

Unholy Bond

By Cameron Doakery
CHAPTER TWO

Part Two

Dr. Eynon filled his pipe with a fresh mixture and stared curiously at Janet.

"Miss Harris, I was wondering if sometime, perhaps tonight, you wouldn't like to—that is—"

The ring of the telephone was strident.

He picked it up too quickly in his relief. Janet could not help but overhear the warm appealing voice of Naomi Farquhar. Dr. Eynon's words confirmed her suspicion.

"Hello Naomi . . . He did? That would be splendid . . . Tonight? For dinner? . . . What time? Fine, I'll be there . . . Goodbye."

Looking exultant he replaced the receiver. For several minutes he seemed absorbed in his thoughts, then he turned to face Janet, seeming almost surprised at finding her still there.

"What was it you were saying, Dr. Eynon?" she prompted.

"What? Oh, oh nothing—nothing of importance."

She rose to go, feeling almost angry and annoyed. "Then that will be all?"

He stared up at her curiously. "Yes, that will be all, Miss Harris."

Out in the corridor she stood before the elevators watching the big dial over one of them. It had halted at four, then slowly it began to move as the elevator descended without further stops.

The doors slid apart and one of the hospital stewards wheeled out an oxygen tank. Janet felt a sharp premonitory twinge . . .

"Someone on the fourth floor taking oxygen, Frank?"

"They ordered it for old Mr. Hartigan."

"He's had another attack?"

"He's gone, Miss Harris—"

slipped away in his sleep, they said. It was too late for the oxygen when they found him."

In spite of herself, Janet's eyes filled with tears.

Two weeks later Janet stood before the full-length mirror of her room in the nurses' residence and nervously put the finishing touches to her hair and uniform.

What could this summons from Dr. Farquhar, the head of Conno-politan Hospital mean? She ran rapidly over her conduct of the past month and could think of no infringement of the rules. Besides, reprimands always came from the head senior nurse unless they verged on dismissal which was a very rare occurrence.

The corridor to Dr. Farquhar's offices seemed very long. In answer to her knock his bluff hearty voice asked her to come in.

He was a big, jovial man with a face almost dangerously red. Strangers expected him to keel over with apoplexy but he had been that way all his life and well-earned vacations spent hunting and fishing merely heightened his color.

"Come in, come in, Miss Harris," he said cordially. "I believe you've already met Mr. Prentice?"

Janet murmured a greeting. What was J. D. Prentice, Mr. Hartigan's irascible lawyer, doing here? Probably wanted to question her about the will. He tilted his head back and peered down his long nose through the upper half of his bi-focal pince-nez.

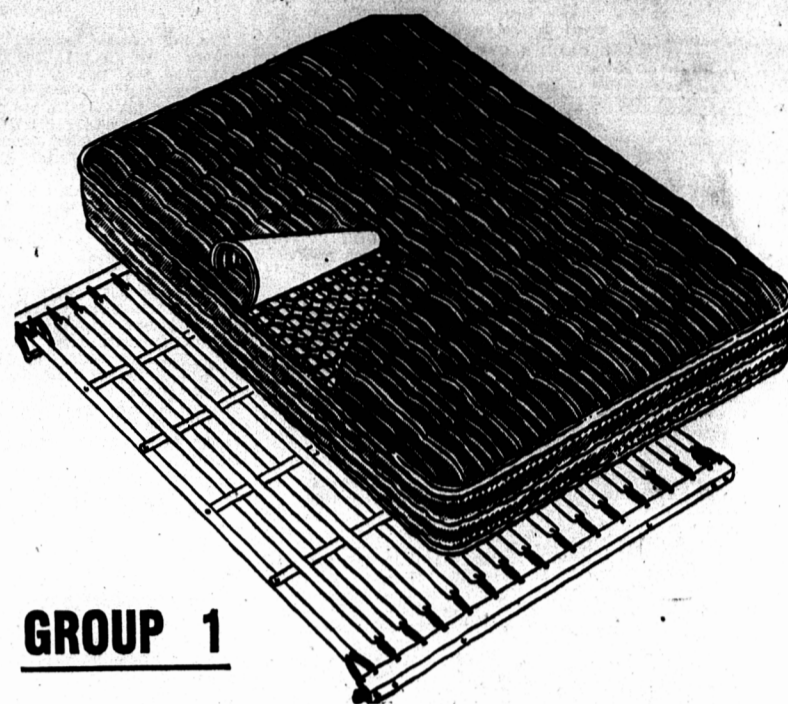
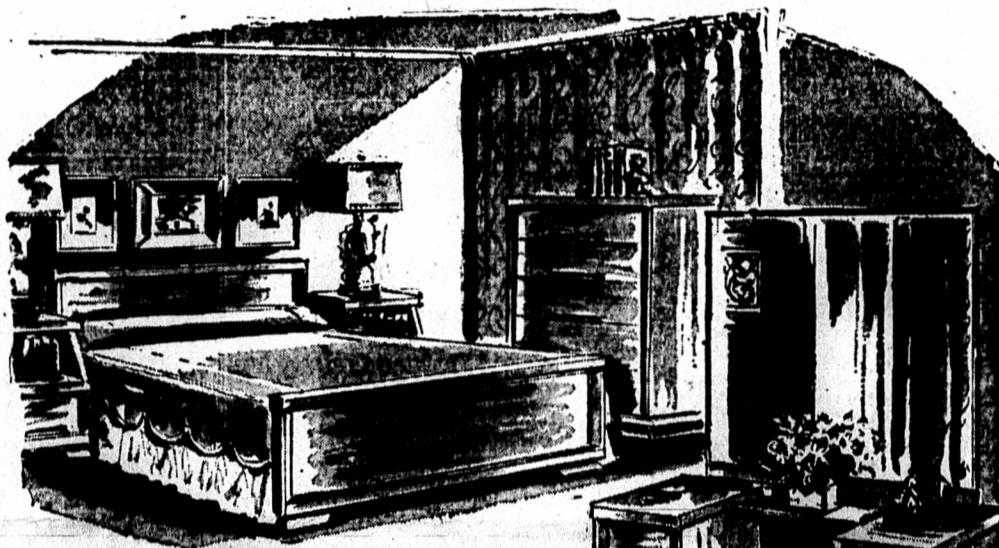
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