

At the Witching Hour

By MARTHA MACWILLIAMS

Copyright, 1922, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

At the right witching hour magic makes itself of the very simplest things. Witness Keith's undoing. This spell was wrought thus:—

One white frock, one head of red-gold hair, one pair of slate-blue eyes, deeply set, with black lashes; items various, a child's foot, a berry-stained set of taper fingers matched by adorable lips, likewise stained. And there you are. Keith was three and twenty, a good tall fellow, just now far from happy. He had been struggling up from the depths of a first rejection. Molly Manners has thrown him there—hard. Now be blessed her as a misfit patron saint. Suppose she had not so thrown him, and this fairy goddess had appeared?

He had been tramping sturdily all afternoon. Now, with the sun westerling sharply, he had begun to think of supper and a bed. Camping was all well with company and preparedness, but sleeping on bare earth and an empty stomach did not appeal to him. This evidently his heartache was by way of easing itself normally, even without the magic. Plus the magic, it evaporated like dew in sunshine, leaving in its stead a throbbing anxiety, lest this creature of delight vanish before he found courage to approach her.

The berry thicket ran along the edge of the woods, with tall trees flanking their shade athwart it. Up in the trees a pair of bluejays had been playing at hide and seek, chasing each other and making hilarious calls. Suddenly the calls grew sharper—the birds, with risen crests and vibrant wings darted at the thicket, swooped a second above it, rose a few yards, struck downward again at its very heart, then fluttered away in wild excitement, scolding their loudest. The magician looked at them thoughtfully. "Maybe you see a snake," she said. Then with a half-shriek and a stumble backward, "I see him too—a cotton mouth! Oh dear Lord, help me! I don't want to die that way!"

Ashen faced, she yet snatched a stout dead branch, and stood very straight. Keith thought he had never seen anything so fine. Bear was writ large in every lineament—but not a thought of blanching—she would stand her ground. "Where is the snake?" he called huskily, fearing to startle her further. "Right there—by that tall weed—he was on a vine, has dropped down—and will come after me!"

"He will not!" Keith interposed, springing in front of her. Involuntarily she caught his arm, crying: "Look out! You don't know the danger. If he strikes you—you die."

Keith peered in the vine recesses with trained huntsman eyes—there he saw dimly a thickish sinuous body striped copper-bronze, pale yellow and black—the black in narrow lines between the colors. He knew the reptile in books—that it was sluggish, venomous, treacherous. If only he had his revolver—foolishly he had left it behind. He had only his alpenstock and a stout knife—either meant close quarters. He stood measuring the distance for a stroke, noting the while the slow gliding of the reptile toward the girl. As he meant to launch a blow at it a bullet from behind clipped the snake's head neatly off, then a set of crawling voice came: "Reckon the most cunning you so black-bellied, Miss Jincy, you won't be so uppity about letting me go too."

"Indeed, indeed—Lester—Phil!" Miss Jincy answered, her color coming back in a flood. "You are certainly the right man in the right place just now. But you see, I would not touch such dreadful danger. This gentleman," smiling at Keith, "wouldn't have let him bite me, even if he had had to spoil his nice steak."

"If he had I reckon somebody would n-spoiled him," Phil said trisulcantly. Then changing mood and tone instantaneously: "Is your name Keith? Thought so. I've got a letter here from Sam Jayson telling me to look out you don't get stake-died nor carried away by varnishes. Heaps and heaps of varnishes, you know—wildcats, 'coons, 'possums and foxes, not name the willapuss-wal-lapus. Ever hear about it? It's new to most folks—they say it got loose from a circus somewhere up North and stopped over here on its way back to the gulf."

"Stance on you, Phil! You know there's not any such thing," Miss Jincy said reprovingly. "Instead of trying to frighten a stranger you might introduce him. As you won't—I'm Jincy Leavall, Mr. Keith. And I live over yonder," nodding toward a red roof barely showing above the hedge-rows. "Phil there—he is Phil Dancy—keeps back on beyond. You can stay all night with him, but I invite you both to supper at our house. You look hungry—and Phil is never any other way this time of the day."

"You said something!" Phil flung back airily. "Keith, I'm glad to see you. I want to find out how to run away from girls and have good times all by myself."

"And another, teacher, please," Keith flung back: "I only thought I knew how—the last half hour has shown me better."

