## **LEARNING** MORE ABOUT **TOMMY**

By H. M. EGBERT

(@ by W. G. Chapman.)

HAT Mildred Carter saw in Tommy Leeson nobody had ever been able to discover. Tommy was a little palefaced, freckled, insignificant sort of chap, with a passion for old armor, and Mildred was one of those fine, strapping women who no sooner set foot in a ballroom or anywhere else but they form the nucleus of a crowd of admirers. Tommy had a million or two, but then Roy Thornton had about as much, and everybody knew that Mildred could have had Roy as soon as she dropped her glove.

I think it was the disparity between them that attracted Mildred. Tommy was too shy to come at her beck and call, and she mistook it for indifference. Anyway, she must have found him out soon, because, by the time they were back from their honeymoon in Europe, she was treating him like a dog. They rented an old place in the Catskills, a sort of heirloom of a place full of old armor, which Tommy spent all his days cataloguing.

I had always liked both Tommy and Mildred, and I knew she was a decent sort of a girl at heart. So I went to Tommy frankly.

"Look here, old man," I said, "if you'll excuse an old friend's interference in what ought to be your private affairs but isn't, you're in danger of losing that wife of yours. Why don't you bundle Thornton and the rest of the crowd out of the house?"

"Mildred likes them," Tommy answered, turning a white face on me. Then he went on with his cataloguing. Things went from bad to worse. Tommy roamed the corridors like a forlorn ghost, while Mildred and Thornton went autoing all day. True, they took me and Van Cleve along. to act as chaperons, but it was pretty

evident we weren't expected to work overtime. And presently Mildred made it pretty clear that she could dispense with our company. Van Cleve went home, but I wouldn't see Mildred's hints; besides, Tommy had invited me for the whole summer.

It was about a week after Van Cleve went away that matters really became serious. One night, when Tommy was by, I found out how matters stood. I had left Mildred and Thornton on the terrace, and, happening to go out with my cigar, intending to take a smoke and think things over, I suddenly heard their voices on the walk below.

"Why don't you leave him, dear?" Thornton was asking. "You can get a divorce out West. Everybody does

I could not hear her answer, but the tones were very tender.

"If he had the spirit of a mouse." continued Thornton, and before he could say more Mildred interrupted almost fiercely.

"It's not my fault; it's his!" she exclaimed. Why doesn't he assert him-self? Am I to be tied to a man without a spark of manhood, Thornton?"

You see, Mildred was one of those Jumpy women. She had married Tommy on the rebound from Thornton, and if he could only have had sense enough to create the reaction. but Tommy hadn't much knowledge

Thornton, I knew, was a cur with a big yellow streak in him.

"Tommy," I said, "if you love your wife, you will save her from herself. It isn't you you have to think of, but Mildred. Suppose she was being attacked by a savage cur and couldn't fight it off-wouldn't you act then?"
I didn't know how much impression my words had made until the next evening. I had gone off for a stroll-there wasn't much company for me at that period-and when I came home I saw a singular spectacle. Mildred was standing by the drawing room window, very erect, very white, with her fists clenched. Thornton was leaning with easy insouciance against the mantel, while Tommy stood by the door. He was trembling with anger, but he saw me and called me in. .

"Don't go, old man," he said; "I

Then he turned to Thornton again. "I'll repeat for Jack's benefit what I have just said to you," he exclaimed. "You have told me frankly that you want Mildred. The only reason why I refuse to give her to you is that I don't believe you have any more capacity to be true to her than you had to be true to me. But if you want her, I will fight you for her, as you humorously suggested."

"My dear Tommy," drawled Thornton, "of course I'll fight you if you want me to. But I don't want to hurt you, and I'm afraid I'm rather a better boxer than you are. So you'll have to choose some weapon which will give us an equal advantage-mushrooms, for example, or poisoned pills."

"How about swords?" asked Tommy, still quivering.

"My dear Tommy, I didn't know your studies of the antique included the art of śwordsmanship." Thornton answered, "but as I happen to know something about it-"

"There are two foils in the hall." said Tommy. "We can remove the buttons. Will you be in the stables at'

"Sure," grinned Thornton, Mildred intervened with a passion-

ate exclamation. "It's all right, dear," Thornton sured her. "It isn't nice to fight about bever trouble Tommy's peace again.

ation, and it will be easy just to pink him in the arm without hurting him much."

