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A SUBSTITUTE FOR DELIA

A COMPLETE STORY.

It was all done in such a whirl that Leslie Sherman had no time to think of herself or her plans for the winter until her father and stepmother and sister Nancy were fairly out at sea. The pilot brought back a note from Mrs. Sherman, advising Leslie to send for her aunt Clara to stay with her, and hoping she would not be too lonely while they were all away.

Leslie was fond of adventure and hated monotony. Mrs. Sherman was a born conservative. Leslie had spent much of her childhood at boarding-school, and later, college had occupied four years. The last twelve months she had been at home, restless, eager, dissatisfied, and very uncertain what to do.

Then Nancy had been suddenly taken ill, Nancy, the little fair-haired sister who was the special darling of her parents, and the doctor had ordered an immediate flight to the South of France. Something had been said about Leslie's going, too, but she had opposed it, and Mrs. Sherman had been rather relieved that she preferred to stay behind.

In the time that had slipped by since Leslie's return from college she had tried several ways of amusing and occupying herself. She had studied book-keeping, and had begged her father to employ her, but he had banteringly put her off. She had taken a course in shorthand, and perfected what she had already picked up in college as a help in taking notes from her favorite professors, and the click of her typewriter was often heard, and the ringing of its little bell came sounding from the room where she studied.

A good deal of Leslie's time was passed at an East Side settlement, and she learned to love the girls she met there. She was adored by the maids in her home, and admired when she entered anybody's drawing-room. Leslie Sherman was a good specimen of the modern society girl, gracious to her finger-tips, and every where at her ease.

She sat down to dinner alone the first night after the family left. The old butler felt sorry for her, and fancied she must be desolate, and her pulse was dancing, and she was exulting to her freedom to do as she pleased in trifles or in larger things without an ever-recurring argument.

When she was undressing, some hours later, she noticed in the mirror opposite her chair that Norah, who was preparing the room and bed for the night, had been out, and Winnie, who ought to have acted as chambermaid in her absence, had herself gone to bed with a toothache.

"What is it, Norah?" asked Leslie. "Have you had news from home?" "Oh, no, Miss Leslie, dear, no bad news from home, but Delia, poor thing, has to go to the hospital to-morrow for a bad operation. She never knew it nor did I, till I went with her to-day. But it's now or never, the doctors say, and she'll lose her job, and it's a good one. She'll be three months before she can get back to the office."

Leslie knew Norah's pride in her sister, who was a stenographer in an editorial office down-town. She was a clever little thing, whom Norah had brought from Ireland, and who had been graduated from the high school a year before, and had since been supporting herself.

"Norah," Leslie said, "you are more worried about Delia's job than about her life. You surprise me."

"Sure, the most of them lives through operations now, Miss Leslie, and it's the quality, has them done every day; but a job like Delia's is hard to get, and the place can't be kept for her. The only way would be if she could get a substitute. But substitutes are likely to hold on to good places themselves."

"Well, Norah, don't fret. I'll think what can be done."

And Norah went to her little room comforted. Miss Leslie had a way of comforting people, and Norah felt as if her load was shared, especially when Leslie looked after her with a cheery wave of the hand and a bright smile.

The next day Leslie put on her plainest black gown, with severe linen collar and cuffs and looked over her hats to see which was the simplest. As soon as breakfast was over she called the Ladies' Friend," she said, "to see about Delia's substitute."

She did not return until six o'clock. Then she called Norah. "I have a dinner engagement," she said, "and I shall want the carriage quarter past seven."

Norah hovered about, laying out the dainty garments for Miss Leslie's toilet. She did not ask the question that was trembling on her lips, but he pleading eyes were fixed on Leslie's face. Presently Leslie looked up, smiling.

"I have to leave home at eight o'clock. You see, Norah, I couldn't arrange very well to find the right substitute for Delia, she's a clear-headed and diligent kind of body wouldn't be accepted, so I thought the best thing I could do was to substitute for her myself. I had no trouble. I said I was a friend of Delia's and competent, and I asked the editor to try me for her. He said he knew office work took so much out of a body, Norah, it's harder than cramming at college, but it's interesting, too."

"You don't mean it, Miss Leslie! You can't mean it! What would Mr. Sherman say if he knew?"

"My father? I don't think he'd mind it, Norah. He'd like me to know the practical side. But he'd tell me I couldn't work all day long and go to dinners and dances afterward. I've always wondered at the settlement how girls could endure working by day and having fun, as they call it, in the evening. I shall know better how to talk to them after this."