"You two don't need to pick a quarrel over me," Miss Jincy said tranquilly. "Sally Ford and Ruty Davis are coming to stay all night. Ruty Davis

brings them—you know he never lets his sister go anywhere by herself. "Especially not to your house," Phil interjected: "When I had a sister—nobody's brother would have admitted on me."

A big, clean, airy, flower-scented house, a glorious supper, much merriment and laughter interspersed with games afterward, made Keith's head fairly whirl. He had never thought country life could be like this—the Leavalls and their manager were equal to any he knew in the home suburbs. And the gay company lost nothing by contrast with the Jazz-crovis or the set, entertainment he was used to. Idly he wondered how people had gained ideas of roughnecks and hayseeds—so unlike the real thing. But speculation did not make him blid to the keen watch-Phil kept upon him nor the exceeding discomfort of Billy Davis at sight of him.

Evidently these two were prima rivals of Miss Jincy's favor—each feared the other mightily, but was ready to make common cause with him against an outsider. Miss Jincy herself bore out the impression—she insisted that the whole party should escort Phil and his guest home—at the witching hour when cocks were crowing midnight.

There was a pairing of course—Phil took Jincy as of right. Billy Davis walked parforce with Sally Ford, leaving Keith no choice of company—but Ruty Davis was so sorry merry, he could not complain. At the gate there were long confabulations as to next day, the next, the afternoon—but presently came bed and sleep. Keith had not thought it possible to sleep—but after long tramping nature has her way.

He woke to find the sun an hour high, breakfast smoking on the table, and his host sitting outside deep in the country paper, brought in late yesterday. He shouted a gay good morning, and when later they sat eating told droll stories and cracked jokes as though there were no such things as girls and rivalry in the world. But as they sauntered outside, puffing pipes of very good tobacco, he wheeled upon Keith, saying grimly: "You saw me clip that snake's head—how'd you like to swap shots with me?"

"What for?" Keith demanded, his eyes blazing.

"For love—name no names," Phil returned.

Keith, tense all over, said simply: "I am ready, only—I have no weapon. What can I get one?"

"There," said Phil, nodding toward a table where lay several pistols. Keith snatched up one without looking and stepped out into the sunshine, saying in steely tones: "Now forward."

"About face. One," Phil cried, raising his pistol. Keith did likewise, gun-faced, but steady. Phil looked at him, smiling grimly—and fired in the air, saying: "Jincy said last night she loved you best—you may have her. But you shouldn't have lived to do it if you had shown the white feather."

The man to whom the "business opportunity" ads are a constant source of interest in the mental mood to succeed—and some of the ads which appeal to him will be factors in his success.

REDEMPTION NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK) COUNTY OF ALLEGANY) ss Treasurer's Office) To whom it may concern: The following parcels of land sold by the County Treasurer of said County on the 3rd day of October, 1921, for the non-payment of taxes assessed thereon, remain unredeemed; and unless such parcels of land hereinafter described are redeemed on or before October 4th, 1922 by paying the County Treasurer of Allegany County, at his office in Belmont, N. Y., the sum set opposite such parcel of land; together with the apportionate cost on each piece of the cost of this redemption notice, then the County Treasurer will convey the said several pieces of land to the purchasers thereof upon said sales.

Belmont, N. Y., June 30th, 1922. D. S. BURDICK, Treasurer of Allegany County, Town of Andover

Cert. No. 4. — Morris Reserve, range 7, township 2, part of lot 30, L. E. West, bounded N. by highway, E. by Burdick, S. & W. by Dodge, 1 acre. Amount due \$39.93.

Cert. No. 5. — Phelps & Gorman Purchase, range 7, township 3, part of lot 21, Elmer Cornelius, bounded N. and W. by highway, E. and S. by Moland, 120 acres. Amount due \$128.00.

Cert. No. 6. — Phelps & Gorman Purchase, range 7, township 4, part of lot 6 Village of Almond, Mrs. Jennie Latson, bounded N., E. and S. by Bell, W. by Bell & Karr, 2 acres. Amount due \$28.96.

Cert. No. 7. — Phelps & Gorman Purchase, range 7, township 5, part of lot 110, Royal Whitney, bounded N. by Fassett, E. by Bennett, S. by Mill St., W. by McKay, 1 acre. Amount due \$32.22.

