

THE WOMAN HE MARRIED

BY JANE PHELPS

LEAVES IN SEARCH OF HEALTH

Chapter 98

The doctor came that evening and a long talk with Dick. He very encouragingly told him it would be only a short time before he would be in a different climate, and that it would take months where he was.

"You will go, won't you, Dick?" asked the doctor left. "I am glad to do anything to get you quickly for your sake, Nan, we can't go west. We haven't money."

"The money will be had some day," he replied, then said no more. He looked so tired, so white and so feeble that even the doctor's face had turned pale.

"The next morning when he awoke he felt a little better and brighter than he had for some time."

"You must go to California," said the doctor. "It was then that Dick said, 'Nan, how?'"

"Don't ask any questions, dear," said Dick. "I will take care of you, and the first weeks of your stay will be a little better and brighter than you have had for some time."

"What about your? I suppose you will leave Junior with mother?" Dick asked.

"You must go without me, Dick," said Dick. "I have too much work promised to leave home."

"I had made up my mind to go," said Dick. "The work had been piled up on me, and it was a little better and brighter than you have had for some time."

"You mean I am to go way out alone?" Dick asked in amazement in his eyes and face.

"For a time, yes. I'll come just as soon as I can," said Dick. "I can't do it, Nan. I'd die of loneliness."

"You must go, Dick. I think there was something in my face that started him. Something I did not mean to show, but that told my fears, for he said, 'Very well, Nan, I'll go.' Then Dick seemed dreadful to have you go for me."

"I felt like saying that it was because of my wrong doing that Dick was as he was, but Dick said, 'Wouldn't you work for me?'"

"There is no difference, Dick," said Dick. "I will break my heart if you would leave me to have any foolish notions about it. My business is finished. I am a success in a small way. You know that, and I need not think of me trying to do a new notion without assurance of its success. I shall come to you as soon as I can. But, dear, when I do, it will be to find you as well and ready to come home. Even the doctor said you would be sure to put up a good fight for your health because of Junior and me."

"And because of you two I will," said Dick. "I declared with the first bit of information he had shown since I had told him he must go alone. 'I knew you would when you understood what it meant to you, Dick. It means more to me than even I can understand, perhaps it is because of my love and because of my remorse. I don't know which the stronger reason. I feel that 'Please, dear.'"

"But, Dick, I can't help feeling that I do—that if I had been the sort of a wife you never would have been here, never been with me. I was just as weak, just as wicked. Let us make a bargain, never to speak of it again. We are happy, the past is over and done with. Perhaps, dear, I am a better woman, you a better woman because of it. Even if I do not know that."

"I know, dear. And I realize that. I must make the future ours. I must know that I have been a woman you thought me when you married me, instead of the woman I have been."

"You are, always have been the only woman in the world for me, Nan, and I think you know it. If I have made mistakes they are yours, they belong to both of us. I won't let you take all the blame on your shoulders. I will do what you ask, dear, I will fight to get well for you and Junior."

"We talked very little after this, but I was terribly busy all the week looking for Dick, trying to think of every little thing I could do to get him to his comfort. On Saturday he left for California. And only after he was gone did I allow myself the pleasure of weeping for him, the giving way to my tears. Hours I agonized, trying to believe I had done the right thing, but I was so fearful that he might pass out of my life—I knew he was very ill."

"Winter Hard On Baby" - The winter season is a hard one on the baby. He is more or less confined to stuffy, badly ventilated room. It is so often starchy that the mother does not get him out in the fresh air as often as she should. He catches cold which rack his little system; his stomach and bowels get out of order and he becomes peevish. The mother should keep a box of Baby's Own Tablets in the house. These regulate the stomach and bowels and break up colds. They are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box.

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Chamberlain's Liniment is wonderfully penetrating and healing. It affords quick, positive relief to aching shoulders, backs or necks and hastens complete recovery. Years of success stand behind it. Give it a trial.

LINIMENT

NAN STRUGGLES ALONE

Chapter 99

After Dick left I gave way to an extent that had not been for him good. My mother loved me, but she had only enough to live on, and so was unable to help us financially. I knew if I could make enough to go to Dick that Junior would be safe with her, that he would receive the best of care. But beyond that she could not help me. So I tried to put my grief, my fears, away, and attend to my business.

