interest fund now drawing two per cent and get more than five per cent on the state bonds, as well as selling city bonds.

Mayor given authority to write state that city will buy \$12,000 bonds now and \$35,000 by June.

FOR RESULTS USE THE HERALD WANT ADS.

1, 1930, as requested by state.

Lambert, chairman of street committee; no report.

REFER SEWER MATTER

Matter of sewer of houses on McKinley street referred to sewer committee to decide who owned four-inch line to which several other houses connected. To determine procedure and decide who shall pay if new line needed.

MUST PRESENT FEES

Olds, police committee chairman, recommended taxi applications be turned back where no fees sent in to city and an order issued to that effect.

ALLOW PERMITS

Following permits allowed: Rooming houses—Arcade, rooms in Pelican theatre building, Bradbury, Cascade, Baldwin, Kern, New Home, Shasta and Ray Hotel; Donari's pool room; J. H. Cook (new card room); H. W. Donkle, master plumber's license; 12 barber shops where fees are sent in to city already.

TWO REPORT NOTHING

Chairman Van Camp of the fire committee and Chairman Butler of the light committee, had nothing to report.

ONE ON FORD!

Richmond wanted to know if permission had to be given for a house to be moved. Was told that \$250 had to be put up to insure payment should streets be injured. Richmond said he saw someone on East Main moving a small house on a Ford truck. Said it was being "crowded" along.

CHARTER COMMITTEE BUSY

Mayor Waters stated that the city charter committee met and had started to work in a businesslike manner. Three committees appointed, one to study city manager form of city government; one to study commissioner form; and one to study present form.

Mayor stated that one chairman informed him that his committee would meet every night this week and wanted him to sit with his committee; soon another called with the same news and the same request. Mayor stated he told second man to call some councilman that he couldn't be present everywhere at the same time.

Olds said: "We can leave our phones down and they can't get us"—councilmen laughed. Council adjourned. Police committee met with two taxi company owners.

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