

Tomorrow's Promise

By Temple Balk

Charles spoke with a touch of sternness: "You must not talk like that. Time marches on, as they say in the movies, and we've got to keep step. We can't stop and say 'things end here for me.'"

"I'm not afraid," she said shakily, and there was silence until, when they reached the park, Charles stopped the car in a secluded spot where, with the snow drawing its white curtains about them, they were safely hidden from curious eyes.

It was then that he said, "I have brought you here, my dear, because I have something to say to you. I think you know how much you mean to me. My little note told you that if I were free I should try in every way to win you. But I am not free. Perhaps I shall never be. The courts may say that Margot is not my wife, but in a way I shall always be tied to her. It is a feeling I can't explain. But it exists—like the albatross about the neck of the An-

"It shuts us in—together." "Please don't say such things." "What things? I'm not making love to you, Anne, if that's what you're afraid of."

"No one can help," she said. "It is just that I believed in everybody, and now there is no one." "Yes," he said, "there are two of us—Vicky and I. We will never let you down."

"I know what it is to be afraid. I have had to fight all the specters of disloyalty and disgrace and scandal. But out of it has come the knowledge that there is a Power which fights for good if we will fight with it."

ent Mariner." He waited for a moment, then went on: "However, that is neither here nor there. What I want now is to know how I can help you."

"No one can help," she said. "It is just that I believed in everybody, and now there is no one." "Yes," he said, "there are two of us—Vicky and I. We will never let you down."

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"Vicky believes that too," she told him. "Yes. It was Vicky who had first showed me. I like to think she is with you."

"No, no," she said sharply. "I shall never marry. Marriage makes people unhappy. Look at your life. Look at Daddy and Mother. 'Do you think I'd dare? But there have been great friendships, like the ones we've read about. We might never see each other, but we could write, and it would be wonderful.' 'More than wonderful.'"

Yet even as he said it, Charles doubted. For those friendships of which she spoke had been great passions, ending always in tragedy. It might, however, be worth a trial. It would at least hold Anne to him until things opened up before them. Why try to pierce the future? The present was enough.

So it was agreed. They would write, but they would keep apart. Charles would go on with his book, and Anne would find some work to fill the emptiness of her days.

"But they will not be empty now," she told him as he left her. "Nor will mine," he said in a moved voice. She was childlike and trusting. God help him if he brought into her life anything that would lessen her faith in him.

Margot Patterson rode often in the park. She was at her best on horseback, and she loved the rhythm of it. "Ride a cock horse to

Bunbury Cross to see a fine lady upon a white horse." It was queer how the old nursery rhymes came back to her. Another one was running in her mind this morning in the midst of the whirling storm. "The north wind doth blow and we shall have snow." How well she remembered her old English nurse teaching her that song as they watched the snow from the window.

She thought of herself as a child. A pretty child. Spoiled. Not by her nurse but by her mother and father. And then in later years by Charles. That had been the trouble. If he had bossed her or bullied her there would have been at least the excitement.

Well, she had excitement enough with Bart. When they rode together, it was he who set the pace. She had found it hard sometimes to keep up with him. Just as she had kept on her toes. That was the charm of him. He dominated, and

even made her doubtful of her power to hold him. She had never been doubtful of Charles. So she had let him go. He still, she was sure, loved her. She could have him back when she wanted. But she did not want him. She wanted Bart. And as she rode on through the snow her thoughts ran ahead of her to meeting him that night at dinner and a dance afterwards. She would wear the red chiffon frock that took ten years from her age.

She rounded the top of a hill and looking down saw a car with the snow falling heavily about it and as if to provide her for the excitement which Charles had always failed to provide, the wind suddenly blew the snow away and showed her husband, and against his shoulder the head of a girl, her hair bright beneath her hat.

The brightness of Margot's hair came out of the bottle. Strange that the girl's hair should be the one

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significant fact before the curtain of snow again shut out the scene. She had thought Charles inconsolable, and here he was consoling himself with youth and beauty. The temptation was great to confront him now, but she thought better of it and rode on, her mind not on Bart and the red dress, but on Charles and the girl in his arms.

To be continued

CANADA PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN THE PROBATE COURT

The 6th day of December A. D., 1950. In Re Estate of BESSIE JANE STEWART late of Union Road, Lot 33, in Queen's County in the said Province, single woman, deceased, testate.

To the Sheriff of the County of Queen's County or any Constable or literate person within said County. WHEREAS upon reading the petition on file of Robert Bruce Stewart of Union Road aforesaid, and T. Ambrose Rodd of Milton in Queen's County, aforesaid, Executors of the above named estate praying that a citation may be issued for the purpose hereinafter set forth: You are therefore hereby required to cite all persons interested in the said Estate to be and appear before the Judge present at a Probate Court to be held in the Court House in Charlottetown in Queen's County in the said Province, on Wednesday the 10th day of January next coming, at the hour of eleven o'clock forenoon of the same day to shew cause if any they can why the accounts of the said Estate should not be passed and the Estate closed as prayed for in said petition and on motion of David L. Mathieson, Esquire, Proctor for said Petitioner.

AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a true copy hereof be forthwith published in some newspaper published in Charlottetown aforesaid once in each week for at least four consecutive weeks from date hereof and that a true copy hereof be forthwith posted in the following public places respectively, namely, in the hall of the Court House in Charlottetown, at or near the Bank of Nova Scotia Building and at or near the Royal Bank of Canada Building, all in Charlottetown, Queen's County, aforesaid, so that all persons interested in the said Estate as aforesaid may have due notice thereof.