But in spite of all my efforts it was many days before I could do my work in the same old way I had used to do it when Dick was at home. Thoughts of him, fears for him, constantly intruded between me and the tasks I set myself. It was only by saying, "I will do it for him," that I was able to accomplish anything. But gradually I saw the futility of this and determined to set myself to do, give every thought, every moment, every bit of my strength to making money enough to cure my husband.

Orders poured in upon me. I sometimes thought if there were 48 hours in a day I could not have time enough to take care of them. I raised my prices, but because I did better work than the other shops it made no difference, people still gave me their orders.

Dick wrote every day, sometimes cheerfully, always hopefully. But I could read between the lines and I knew he was lonely, wanted me, yet would not say so. I never failed to tell him that I would soon be able to come to him, yet his expenses, only necessary ones, added to the cost of living for Junior and me, was about all I could manage. At times I felt as if my heart would break. I was so lonely, so heart worn, that I would do anything to get him to comfort him, to feel his arms about my neck, his kisses on my lips. But he must remain there, and if he did must conserve all my strength to work for him.

So I struggled on. Hopeless at times, hopeful at others. But by ways that felt like feeling of responsibility for all that had happened which was a good whipping me on whenever my spirit failed.

I worked so hard that I slept from sheer weariness of body. That was my salvation. It enabled me to go on day after day even when the agony of spirit was most poignant.

From Dick's letters I knew he grieved for Junior only less than for me. It spurred me to greater exertions. I would take the boy with me. Instead of leaving him with mother as I had intended. Perhaps his childish prattle, his joyousness, was what Dick needed. But this meant still more money. And although mother tried to dissuade me, once the idea came to me, it was not to be denied.

"Daddy misses you," I would say when I looked upon Junior asleep in his crib, "mother must take you to him," and because of the thought I worked harder than ever. Perhaps if I could manage to take Junior, Dick would get well more quickly.

So I worked and planned for long weary months. Then one day \$2,000 to my credit in the bank, and money enough to take me and Junior to Dick. I closed the shop and started for California.

Dick had moved about considerably at the advice of a physician. Doctor Hill had recommended. He was now in Atlanta, on the desert. I had no idea that sort of a place it had, and left Los Angeles full of excitement, of joy at the thought of being with him again. But when after reaching the nearest station we were driven several miles to the place. I wondered how Dick had managed to live, it seemed so lonely a place to me.

There had been up before the tent only to be closed down because of lack of demand. It was indescribably lonely and lonesome when we arrived. The drug store and post office combined gave us directions where we could find Dick.

He was so brown that at first he looked remarkably healthy. He was compared to the thin, emaciated white faced Dick who had left Lansing months before. But after a bit I saw it was but the brown of the desert, and so misleading.

His joy at seeing us was pathetic. "Daddy didn't expect to see you!" he said as he hugged Junior to his breast as if never intending to let him go.

"I come to see you, daddy, mother brought me," Junior told him as he cuddled close. "Mother brings everything that is good to me," Dick said happily.

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ON THE DESERT

Chapter 91

Dick was better, but even so he was far from well. He still coughed, but I could see at once that his loneliness had worn on him. He encouraged Junior to prattle every moment when I was not with him. Once during the first few days he said, "I love the desert at times, Nan. But at other times the loneliness of it frightens me. I feel shut out and shut out from every human being. That is its fascination for some, perhaps. But I guess I like companionship too well to ever care for the desert very long."

I could not see why anyone should live on the desert unless it was absolutely necessary, but I did not say so to Dick. It seemed indescribably lonely to me. The white sand all about us, the cacti and sage brush, the cloudless sky that made you feel an ache for a good shower—all oppressed me.

I saw the physician to whom Doctor Hill had sent Dick. "Your husband has improved and now that you are here, he will do even better. But you wish me to tell you the truth. He cannot live in a cold climate. He will live for years here, not necessarily on the desert all that time. But could he remain here a year, then I think it would be perfectly feasible for him to live in Santa Barbara (where he had gone at first), or in any mild climate."

