

A HUSBAND TO MARCIA

By CAROLYN BEECHER

Chapter XIII

A bit subdued, perhaps a little frightened because of John's sternness, his evident sorrow over her deceit, Marcia seemed to realize that she must do something to win back the confidence he still expressed in her, but which she could see had received a shock. Not that Marcia thought she had done anything for which she should be censured. If John had given her a larger allowance it would not have happened. Nevertheless she would be extra nice to him, she said to herself, until he had forgotten all about it.

"This, she did not realize, John had done. He must forget. He would see with a thankfulness out of proportion to the way the affair had affected her. Marcia's attempt to assure him of her repentance, which he believed genuine.

For a time she ceased to urge him to go in the evening. She curtailed her entertaining. She forgot to remonstrate when he failed to don a dinner jacket one night when Bob and Nell French came to dinner. She refrained from mentioning cards and hurried home from the clubs so that she was at home when he arrived.

"I feel like a saint," she told Nell French, whom she allowed to believe John objected to her playing only because she was late in getting home. "I wish my shoulders and see if you don't feel the wings sprouting." Marcia, Nell replied after she had done as Marcia requested. "Aren't men queer creatures? They can come home as late as they like, but just take a woman be out when they come in and—wow!"

"You've said it. Why, John acts like a man with a sore head if he comes first. That's why I hurry away after we finish playing instead of staying to chat. He doesn't really approve of my playing you know."

"He used to like a game himself. That's the funny part of it! He always liked cards, but since I joined the club he scarcely ever plays. He says one gambler in the family is enough."

"How like a man! As long as he does a thing it is all right. But just let a woman do it, then look out. What does he say to your losses? You have been playing in rotten luck lately."

"He knows nothing about it," Marcia prevaricated. "For heaven's sake, don't say anything before I pay my losses out of my allowance. It is no one's business whether I win or lose."

"Your husband must be very generous. Why don't you get that new model car we talked about? Claire Sanders has one, an it's a beauty. Your car is all right, frantically, but nowadays one always gets the latest model."

Not a Blenheim... Gouraud's Oriental Cream... Will relieve the pain of bruises and small hurts.

Larry good afternoon and hurried to his office, or rather as long as Marcia will let me," he added grimly.

Chapter XIV

"It's a peach of a night!" Marcia said, her spirits rising with every step they took in the crisp night air. It was Thursday night, and all the lights of the city were on to the Ritzmore. I'm crazy for a good dance."

"Not to-night. I am too tired," John's answer had been curt. Marcia acquiesced with a shrug. He had had a hard day; had been obliged to do something he hated for time on some of their bills. Everything Marcia said had rubbed him the wrong way. Everything they did that night had only added to his discomfort.

The restaurant dinner cost nearly six dollars, although he had eaten practically nothing. But Marcia as usual had insisted upon having dishes they never had at home. She had cooked, and hence costly. Usually he agreed with her that it was a good plan, but tonight dollars counted large in his mind. He would have preferred a cold bite at home. They had lingered long over their coffee. Marcia interested in a gay party at the next table, while John had fretted to be gone. Bed to him seemed the most attractive place.

"I'm going to take a walk. Don't wait for me, or right to bed. I have a rotten headache and may be late."

"Very well. I'm sorry your head aches. Maybe the fresh air will help you. I noticed it was rather cold in the restaurant," she said, and frowned behind her hand before she entered the elevator.

Until they reached home John had thought he would retire at once. But suddenly the thought of Marcia's chatter seemed more and more appealing. He could hear her until he was almost asleep. He went to bed without waking her. His nerves were, as he said to himself frantically, but nowadays one always gets the latest model."

"My, Marcia! You are getting nifty!" Now Marcia had no thought of a larger car until this conversation with Nell French. She had even given up, with many sighs, the idea of changing her coupe for the latest model. Given it up because she must, at least for the present, until John forgot about her loss at cards, her putting up her ring as security.

"I can't afford to stay in and in can't afford to get out," he said grimly to himself one day after he had met Larry Summers, who had invited him to lunch with him at the club. John had accepted, and the real welcome he received from the members, the "Glad to see you, sir!" from his favorite waiter, gave him a homey feeling of content.

the street, but John Aldrich was not conscious of any discomfort as he bent his head to the wind and more carefully held the bundle in his arm.

"I'm a fool, a damn fool. But I couldn't help it!" he said aloud as he stumbled a bit and turned cold, not because of the weather, but because of the fear that he would drop the precious parcel.

John had been on his way home, a bit later than usual, tired almost to nausea when in a window of a second-hand shop he had spied a piece of china. A plate, small to the casual observer, insignificant. If only the shopkeeper were ignorant of its value!

John's blood leaped at the thought. He was in the shop, the plate in his hands almost without volition of his own. He tried to keep his voice steady, casual when he asked the price. But it trembled a bit in spite of all he could do. It is hard for a connoisseur to hide his greed. As hard as his for a miser to conceal his greed for gold.

The price put upon the plate was ridiculously low, a mere song compared with its worth. John's blood raced as he counted out the sum, and with his priceless bit of china hastened from the place. He was happy for a bit, happy with the happiness of a collector who has stumbled upon something to add to his collection—something wonderful.