WITNESS His Honour Harold Leonard Palmer, Judge of the said Probate Court at Charlottetown in Queen's County, the day and year first above written. By the Court. (Sgd.) M. Elizabeth Wright, Registrar.

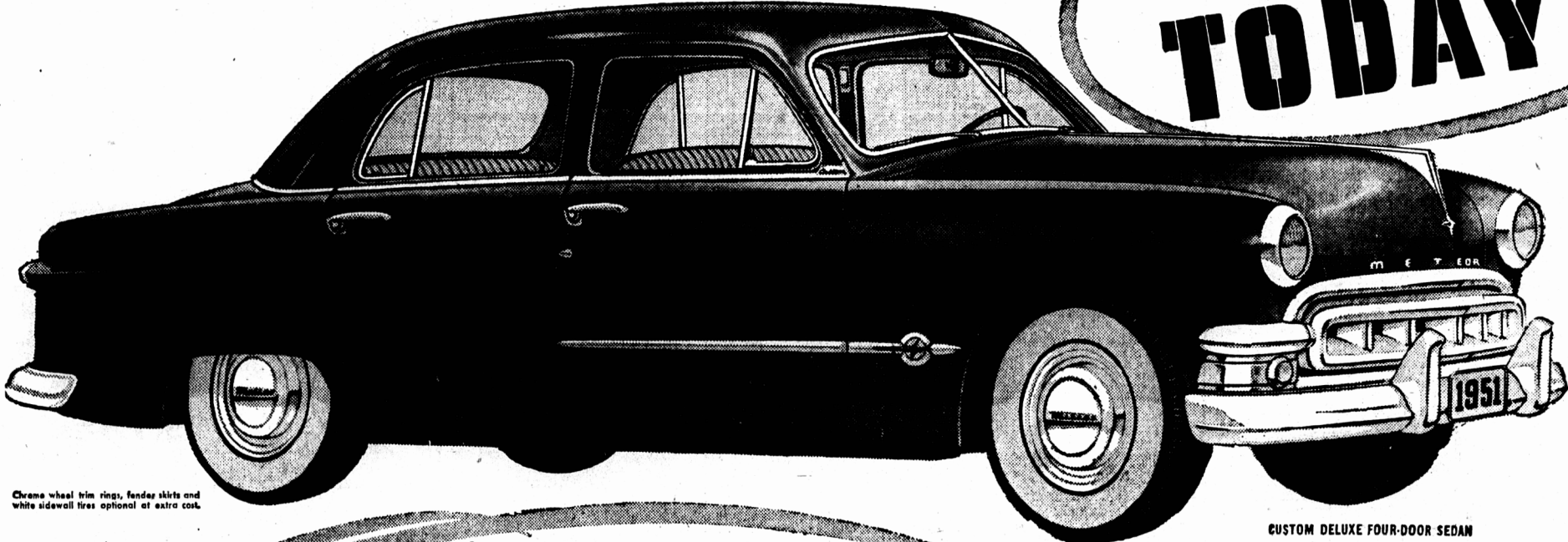
CANADA PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN THE PROBATE COURT

The 6th day of December A. D., 1950. In Re Estate of JEMIMA M. GIRLING late of West Hartford in the State of Connecticut in the United States of America, Widow, deceased, testate.

To the Sheriff of the County of Queen's County or any Constable or literate person within said County. WHEREAS upon reading the petition on file of J. Harold Williams of Hartford in the State of Connecticut in the United States of America, sole Executor of the above named estate praying that a citation may be issued for the purpose hereinafter set forth: You are therefore hereby required to cite all persons interested in the said Estate to be and appear before the Judge present at a Probate Court to be held in the Court House in Charlottetown in Queen's County in the said Province, on Wednesday the tenth day of January next coming, at the hour of eleven o'clock forenoon of the same day to shew cause if any they can why the Accounts of the said Estate concerning the administration thereof in the Province of Prince Edward Island should not be passed and the Estate closed as prayed for in said petition and on motion of David L. Mathieson, Esquire, Proctor for said Petitioner.

AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a true copy hereof be forthwith published in some newspaper published in Charlottetown aforesaid once in each week for at least four consecutive weeks from the date hereof and that a true copy hereof be forthwith posted in the following public places respectively, namely, in the hall of the Court House in Charlottetown, at or near the Bank of Nova Scotia Building and at or near the Royal Bank of Canada Building, all in Charlottetown, Queen's County, aforesaid so that all persons interested in the said Estate as aforesaid may have due notice thereof.

WITNESS His Honour Harold Leonard Palmer, Judge of the said Probate Court at Charlottetown in Queen's County, the day and year first above written. By the Court. (Sgd.) M. Elizabeth Wright, Registrar.



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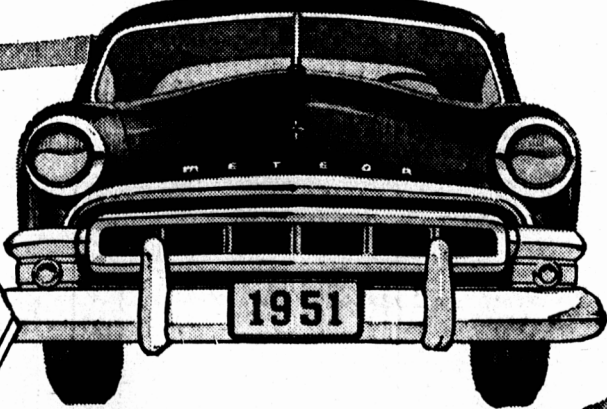


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