

# Until Love Happens

MARGARET NICHOLS



**CHAPTER NINETEEN**

When Alison went downstairs, she heard voices outside. Viola was clearing away the dishes.

"Mister Sam's car won't start," she said, "the battery's gone dead."

Presently Teresa came in with a purposeful air. She had thrown her mink coat over her navy slacks suit.

"Oh, Viola, I'm sorry, I'm tracking mud. But Mr. Tarrant's car won't start and I'm driving him in to his office."

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gotten that in the beginning she had told him she was Sam's sister-in-law.

"Has Mrs. Tarrant gone back to Washington?"

"No. She drove Sam to his office. His car wouldn't start this morning. She isn't going back until she takes Suzy with her. I suppose this is rather an awkward situation."

He nodded understandingly.

"Divorce is always awkward when there are children. There isn't much of it here. Divorce, I mean, I suppose you'll call us conventional, even provincial."

"But everyone here knows that Sam and my sister have been divorced, don't they?"

"Of course." He smiled slightly. "But people will talk, you know, and mind other people's business. It isn't entirely malicious. In large cities people don't know very much about one another, while here everybody knows about the other fellow — how Sam, for instance, ran away from school his first day there and hid in the shrubbery, the time a swarm of bees chased him all the way home and how he looked when he gave his first public debate in high school. There's little that can be hidden in a small community."

"I know. I grew up in one in New England."

"I thought so. You don't look much like a city girl. Or maybe you don't like my saying that because you're trying to look like one."

"I don't know how to try to be anyone else, doctor." Though she smiled at him, she felt uneasy. People were talking about Teresa living in her former husband's house and driving him to his office. Her flaunted air of possessiveness, even glimpsed from a distance, was unmistakable. The doctor was trying to tell her that they didn't like it, that they didn't think it quite decent according to their standards. Perhaps some of them were making fun of her. And all of it together wouldn't be good for the struggling young editor, the servant of the public. She said, "You've known Sam a long time, haven't you?"

"Since his first lusty howl. I've seen babies wanted and I've seen them unwanted, but I've never seen one wanted more than Sam was by his parents." He raised heavy lids and looked at her. "But I can't stay here because while it would be

no discredit to you, I'd very shortly fall asleep."

Apparently Teresa had cut quite a figure on the village street, for when she returned she looked amused when she said, "The way people stared at me! Don't you suppose they've ever seen a mink coat before? They're positively quaint. When I said, 'This order is for Mr. Tarrant,' to the butcher, his jaw dropped. 'I'm Mrs. Tarrant,' I told him. He was rather sweet. I doubt if anyone here knows Sam and I were divorced. How is Suzy this morning?"

"Much better. The doctor was here. Suzy wanted to know where you were." But Teresa had not been so worried about her child, Alison thought, that she had forgotten to bring to the farm a colorful and attractive wardrobe. Nor did she fail to keep in daily communication with her office in Washington. "I'll go right up and see her."

But the telephone rang and Teresa went to answer it. "This is Mrs. Tarrant," Alison heard her say decisively. "Yes, Mrs. Tarrant. I'm sorry, he's not here, but you'll find him at his office."

Teresa's possessive love revealing itself in any number of ways. . . . But while her love made her more beautiful, because love is the greatest beautifier in the world, it gave her no peace. It was like a forest fire seeking new timber to ravage. It was as though she were tormented by the question, "What next? I must have this and more." Always more.

And to Alison it was indisputable that for as long as Sam had been gone, Teresa had wanted him back. She might have been a new person, but she was not. The only difference between the Teresa who had said, "I've put all of that out of my life forever" and the young woman who looked at Sam with insatiable eyes was that her true feelings had triumphed over her pretenses.

Sam's quiet strength and his reserve forbade any clear understanding of his feelings. He was by turns amusing, introspective, interestingly conversational. He told them stories of the lighter side of war and of odd characters he had met in France and Holland and Belgium. But Sam committed himself to no one except to himself.

One day when he came home he found Teresa mending his old clothes. She was wonderful at sewing. A darn could scarcely be seen and a patch was hardly noticeable. He stood still and smiled gratefully.

She said, smiling, "I had to. I hope you'll forgive my going through your things, but you left this morning with a hole in your sock. I found a shirt with only one button on it."

"I'll feel like the best-dressed man in town when you get through, but my inelegant wardrobe is hardly worth your valuable time, Teresa."

"I can think of no more rewarding way to use it than in this way."

"Very nice of you to do it for me."

She laughed. "Stop being so modest, darling. You underestimate yourself, Sam."

When Viola announced lunch Teresa went in and sat at the place that Sam's wife would occupy.

(To Be Continued)

## Radio Programs

**WMFD**

**1400 On Your Dial**

**TODAY**

6:30—Coffee Club.

7:00—UP News.

7:05—Coffee Club.

7:30—Musical Clock.

7:55—North Carolina Highlights.

8:00—News With Martin Agronsky.

8:15—Star-News Commentator.

8:30—Musical Clock.

8:40—NBC Musical Revue.

8:55—UP News.

9:00—The Breakfast Club With Don McNeill.

10:00—My True Story.

10:25—Betty Crocker's Magazine of the Air.

10:45—The Listening Post.

11:00—Breakfast in Hollywood — Tom Breneman.

11:30—Galen Drake.

11:45—Ted Malone.

12:00—Noon Day Musical.

**OVER THE NETWORKS**

OVER THE NETWORKS

Time is eastern standard, for central standard subtract one hour, for mountain standard subtract two hours. Some local stations change hour of relay to fit local schedules. Last minute program changes cannot be included.

**TODAY**

6:00—News Report 15 Min.—nbc

6:05—News Report Day—nbc

6:10—Network Silent Hour—abc-east

6:15—Kiddee Hour (repeat)—abc-west

6:20—Network Silent Hour—nbc-east

6:25—Kiddee Hour (repeat)—nbc-west

6:30—Sports: Concert Time—nbc

6:35—Talks Time—nbc

6:40—Red Barber and Sports—nbc-east

6:45—Lum & Abner (repeat)—nbc-west

6:50—News Comment—Three—nbc

7:00—Lowell Thomas (repeat 11)—nbc

7:05—Radio Supper Club—nbc-basic

7:10—Mystery of the West—nbc

7:15—News and Comment—abc

7:20—Fulton Lewis, Jr.—nbc

7:25—News and Comment—nbc

7:30—Jack Smith and Song—nbc

7:35—Daily Commentary—abc

7:40—The Evening Concert—nbc

7:45—The House Party—nbc

7:50—Bob Crosby's Club—nbc

7:55—Lone Ranger Drama—abc

8:00—Leland Stowe—nbc

8:05—Kaltenborn Comment—nbc

8:10—Ed Murrow News—nbc

8:15—Sports Comment—nbc

8:20—Dennis Day Comedy—nbc

8:25—American Melody Time—nbc

8:30—Masters of the Town—nbc

8:35—Racket Smashers—nbc

8:40—Great Guildersleeve—nbc

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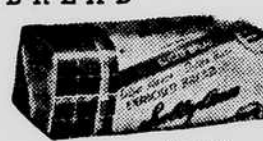
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Canadian dollar in New York open market 9 15-16 per cent discount or 90.86 1-4 U. S. cents, unchanged.

Europe: Great Britain \$4.03 3-16, off 1-16 of a cent; France (Franc) .84 1-8 of a cent, unchanged; Sweden (Krona) 27.85, unchanged; Switzerland (franc) (com'l) 23.40, unchanged.

Latin America: Argentina Free 24.94, up .01 of a cent; Brazil Free 5.50, unchanged; Mexico 20.62 unchanged.

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