I was sorry for Tommy. I was to the task he' had set himself, but when I went to his room I found him gazing smilingly at a couple of foils, from which he had just removed the buttons. They were thin, flexible weapons, with which it would be hard to do much damage, unless one got the point at such an angle that it would make a clean thrust. I thought Tommy would get a scratch or two and that would end the affair:

"Tommy," I said, grasping his hand, "I believe, under the circumstances, you are doing the right thing. But do you know anything about swords-

"I had a few lessons in Paris," he replied, and took me by the arm. "Jack," he said, "I'm going to win. I know it-because I've got to save

Mildred from that blackguard." "Suppose she doesn't keep the agreement," I thought, but I didn't say anything. I was resolved to watch the duel pretty closely, and to step in and thrust up the weapons the minute either man was in serious danger. So at seven o'clock I went with Tommy to the stables.

Mildred and Thornton were already there. He had buttoned up his coat, and he took my foil with a businesslike air which made me fear for Tommy. I believed the cur had planned to do something mean. He was too much of a coward to kill him, if he had cut his face about, to dis-

As for Mildred, she was standing back against the wall and watching both men with a singular expression; she seemed like a person dreaming, and certainly there was no look of her evil part. But she was too game to call the affair off.

"Remember, gentlemen," I said, as I placed the men in position and drew the foil buttons from my pocket, "in case of accident we swear that the buttons came off accidentally. That's understood? Then get ready!"

They toed the chalk lines I had drawn, and I lowered my cane.

For half a minute the thrusts and parries were so swiftly given that it was impossible to see who was the better fencer. Then I saw a look of his face, for he held himself well back, while at the same time he exposed his body rather carelessly. Suddenly I saw Tommy's blade dart forward. It seemed to go through Thornton's chest.

Evidently it had passed under his wounded. I saw Tommy set his teeth as he renewed the attack; and then it dawned on me that he had Thornton at his mercy.

To my surprise Tommy began to his foll now something in the manner sweeping slashes, at the same time adroitly parrying Thornton's lunges. All at once a ribbon of cloth flew out of Thornton's coat. The blade had ome within a quarter-inch of cutting

Swish! A second ribbon flew in until Thornton's coat hung in ribbons

There was a ghastly look on Thorn-

looked like a ragged beggar. The coat was all gone in front, and now strips of waistcoat and shirt began to follow it. And then a gentle rasping sound became audible. The foil point seemed to be striking metal. An instant later a last slash from Tommy's foll sent the rest of Thornton's shirtfront flying, disclosing—a tightly fitting post oak, his corner (originally Gerbreastplate of flexible chain armor which had hung on one of the dummy figures in an obscure place in the hall.

The coward had put this on beneath his shirt. No wonder he had guarded his face so carefully and exposed his

In spite of my close attention to the fight, I managed to steal a glance | Scott corner (now John R. Lane's at Mildred. All through the duel she had clung to the wall; but now she started forward and stood, with parted lips, staring at Thornton.

Temmy had resumed his ordinary method of holding his weapon, and was quietly parrying Thornton's savand held up my cane.

"That's all!" I said, and Tommy lowered his point. As he did so Thornton lunged with his foil. The point caught Tommy under the collarbone and went clean through. Thornton pulled out the blade and Tommy top-

"Sorry, Mildred," said Thornton in a shaking voice. He drew her aside. "What will become of me?" he whis pered. "I'll have to go." He turned to me. "Have I killed him?" he asked He was ashen pale and his knees would hardly support him.

"No, you cowardly dog," I answered one and the small opening had already ceased to bleed. "Small thanks to you," I added. "Get out!"

But Mildred had pushed past him and flung berself upon her knees at Tommy's side.