"Then you think he must remain here a year longer?" I asked, almost frightened at the thought. A whole year in that place—for, of course, I should not leave him.

"Yes, if he is to live. I could say no more. So I made my plans. Dick was living in a tent. He had tried to be so economical that many things could be done to make it more comfortable. I had a good room made, and bought a few bright colored Indian rugs. Then I fitted up a kitchen where I could cook and store dishes and utensils. We would eat in the larger tent in the middle of the day, outdoors night and morning. I had brought a few good books, all the latest magazines, etcetera. When I had everything arranged Dick said:

"It takes a woman's touch to make home, doesn't it, Nan?" but now that I am here we are going to have it just as homey as we can." I felt sure I could get through the year on the \$2,000. Beyond that I dared not think or look.

"It was forlorn, dear," I replied, necessary but it would have to be in a strange place among strange people. And while I had the experience, I would lack the help mother's acquaintance had given in starting in Lansing.

But I had a long 13 months ahead of me in which to plan. Dick and I discussed the wisdom of keeping Junior with us. He was old enough to commence going to school, and mother would gladly take him. "I'll teach him, it will give me something to do. And it will do him good to live up here for a year," Dick said. "It is a pity if my college education can't be turned to some account."

I at once saw the advantage of Dick's suggestion. It would keep

him busy, keep him from thinking too much of his health, and at the same time he would be entertained by Junior, who was full of fun and life.

"That's a fine idea, and we will take up the study of some language together, French or Spanish." Dick had wanted to do this when we were first married, but my mind had been so taken up with other things that I had not kept at it long enough to do me any good.

"I am pretty rusty, but I guess we can manage to get along," Dick who was a good linguist, replied. "I thus we planned to make livable the year we must spend far from human companionship. And I was surprised how much I found to do, how fast the time went. I took great pains that Dick's food should be dainty and nourishing; that he should sleep in the air as much as possible. We had swung a hammock outside the tent for him, and that he should not become over-tired. It was surprising how quickly he began to show decided improvement."

"It's because I am not lonely any more," Nan. "I felt sure you needed us long before you came, Dick." I returned "but it was best for me to stay until I could make things safe for us for a little time. Now we are together and have nothing to worry about."

"No, by the end of the year I shall be able to work. You can't be sure that will mean, Nan. To work again, to care for you and Junior to try and repay you for all you have done for me."

"Don't, Dick! I bent and kissed him. As always the heart of what I had done to him in those years in New York was present in my mind.

"The year was over—Dick strong and well again—seemingly as healthy as ever, yet I had the haunting fear the doctor's attitude gave me when he said we must attempt to live in a cold climate. Dick laughed at my fears, although he made no move toward going back East, but talked always of remaining in California.

Our money was almost gone. In the last two or three months Dick had done a little writing for magazines and papers. He wrote a book about Tungsten which brought him a good big check, and a return for more of his work.

"Why ever try to do office work again?" I asked. "You have shown that you can write acceptably. Why not keep on doing that? Then we can live where we please regardless of conditions."

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Take Hood's Pills for a gentle laxative (small dose) or an active cathartic (large dose.)

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"It has been on my mind for some time," he responded. "But when the next two articles were returned with the printed slip so discouraging to the amateur writer, he said: 'I guess it would be a broken reed if we had to depend upon it.'"

But when the next trial was successful I broached my scheme which I believed would work nicely.

"Let us take a little place in Southern California, where we can raise some of the things we eat, and where you can work out doors. We can get a house cheap, and rent some land and live in a tent. We have found it very comfortable. Then I will go to work quietly to start my drapery business in a small way. Don't object, dear! I shall be much happier if you don't."

"All right, if it is necessary I won't say a single word. But I prove I can earn enough to live, just simply will you agree to be happy, and let me do it—even if I can't give you as much as I would like to?"

"It isn't what you give me, dear!" My thoughts flew to my old complaints that I could not have what other, richer women had. "What other, richer women had, is what I want to do to help you. You must get sick again, you know."

"I shan't. I'm as strong as an ox again."

Good Roads

ARTICLE VI—PROVIDING HIGHWAYS FOR MODERN TRANSPORTATION DEMANDS

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