Cert. No. 11. — Morris Reserve, range 1, township 2, part of lot 4, Gus H. Baker, bounded N. by Devers, E. by Roggenmoser, S. by Rauber St., W. by Williams, one-eighth acre. Amount due \$6.01.

Cert. No. 12. — Morris Reserve, range 1, township 2, part of lot 40, Mrs. Jane Graves, bounded N. by Stevens St., E. by Dahlstrom, W. by Collins, one-half acre. Amount due \$36.30.

Cert. No. 14. — Morris Reserve, range 1, township 2, part of lot 21, Mrs. E. M. Frederick, bounded

Cert. No. 15. — Morris Reserve, range 1, township 2, part of lot 21, Mrs. E. M. Frederick, bounded N. by highway, E. by McDonald, S. by Dyke's Creek, W. by Whelan, 2 1/2 acres. Amount due \$9.62.

Cert. No. 18. — Morris Reserve, range 1, township 8, part of lot 2, Edward Mullen, bounded N. by Andrews, E. by Burdick, S. by town line, W. by Rockwell, 8 acres. Amount due \$10.75.

Cert. No. 19. — Morris Reserve, range 1, township 3, part of lot 3, John Rockwell, bounded N. & W. by Baker, E. by Mullen, W. by town line, 11 acres. Amount due \$21.01.

Cert. No. 22. — Morris Reserve, range 1, township 5, part of lot 41, Dan McCarthy, bounded N. by town line, E. by Monegan, S. by Reniff, W. by Newton, 30 acres. Amount due \$32.86.

Cert. No. 23. — Morris Reserve, range 1, township 9, part of lot 7, of Swain Tracy, George Ready, bounded N. by Mill St., S. and E. by Rowley, W. by Walbold, one-fourth acre. Amount due \$29.33.

Cert. No. 27. — Morris Reserve, range 2, township 1, being the North-west 20 acres of lot 89 of the Lawrence Tract, S. F. Hanks, 20 acres. Amount due \$10.65.

Cert. No. 28. — Morris Reserve, range 2, township 1, being the North half of lot 94 of the Lawrence Tract, G. O. Rose, 64 acres. Amount due \$27.25.

Cert. No. 30. — Morris Reserve, range 2, township 2, part of lot 7, Anastasia Neville, bounded N. by Watson, E. by Eric R. R., S. by highway, W. by Anglin, 1 acre. Amount due \$72.60.

Cert. No. 32. — Morris Reserve, range 2, township 1, part of lot 7, John Sherwood, bounded N. by highway, E. by Willis, S. by Granford, W. by Snyder, 8 1/2 acres. Amount due \$6.64.

Cert. No. 34. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 1, part of lot 48, Joe Champin, N. and E. by Forrest Oil Co., S. by Keller, W. by highway, 75x200 feet. Amount due \$7.24.

Cert. No. 35. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 1, part of lot 55, Estate of Joel Schaff, bounded N., E. and W. by McDonald, S. by Liberty St., 50x100 feet. Amount due \$37.51.

Cert. No. 36. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 2, part of lot 41, Hannah Clark, bounded N. by Lester E. and S. by Clark, W. by Mitter. Amount due \$6.57.

Cert. No. 37. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 2, part of lot 41, Sadie Sawyer, bounded N. by Saunders, E. by Matson, S. by Moses, W. by Main St. Amount due \$5.09.

Cert. No. 40. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 3, part of lot 38, Estate of Leander Gable, bounded N. by Cook, E. by highway, S. by Vandeventer, W. by Spencer, 58 1/2 acres. Amount due \$23.29.

Cert. No. 41. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 3, part of lot 15, Murray Millman, bounded N. & W. by Thomas, E. and S. by Totten, 90 acres. Amount due \$25.17.

Cert. No. 43. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 4, part of lot 3-B-10, Ed. Covert, bounded N. by Wamps, E. by Reynolds, S. by Smith St., W. by Kock, 30 rods. Amount due \$20.70.

Cert. No. 44. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 4, part of lot 4, Pat Schall, bounded N. by Howell, E. and S. by Erie Railroad lands, W. by highway, 4 1/2 acres. Amount due \$17.99.

Cert. No. 45. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 4, part of lot 39, Fred Thompson, bounded N. by Raymond, E. by Cosgrove, S. by Comstock, W. by Laurel St., 20 rods. Amount due \$9.22.