To one who understood nothing of the lure of that bit of china John's delight would have seemed almost foolish. But to one who knew it would have been only perfectly natural.

Small as the price had been after the first joy of possession had passed, John felt that he should not have bought it. But with the thought he hugged it more closely. It was his!

"What in the world made you so late? I wanted to go tonight. Now we won't be able to," Marcia greeted John as he came in. He laid his parcel down carefully and divested himself of his snow-laden hat and coat before he replied: "I was late in leaving the office; then I stopped to buy a piece of china I saw in a shop window. It is a wonderful piece," he added in an apologetic tone that in some way made him angry at himself. "Then, 'It is too bad a night to go out, anyway.'"

"The weather makes no difference when you are rich," Marcia said. She was really disappointed. It made her ill-humored. John was carefully unwrapping his purchase, handling it delicately as one handles precious things.

"How much did you pay for that thing?" Marcia asked as he held it up for her to look at, drawing her attention to its beauty, telling her that it was valuable, relating to her in a few words the history of that particular kind of pottery. "And you paid twenty dollars for that thing!" she exclaimed, "which only today I lent myself to you. You pressed. One night she remarked: 'What fools some women are! They seem to believe that after marriage the romance continues.'"

Home Nursing and Health Hints... Mentholatum... Will relieve the pain of bruises and small hurts.

"Don't push yourself too far! Even a physique like yours won't stand abuse."

"Bob, how do the women stand it?" The question startled Bob French. "What do you mean, John? Stand what?"

"This constant going? Why man they don't stop a minute! Neither your wife nor mine. And thousands of other women like them. Clubs of all sorts—bridge, social, and greatest joke of all, political. Every afternoon something. They gamble, fool, all the women nowadays, and are under a nervous strain. Then they hurry home only to bolt their food and rush to the theatre or opera or to give a dinner or to go to one. Dress, rush! I don't see how they get away with it. The worst of it is they drag us poor men along."

"A sort of 'giggle, gabble, and gig' life they lead, eh? You said a mouthful, Aldrich, when you said the worst of it was the way they drag us poor devils of husbands along in their mad hunt for excitement. Every little while I have to call a halt, but Nell never does. She's a wonder, I tell her."

"I guess there's no use discussing it," John said with an attempt to laugh, "but I feel some times that I shall have to get away from home for a while. I can't blame Marcia or not young, full of life and craves excitement."

"I know—there are two sides to every story, I suppose. Well, so long, John, take better care of yourself."

"So long, old man!" John soliloquized as he went on alone, and in a way he took comfort from the thought. He wasn't the only man who suffered from a too strenuous wife.

Marcia was developing new and strange ideas of life and living. John concluded it was due to the influence of the clubs she attended, or rather to the sentiments to which the clubwomen gave vent. One night she remarked: "What fools some women are! They seem to believe that after marriage the romance continues."

"No, I do not!" emphatically "People settle down to a comfortable companionship. That's all. 'Suppose you married me, what then?' Either separate or make the best of it."

there was never any left in the bottom of the glass. So, while Betty carefully wrote "Sugar Syrup" on a red-edged label and applied it to the glass bottle and brought a funnel and poured the cool syrup into it, Billie helped squeeze lemons and oranges and his mother strained the juice of each into shining glass jars, which Betty proceeded to label.

Then there was a journey to the fruit cellar for a bottle of grape juice, which was placed on the ice, while the fruit juices and the syrup took their place in the lower corner of the ice box.

Children are Rewarded As a reward for their labors, after they had helped clear the table of fruit finds, the children were allowed "long, cool drinks through a straw." For Mrs. Green knew from experience that when one is young drinks taste much cooler through a straw. To the children's use was also indicated the array of very colorful glass tumblers standing in a row on the lower shelf in the pantry. The older members of the family had relegated them to the limbo of old-fashioned things, but to the children the ruby colored glass made drinks look pink. And something through a straw is the perfect drink.

The litter of lemon rinds were grated, and lemon pudding was put on the dinner menu for the day. When Betty went out into the yard again, infinitely refreshed, she announced to the neighbors that her mother had a lot of cool drinks ready in the ice box because there was going to be a thunder storm which, if inaccurate, was not untrue.

And because they had all the "frosty" drinks they wished at home, Betty and Billie were able to save their pennies for the circus. And their mother was spared much trouble by her preparedness.

SEVEN SHOPPING AGES DESCRIBED Just as there are the seven ages of man, so are there seven ages of shopping or buying. Each with its own peculiarities and idiosyncrasies. They must, of necessity, overlap, and yet each has distinct characteristics.

First there is the toddle age, during which time practically all articles of wear are selected and bought without consulting or the consent of the victim. The early part of this period is very profitable to the merchant, for it is during this stage that all the love of parents and grandparents is lavished on the new arrival in the form of every conceivable pink or blue "do-rummy."

Second comes the 8 to 10 age, during which the chief concern is finding shoes and stockings and dresses and trousseaus made of some fabric that will resist the tree trunks of buildings and other prominences on which small boys and girls will climb, in spite of all attempts in educating them otherwise.