"Tommy!" she whispered, taking his head upon her knee. "Tommy!" Then I knew that Thornton would

REAL ESTATE

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Trust afraid he would find himself unequal Deed executed on the 28th day of July, 1924, by Leon T. Lane and wife to the undersigned Trustees, said Deed of Trust being recorded in the registry of Chatham County, in Book GH page 425 et seq (default having been made in the payment of the bond and interest secured by said Trust deed) the undersigned Trustees will, on Sat-

urday the 25TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1926, at 12:00 o'clock noon, in front of the Courthouse door, at Pittsboro, N. C., offer for sale at public outcry, to the highest bidder for cash, all those certain tracts or lots of land lying and being in Chatham County, North Car-olina, and being more fully described and defined as follows, viz:

FIRST TRACT: Lying and being situate in Matthews Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, bounded as follows: Beginning at a gum on the waters of Brush Creek, C. R. Lambert's and Lane's corner (17 poles west of Brush Creek) and running thence south 2 1-4 degrees west 9 1-2 poles to a walnut tree; thence south 25 degrees east 14 1-2 poles to said creek; thence down the creek as follows: South 7 poles, south 15 1-4 degrees west 13 poles, south 17 degrees east 12 poles, south 56 1-2 degrees west 10 poles, south 29 degrees west 8 poles to a hickory on south bank of said Creek; thence south 3 degrees. west 52 poles to Lane's line; thence north 84 degrees west 117 poles to a stone, Eli M. Bray's corner; thence north 5 1-4 degrees east 117 poles to a stone, thence south 85 degrees east but I wouldn't have been surprised 113 poles to the beginning, and containing 94 acres, more or less.

SECOND TRACT: Lying and being situate in Bear Creek Township, Chatham County, N. C., Beginning at a pine stump, William Andrews' corner; and running thence south 98 poles to J. Y. White's corner; thence west with said line 42 poles to a post love upon her face for Thornton. I oak; thence north 100 poles to a stake, think she had become conscious of John Andrew's corner; thence east 42 poles to the Beginning, containing 24 acres, more or less, further reference being hereby made to the deed which is registered in the office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, North Carolina in Book

"FB" page 254. THIRD TRACT: Lying and being situate in Matthews Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of G. W. Brooks, W. N. Fields, and Wilton Fields, and containing 112 acres, known as Brooks Farm old Home Tract of the late John M. Brooks, and being the same tract conveyed by J. H. Bray and surprise come out on Thornton's face. wife, Emily Bray to John R. Lane, by Tommy was at least his equal with deed dated August 26, 1896, and conthe weapon. Thornton seemed to be veyed by said J. R. Lane and wife, tract adjoining Tract No. One above described in this conveyance, and reference is hereby made to the title deeds by which they held the same.

FOURTH TRACT: Lying and being situate in Bear Creek Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and Beginning at a hickory formerly arm, for Thornton did not appear the Old Henry Dorsett corner; thence north 194 poles to a black jack; thence west 130 poles to a post oak; thence south 194 poles to a black jack; thence east 130 poles to the Beginning,

containing 155 acres, more or less. FIFTH TRACT: Lying and being fence in a very curious way. He used situate in Bear Creek Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, bounded of a sword, making a succession of as follows, to-wit: Beginning at a sweeping slashes, at the same time post oak Lane's corner and running north 230 poles to a post oak Henry M. Bray's old corner; thence west 174 poles to a stake in old field, Henry M. Bray's old corner; thence south 44 1-2 poles; thence north 89 1-2 degrees Aug. 19 4tc. west 42 4-5 poles to a dogwood corner; thence south 1-2 degree west the opposite direction. Then a third 37 1-3 poles to red oak corner; thence and a fourth and a fifth followed, south 88 1-2 degrees east 42 1-3 poles; thence south 1 degree west 148 poles to pine stump, corner with pointer; thence east to the Beginning, containton's face. I thought then that it was due to Tommy's incredible swordsing 245 acres, more or less. An obmanship. But it wasn't. | north to south has been deeded off Slash! Swish! Slash! Thornton of northeast corner of this tract, but after taking off same leaves approxi-

mately 245 acres.

SIXTH TRACT: Lying and being situate in Bear Creek township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and bounded as follows, Viz: Beginand bounded as follows, Viz: Beginary and bounded as follows, Viz: Beginary and warning thence ning at a post oak and running thence south 70 poles to a stake, J. I. Lane's corner; thence west 72 poles to a ra Lane's corner); thence south 36 degrees west 57 poles to red oak; thence north with his line 66 degrees west 89 poles to red oak; thence west 86 poles to a post oak; thence north 93 poles to a post oak (original Gerra Lane corner); thence west 43 poles to a white oak; thence north with the late J. R. Lane line to the James heirs); thence east with said Lane ine about 140 poles to Lane's corner, in original line; thence south 45 legrees east with the old line to a stone nile, with gum pointers; thence east 91 poles to a post oak; thence south 36 degrees west 15 poles to a red oak; thence east 26 poles to the age thrusts. I stepped between them Beginning, containing 211 acres, more or less, and known as the Hadley Johnson land, and being the same tract as conveyed by J. R. Lane, Mortgagee to Leon T. Lane, by deed dated September 9, 1899, and registered in office of the Register of Deeds Chat-ham County, North Carolina in Book DP, page 237.