Cert. No. 46. — Holland Purchase, range 1, township 4, part of lot 3, Estate of Peter Wosock, bounded N. by lands of the Wellsville & Buffalo R. R. Co., E. by Pennsylvania R. R. Co., S. by Royce, W. by Loftis, 1 1/2 acre. Amount due \$10.29.

Cert. No. 47. — Holland Purchase, range 2, township 2, part of lot 58, T. J. Crowley, bounded N. and W. by lot lines, E. and S. by Hubbard, 75 acres. Amount due \$27.94.

Cert. No. 49. — Holland Purchase, range 2, township 3, part of lot 24, Estate of William Hamilton, N. by lands of the Erie R. R. Co., E. by Lyon, S. by lands of the Pennsylvania R. R. Co., W. by Bardwin, 25 acres. Amount due \$10.48.

Cert. No. 50. — Holland Purchase, range 2, township 4, part of lot 39, William Libby, bounded N. and E. by highway, S. by Hume, W. by Lewis, 80 rods. Amount due \$46.98.

Cert. No. 51. — Holland Purchase, range 2, township 5, part of lot 2, Estate of Myron Sutton, bounded N. by Balcom, E. by highway, S. & W. by Isham, 4 1/2 acres. Amount due \$6.85.

Cert. No. 52. — Holland Purchase, range 2, township 5, part of lot 12, Mrs. John Small, bounded N. by highway, E. by Peters, S. by McElhenry, W. by Bush, 3 acres. Amount due \$21.29.

Cert. No. 52. — Holland Purchase, range 2, township 6, part of lots 43 and 50, George Holmes, bounded N. by highway, E. by Blanchard, S. by Williams, W. by Clark, 69 acres. Amount due \$27.83.

Towns of Amity, Angelica, Centerville, Rushford and Wellsville. Cert. No. 53. Conveying all the Telegraph poles and wires located in the towns of Amity, Angelica, Centerville, Rushford and Wellsville in Allegany County and on the right of way of the Wellsville & Buffalo Railroad Company in the said towns as assessed to John L. Eckert on the tax rolls of the said towns for the year 1920. Amount due \$54.66.

Value that Make Everybody Talk At Our Semi-Annual Sale

\$17 \$22 \$27 \$33

This is a lucky event for you. You get the finest clothes made; Spring and Summer styles, at a big price reduction. Remember this — you can't get finer quality anywhere for so little money.

You'd better make your selection early. These values are being snapped up fast.

Advertisement for clothing items including Palm Beach Suit Sale, Odd Trousers at Sale Prices, SHIRTS, UNDERWEAR, WASH SUITS, BOYS' BLOUSES, STRAW HAT SPECIAL, SILK HOSIERY, OVERALLS, and WORK SHIRTS.

STAR CLOTHING HOUSE The Home of Hart, Schaffner & Marx MAIN AT CHURCH HORNELL, N. Y.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

attributes his success to the fact that he always made the other fellow put his proposition down in BLACK AND WHITE.

That's what the merchants of this town are doing for you. Their advertisements speak for themselves in Black and White. And what they put down in Black and white they stand back of. They want your business. Their advertisements are an invitation to do business with them. That's why they advertise and the wise housekeeper never does her shopping nowadays until she has read the advertisements and posted herself on prices. Is there an easier or better way of saving money? It only requires a few minutes of your time to scan the advertisements. The Boy Scout's motto is "Be Prepared." That's what every housewife should be when she goes out to market. Read the advertisements and you will not alone save many times the cost of the subscription to this paper, but you will save many dollars to add to your bank account. Reading advertisements in this paper is profitable reading. Try it for a month and check up the pennies you will save. That's another Rockefeller maxim: "Save the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves." There are hundreds of pennies to be saved by reading the advertisements in this paper every issue.

Member New York Press Association

The News Printing House ANDOVER, N. Y.

Vertical column of small advertisements on the right side of the page, including notices for Chamber of Commerce, ANDOVER No. 786, UNION ENCAM, ANDOVER No. 171, ANDOVER No. 558, ANDOVER DAILY, ANDOVER GRA, WALTER J. GRE, C. W. O'DONNELL, J. LOUGHLIN, A. ERICSON, MARY L. RAY, C. DAVIE, HENRY STEPHENSON, CRAYTON L. EARL, E. BROWN, FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS, and THE BEST is good.