Third is the sweatshirt period, the puppy love stage when boys and girls first find that they shouldn't scratch each other's eyes out. It is at this time they begin to take a first interest in clothes to the sorrow and horror of parents, for very often the latest in this time are anything but in accordance with the known rules of society. This tendency is toward loud ties, striped socks, fancy dresses, etc., to the delight and profit of the merchant.

Fourth comes the courting age, during which each sex is looking for its life mate. This is the period when each dresses with the sole purpose of pleasing the opposite sex. It is at this time that the most interest is taken in ultra-stylish, candy and champagne frocks and the latest in the line of the stock of the true elephants. This second line of mastodonts, which proves to have been ancestor of a second family migrated into and across Asia and into North America by way of the Behring Straits. They gave rise to the long-jawed mastodonts which have been found in forest form in Florida, Texas and elsewhere in the United States.

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WRIGLEYS New Joy Wrigley's WIPPS 10 FOR 5¢ COATED PEPPERMINT GUM See That Smile? Wear it yourself when you taste the delicious peppermint flavoured candy jacket and chewing gum center. Big in Benefit—small in price. The Flavour Lasts A100

The earliest ancestors of the true elephant group are still unknown. Their original home may have been in the regions of Central and Northern Asia still unexplored by the paleontologist. Like the families of the horses, the elephant family can be traced back to the period called the Eocene, a period rather hazy as geologic time, but still many millions of years ago. In this period the group of the mastodonts and the group of the true elephants split off from the common ancestor which we suppose them to have had and from each other. They began also the divisions of the mastodon group and of the elephant group into the different sub-groups which have been discovered as fossils or as surviving animals. Scientists have traced the mastodon stock and the stock of the true elephants, five of the Egyptian mastodonts noted by the Egyptian geologist, and which were brought back from Egypt have disclosed another early mastodon type, distinct from that reported by the Egyptian geologists, and which proves to have been ancestor of a second family migrated into and across Asia and into North America by way of the Behring Straits. They gave rise to the long-jawed mastodonts which have been found in forest form in Florida, Texas and elsewhere in the United States.

It appears, however, from recent discoveries of Prof. Barbour in Nebraska that there was an offshoot from this family, which resulted in a short-jawed type of mastodon, South America fossils. The European mastodon and a rare tusked variety from Mexico complete the known branches of the great mastodon group. The group of the true elephants includes the African and the Asiatic elephants which still survive, the mammoth, which was contemporary with cave man in Europe but is now extinct, and similar extinct mammoth once common in North America. Both the mastodonts and the elephants were great travellers and were possessed of extraordinary intelligence and enterprise. The mastodonts were chiefly grazers, and lived on the grassy plains and treeless steppes. Each in their own particular habitat, they covered a large part of the world. Both groups possessed unusual ability to resist extremes of heat and cold and to adapt themselves generally to such living conditions as they found.

EGGS IN NEW STYLE. George, you may bring me two fried eggs, some ham, a pot of coffee, and some rolls," said the man to the waiter. "Yes, sir." "His companion said: 'You may bring me the same. No, just wait a minute; just eliminate the egg.' " "Yes, sir." "In a moment the waiter returned. "Excuse me, sir, but what did you say about those eggs?" "I merely told you to eliminate them." "Yes, sir. And he hurried away to the kitchen. "In a few minutes he came back once more, loaded confidentially and penitently over the table and said: "We had a bad accident this morning, sir, the limonator got busted off, right at the handle. Will you take them fried, same as this gentleman?"—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

WATCHING THE BOSS. Employer—"Young man, it will pay you to keep your eyes open while you are in this office." Office—"Yes, sir, that's just what your wife told me when she came in this morning, and saw what a pretty stenographer you had."—Boston Transcript.

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FEMAL PILLS... ADRIAN'S... For the relief of all the troubles of women.

Smoke... It's use makes you as a judge of tobacco... (Continued on Page Two)

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CORNS Lift Off with Fingers... Doesn't hurt a bit! Drop a little "Freezone" on an aching corn, instantly that corn stops burning, then shortly you lift it right off with fingers. Truly! Your druggist sells a tiny bottle of "Freezone" for a few cents, sufficient to remove every hard corn, foot corn or corn between the toes, and the calluses, without soreness or irritation.

ELEPHANTS Something About Ancestors of Most Adaptive Animal... The elephant, who, next to man, is the most adaptive animal, has its cradle in the land of the Nile. The earliest ancestors of the elephant family found as fossil skeletons in an ancient river bed in Egypt, about 100 miles south of Cairo. In 1907 they were first accurately covered by the British geologist, who was the first to attach to the attached to the Geological Survey of Egypt. It now appears that the remains found are those of an ancestor of one of the two main groups into which the elephant family is divided by the naturalists: the group of the Mastodonts. The other group is that of the true elephants, and the two groups are quite distinct in family history. The chief mark of difference relied upon by experts to distinguish the two groups in the form of the teeth, though there are many other differences in form and habit between the various branches of the two great groups.