

Ellen's Diary

Continued from page 2

spread deeply in places by the continuing spell of damp weather, and necessary traffic. In the yard...

And once, James taking note of our endeavours when he missed us from the kitchen, came to the stairway to call, his voice reaching hollowly to our enclosure...

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CRESCENT CARNIVAL

FRANCES PARKISON KEYES

(Continued) There was a long silence. "Yes," Patty said at length. "Yes, I can promise that one thing more. I won't forget that you're keeping the ring for me. And I'll go on hoping, too, that some day I can wear it. But if you don't mind, Drew, I'd rather you went away now."

XXX Of her three brothers-in-law, Auguste Fontaine was the one whom Mrs. Marcel Fontaine had seen most frequently. Once, just as he was leaving, she told him she would like to see his brother, Narcisse, sometime later that same day. When Narcisse arrived Mrs. Fontaine smiled and picked up the jeweled mirror which lay on the table beside her. "I am happy to see you, Narcisse. I should like to make two bequests outside the family. First, I should like to leave this mirror to Patty Forrestal. As for the second legacy, I wish to leave my property on Kerlerec Street to Drew Breckenridge. I wish it to be made in a certain manner: 'To Andrew Breckenridge, the third of his name, from his devoted friend, Estelle Lenor Fontaine, with the hope that he may find in this house the joy which his grandfather was denied.'"

"Estelle, it would create a scandal throughout New Orleans if you carried out any such purpose as this. The only thing you could do would be to present the mirror to Patty Forrestal and the house to Drew Breckenridge during your lifetime."

"I will follow your advice," she said. "I will give the mirror to Patty the next time I see her, and the house to Drew the next time I see him. Au revoir, Narcisse. And thank you for coming."

Raoul Bienvenu saw Mrs. Fontaine on the same day that Narcisse paid her his visit. Stella had gone to an all-day barn dance "over the lake," and when Emille told him she was not at home, Raoul asked the old butler if her grandmother would receive him, instead.

It was nearly two weeks since Raoul had seen Mrs. Fontaine, and he was shocked to see the change that these had made in her. He took her hand and leaned over and kissed her. "Now, that is the way you should salute your grandmother," she said almost gaily. "I am sorry you should have missed Stella."

"Rather than I'll wait for her. I've had a chance to buy a house that's just the sort she used to say she'd like. I've got to give an answer right away."

"I see. She told you about the possible opening at the Metropolitan, didn't she, Raoul?"

"Yes, she told me that. But —"

"I don't know as I ought to disturb you and Mr. Raoul, Miss Estelle. But there's a long-distance call for Miss Stella. De party in New York say often she can't speak to her, she's got to speak to you."

Emille stood in the doorway, apologetic and unhappy.

Raoul sprang up. "Why, I didn't hear the telephone ring. I'll answer it."

"I have an extension here. I will take the call, Emille." Mrs. Fontaine picked up the receiver. "This is Mrs. Fontaine speaking. Oh, yes, Mrs. Hastings. . . Then it would be necessary for her to take the train for New York tonight, or if she misses that, the plane tomorrow morning. . . Yes, one of us will call you back."

She put back the receiver slowly. Then she went on again, in her quiet gentle voice. "I must ring for Julie, Raoul, and tell her to pack for Stella. And perhaps you will be good enough to call up the station and the airport and see what reservations are available. Stella can have her audition day after tomorrow, if she can get there for it."

"I'll make the reservations. And I'll take her to the train or the plane, if she wants to go. But I'll tell her about the house on the bayou first. Perhaps she won't go, after all."

It was long after midnight when Stella's car drew up in front of her grandmother's house. She got out quickly, and so did Gail Rutledge, who was at the wheel. When she caught sight of Raoul, she dismissed Gail with a brief cousinly kiss.

Raoul opened the door and called out to her cheerily. "Hello, there!"

"Hello, yourself. Why didn't you let me know you were coming over?"

"I didn't know myself until this morning. Then I thought I'd run for luck. I've got a couple of surprises for you."

Stella tossed the shaggy sports coat she had been wearing on to a chair in the hall and took her curls. Raoul put his arm around her. "You haven't got a kiss for me, by any chance, have you?" he inquired.

"Of course. What are your two surprises, Raoul?"

He seated himself in one of the ponderous chairs, drawing Stella down on his knees and keeping his arm lightly around her. "I've found the house I've been waiting so long for, Stella. I came tearing down, just to talk to you about it." Then he described the house to her.

"It was your idea that if you bought this house, we might get married right away, and spend the spring and summer there?"

"Yes, I don't believe we'd find a place more beautiful in spring-time."

"No, I don't suppose we would. What's your other surprise, Raoul?"

"You've had a long-distance call. Mrs. Hastings has arranged for the audition. But you'd have to be there for it day after tomorrow. I had a compartment tied up for you on the Crescent tonight, but you didn't get here in time to take it. I've got a seat for you on tomorrow morning's plane, though. I'll drive you out to the airport. You wouldn't marry me in the morning before you leave, would you, Stella?"

"Marry you in the morning! But then you'd expect me to come back, no matter what happened in New

York. Then you would go ahead and buy the house. Wouldn't you? "It wouldn't be astonishing if I did, would it, honey?" "No, but you see —"

weren't willing. There's nothing in the world you can do about it now, because I'm not willing. I don't love you any more. I can't marry you. This is the end." "There," he said. "You have wanted to say that for a long time. I don't see why it's taken me so long to find out that you can't face the music — the real kind, not the opera sham — any better than your

grandmother could. But I've found it out now, and I hope you won't be as sorry when you're seventy as she is — well, I'll put your tickets on the hall table. Emille can drive you to the airport. You've told me you want this to be the end. So it's going to be. Not just because you say so, but because I do, too." (To Be Continued)

That Body Of Yours Continued from page 1 chest discomfort, tiredness and spells of dizziness, faintness or anxiety attacks. Patients may complain of choking and smothering spells, rapid heart beat, pain in chest, nervousness, "heart trouble." These patients also complain of headaches, blurred vision

and giddiness, and all complain of difficult breathing. What can be done to help these patients, civilians as well as members of the armed forces Dr. Cohen says that there is no specific treatment. "Management should include serious consideration of the patient's condition, medical examination, reassurance and removal of factors that bring on attacks such as unnecessary

forms of treatment, frightening diagnoses, and the use of too many drugs, unnecessary operations and too much psychotherapy (treatment of mental and emotional disturbances)." Although neurocirculatory asthenia (anxiety neurosis, heart neurosis, effort syndrome, neurasthenia) may not shorten the life span, it is a mental and emotional hazard.

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