This August the 23rd, 1926. WALTER D. SILER, WADE BARBER,

NOTICE OF SALE

OF REAL ESTATE Under and by virtue of the authority vested in me under the terms of deed of Trust executed to me by -for the wound was not a serious John Crawford, dated April 26th, 1921, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham County in Book "F S" Page 455-466, default having been made in the payment of principal and interest of the notes secured by said Deed of Trust, and denand having been made upon me by he holders of the notes that I adertise and sell said property under the Deed of Trust to satisfy said notes, notice is hereby given that I

you, but Tommy understands the situ- NOTICE OF SALE OF VALUABLE will sell at Public Auction, for Cash, the following e scribed real estate, at 12 o'clock Noon, September 18th, 1926, at the Court House Door in the town of Pittsboro, Chatham County, N. C. "BEGINNING at a point on New

Hope Creek, same being on the county line dividing Durham and Chatham Counties, and at the south-east corner of land belonging to Richard Nuan on May 17th 1916, and running thence West along said county line 264 poles to a stake in said county line; thence south 156 poles to a stake and pointers; thence West 158 poles to a post oak and pointers; thence south 50 1-2 poles to an old stump and pointers; thence west 48 1-2 poles to a stake; thence south 196 poles to pointers; thence west 29 poles to Morgan Creek; thence along the meanders of said Morgan Creek in a southwesterly direction about 120 poles to a stake; thence west across Morgan Creek 166 poles to a stake; thence in a southerly direction 133 poles to a stake; thence east 53 poles to a stake in public road; thence along said public road 58 poles to a hickory and pointers; thence east 152 poles to Morgan Creek: thence along the meanders of said Morgan Creek in a southerly direction about 170 rcles to a stake on the bank of Morgan Creek; thence East 152 poles to a post-oak and pointers; thence north about chains to a large sweet gum; thence east 126 poles to a stake on the east side of the Durham and South Carolina Railroad; thence nortl: 124 poles to a stake; thence East 298 poles to a sweet gum on the bank of New Hope Creek; thence up and along the meanders of New Hope Creek to a stake at Northwestern corner of the lands of Jack Seagroves on said New Hope Creek; thence East along the line of the land of the said Jack Seagroves 171 poles to a stake; thence North 112 poles to a stake; West 194 poles to New Hope Creek; same being the Southwest corner of the lands of G. W. Upchurch; thence Northerly along the meanders of said New Hope Creek to pointers of beginning and containing 1378 acres more or less according to the plot of said land made by R. B. Clego Chris veyor for Chatham County and filed and recorded April 11th, 1001, excepting from the above, one acre of land upon which is located the Merritt burying ground, and about 40 acres of land disputed by one McCauley along the West boundary of said property extending the measurement of 50 1-2 poles south a sufficient distance before the measurement of 48 1-2 poles west, to contain said acreage. And further excepting from the operations of this conveyance that tract of land deeded by John Crawford to Wiley Yates by deed duly recorded in the office of the register of deeds of Chatham County bounded and described as follows, to-wit: BEGINdevoting all his efforts to guarding Mary Lane, to Leon T. Lane, said William Cheek's south-east corner, and running thence with said Cheek southern boundary line West 166 poles to a stake; thence in a southerly di rection 133 poles to a stake; thence east 53 poles to a stake in the public road; thence along said public road 58 poles to Hickory pointers; thence East 152 poles to Morgan Creek; thence with the meanders of said Morgan Creek in a Northerly direction to the point of beginning, containing 60 acres more or less and be-

1-Ton Truck 495 2TonTruck375 ing that part of what is now known as the "John Crawford tract" of land

in Williamstownship, Chatham County, which lies across and West of Morgan Creek as shown on the above mentioned plat and survey of R. B.

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