"Stop crying at once, Norah, and fasten my gown. Understand that I wish to do this, and that you are not to about it. The office will get well, and all you have to do is to keep my secret here."

"Miss Sherman, may I present Mr. Willoughby?" said the hostess of the evening a little later. "Mr. Willoughby will take you in to dinner, my dear."

Mr. Willoughby was a tall, thin, clean-shaven man, with a somewhat ceremonious manner, and very near-sighted eyes, which were aided by spectacles.

Leslie laid her hand on his arm as they walked in to dinner. His spirits were gaily effervescent, but her manner was demure. She had been taking dictation from Mr. Roger Willoughby all that day.

Several of the women present were interested in settlement work, and were engaged in preparations for a bazaar which was expected to net a large sum for a favorite charity.

"You'll serve at my flower booth, won't you, Miss Sherman?" said one.

"Thank you, Mrs. Montgomery, you'll have to excuse me. My parents are away and my winter will be a busy one. But I'll come and buy flowers."

"Are you going to live at the settlement?"

"Part of the time," Leslie replied.

"You are one of those benevolent young women who leave home and live at settlements, are you?" inquired Mr. Willoughby, with a perfunctory air.

"Occasionally I do," replied Leslie.

"You'll never do much good in that way," he answered. "It's a working girl sees through the sham and resents it. A girl who lives as you do at home cannot understand the alphabet of what the real working girl needs and meets every day."

before, nor on hers that she had met him. The preoccupied, impersonal girl who sat at her typewriter had nothing to do with the attractive young woman who had been at the dinner-party the night before.

Leslie stayed at her post for three full months, when Delia came back, restored to health, and resumed her tasks as if nothing had happened. The slim, tall girl in black was greeted from Mr. Willoughby's office. During the winter he had not again met Miss Sherman anywhere, but he encountered her at a dance just after her substituting was ended. He professed great pleasure at the meeting.

"Why, we haven't met since that night at Mrs. Orh's! Where have you kept yourself?" he inquired.

"I have been very busy, Mr. Willoughby. But I've not forgotten about that girl in your office, the girl who was common-place but capable and had the middle-class air; but you thought her so kind. You remember, don't you?"

Mr. Willoughby stared at her. He took off his glasses and stared again. Then he bowed low.

"Pardon me. Did I speak so fully? Really, Miss Sherman, you won't believe me, but the resemblance is striking, and your voice and the girl's are amazingly alike. And I said she had a middle-class air! I must have been deserted by my good angel. Dear lady, I ask pardon of all settlement workers on my benighted knees. How did you ever carry it through?" — *Youths' Companion.*

CHURCH SERVICES.

Changes to be made in Church services should be at this office not later than one o'clock Friday afternoon.

METHODIST. First Methodist.—Rev. Wm. Dobson at 11 and 7. Strangers welcome. Attentive ushers.

Grace Church.—Rev. W. W. Lodge at 11 and Rev. Robert Pegrum at 7. Strangers welcome and provided with comfortable seats.

PRESBYTERIAN. Zion.—Prayer meeting at 10. Rev. W. H. Seigewick at 11 and 7. Sunday School and Bible class at 2.30.

St. James.—Rev. T. F. Fullerton at 11 and 7. Sunday School and Bible Class at 2.30.

BAPTIST. Rev. G. R. White at 11 and 7. Sunday School at 2.30 p. m. Visitors always welcome and provided with comfortable seats.

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN. Rev. Robert Pegrum at 11 and Rev. W. W. Lodge at 7. Sunday school at 2.30 o'clock. Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 8 o'clock. Seats free and unappropriated.

ST. DUNSTON'S CATHEDRAL. First Mass at 7.30, Second Mass at 9 a.m. High Mass at 10.30. Vespers and Benediction at 7 p. m. Catechism at 2 p. m.

ANGELICAN. St. Paul's.—Morning prayer at 11 a. m. Sunday School at 2.30. Evening Prayer at 7 p. m. All seats free and unappropriated.

St. Peter's.—Rev. Jas. Simpson, M. A., Priest Incumbent. Holy Communion 8 a. m. Service at 11 a. m. Sunday School at 2.30 p. m. Services 7 p. m.

SALVATION ARMY. Sunday Service at 7, 11, 3, and 7.30 p. m. Week night Service—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30

DYSPEPTIC

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