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BOTH OVER 21

By Samuel Hopkins Adams

"Please, Wally, I'd hate it." "I suppose so," he yielded. She discovered in herself no hot haste about leaving Bermuda. "If you're in such a hurry to be rid of me, why don't you cable for money? I shouldn't hesitate to borrow from you."

He reddened slightly. "This is a little awkward." For the first time since the revelation of Maida's identity Wallis Kane's smile though embarrassed, was human. "I haven't got it. You see, route, salemen's pay isn't so hot, and I'm living on mine."

"But you could borrow," she persisted. "It's only a few days. I'll pay it right back." "No can do. The fact is, I made an agreement that for a year I'd live on my salary without accepting any help or loans. It's been a cinch until now. You see, it's a sort of point of honor—but that's a laugh to you, isn't it?"

"Oh-h-h-h!" she breathed on a quivering breath. Instantly he was remorseful. "Pass that. This is a business conference. Can you get any more dancing dates?" "With Aymon?" her eyes were incredulous. "He seems to be the market," was the dry response.

"You want me to go out with him again after what's happened?" "A few more ten-dollar bills would help." For a moment there was a threat of storm in her expression. It passed. "Oh, very well!" "I'll tag along," said he, "on my wheel, as chaperon. In case."

"You can't sit up half the night with me and work all day." "My job isn't so exacting." "You haven't told me what it is." "Better not ask." "I am asking. It can't be a milk route or you'd be out nights."

"It's worse." His grin was sardonic. "I don't think your delicate susceptibilities could stand it." "Am I really such a snob?" "Oh, well, I expect it's self-protectiveness." "I don't need protection against you."

"If you'd been Miss M. McCabe you'd have needed a heap to keep me from marrying you." Color had slowly drained from her skin. "There would still be Simms," she reminded him again. He ignored Simms. "Let's get down to figures. A small cabin to yourself will cost fifty dollars. Will you be satisfied with that?" "Yes. With anything." She had lost interest.

"I'll see to it." "When do I have to go?" She was unconscious of the implication in that "have to." "If you can get about three more engagements, ten days will do it." "I'll try."

Though there was little to fill her time, the hours went fast for Maida. For the next few days, no matter how late they were out, she got up to breakfast with Wallis. No longer did he come back to luncheon on his wheel. They dined together and went out afterward, but the coolly casual amity of his



URGES NEW REGULATIONS TO GOVERN PROSPECTING — Enactment of more stable and uniform regulations governing oil and gas prospecting was urged on the four western potential oil provinces by Dr. Theo A. Link, consulting geologist. Dr. Link told the Prospectors' and Developers' association meeting in Toronto that "these laws or rules could be so flexible that they will cover the populated and accessible areas and also the hinterland. They should be such that they will invite risk capital with experience, of which there does not appear to be enough in Canada."

attitude forbade any approach to the old familiarity and comradeship. At first it depressed, then exasperated her with a sense of futility. Once, with deliberate daring, she strove to break through it. "You've built a barbed wire fence around yourself," she fretted. "Around you. To augment the dollar fence."

"I hate being wired in." "Cheer up. Less than a week now." It was on Monday that she made her discovery. She had bicycled into Hamilton to tour the shops and decide what she would send back for when she got home. At one the sidewalk was blocked by a group of men, intent on a show window. Within a figure all in white was "demonstrating." She recognized the detested and popular Milkies. The figure turned. It was Wallis.

Maida ran away. She did not stop until she reached the Stover Line offices. There she made a reservation. When Wallis came in to dinner, he thought her unusually quiet. Afterward she declined to go to the movies. She did not feel like it.

"Anything else you'd like to do?" (Oh, that infuriatingly careful kindness of his; brotherly, neutral!) "No. Just get rested up. I'm sailing tomorrow."

He was startled. "How can you? There isn't enough in the fund." "Not the minimum. I've taken a reservation." "Why did you change your mind about the minimum? Getting fed up?" "No. I saw you today. In that window."

"Well?" "It's loathsome!" she burst out. "It's intolerable. It's humiliating. I can't bear it." He gave her a peculiar look. It's only an hour a day. The rest of the time I'm selling. I don't like it much, myself," he admitted wryly. "I'd rather be back on my milk route."

"Why didn't you tell me?" "Because I was sparing your tender feelings. No other job in sight. I had to do something." "So that I might travel in the style to which I'm accustomed," said she bitterly. "I'd rather go steeper. I'd rather go in the coal hole than have you making a tailor's dummy of yourself."

"It isn't really a tragedy," he smiled. Quite humbly she asked if he would come home at midday on the morrow. He assented with depressing courtesy. After luncheon they went into the garden. She tried for a note of flippancy. "So this is good-by. That's what they always say, isn't it?" "I believe it's usual."

"Isn't there something about there being so much to say and so little time to say it?" "I seem to have heard that, too."

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