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Challenge To Love

By **ETHEL HAMILL**

CHAPTER 34
The parlor of the modest home-stead, dusty from long neglect, lay before her. It was empty. But in the gray powder which passing months and years had sifted over its neat carpet, she could make out vague footprints. A man's footprints. They led from where she stood, uncertain to a second door at the opposite end of the room. The kitchen door, she recognized, because the layouts of such houses were so uncomplex. It, too, stood a trifle open as if waiting for her.

Just beyond it, as she started forward, a floor board creaked. "Joel!" She was racing toward that small, homely sound already. Now she was thrusting the inner barrier out of her way, was plunging headlong in-

to his mother's kitchen. "Oh, Joel!" He stared at her. "Cammie!" "Beefy brought me," Cam heard herself babbling eagerly. "He—he said that maybe you'd want to hear something I have to tell you. Joel—I'm not marrying Herbert Powell. And I never was going to."

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Third Sunday School League Being Organized

Wilmington churches have requested the formation of a Third 'Y' Sunday School Basketball league, Adam Smith, 'Y' secretary said yesterday. The age of the players would un-

der 17 years, he said and play would be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. All churches that are interested in participating in the newly formed basketball league are to meet with Smith at 8 p.m. Monday, December 22. The purpose of the league is to increase the attendance at local Sunday schools, and to give an outlet for competition among the various Sunday Schools, he said. Churches inquiring about the new league are Tabernacle Baptist, L. F. M. a Presbyterian, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, St. Andrews Covenant, Sunset Park Baptist. Other churches are invited to participate in this league.

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cause you are the only man I ever could love, Joel, by any possible stretch of the imagination. That's the reason." For one more instant the wintery barrier held there in front of the unblinking blue eyes. Then it cracked, cracked into a million pieces. A bright mist burned into its place. Cam never knew whether she moved first, or whether it was Joel. But his arms were hard around her, where a second ago there had been such distance between them. "Darling!" he whispered, chockingly, into the windblown hair, "Cammie, I love you so!" she breathed, clinging to him. "I should have known that," "My heart kept telling me so. But everything else fitted together into such horrible tight and complete picture—such an ugly picture. When I heard Maurine talking to you on the telephone—" "Maurine?" Joel pulled back his rumpled head unwillingly. "But I've never said anything to Maurine, by telephone or not that could hurt you, Cammie. I've never talked to her on the telephone at all, except to ask her for a casual date or two. What did you hear?" "But—but I heard her end of it!" protested Cam. "She didn't know I was coming into the house, and I heard her telling you how she despised you for intending to get a Dean's Award through making love to me. And later, after I'd condescended her when she had to admit to me that you'd told her—Joel! Why, she wasn't talking on the telephone at all!" "Not to me, certainly. But why—" "Because I was wrong about her not knowing I was on the steps. She must have watched me coming up the hill. Of course she knew!" "How the dickens did she even know I'd applied for a Dean's Award?" Joel demanded. "ed. "Your father suggested it weeks ago. But I never really intended to use the application he gave me, not until Beefy beat it into me that you'd want—" His shoulders stiffened slowly. "I think you and I had better have a little talk with Maurine"

"The very minute we get back to Cartersville." "We don't have to wait for Cartersville," he cut in. "She's here in Acadia. She's at the inn in the village, right this minute, waiting for me to close up the house. We came here on the same train." "Maurine came all this way with you? But—but why?" "I didn't know she was aboard. Not until after we'd pulled out of Cartersville. She'd come to Mrs. Funk's and—well, I thought I'd persuaded her there that some ideas she had were just the result of a lot of overheated imagination. Anyhow, I didn't see her after Beefy and I left the rooming house; not until the train was under way. And after that—oh, she seemed so upset at the idea of my selling the old place that I hadn't the heart to cold-shoulder her, Cam—" He was blushing, now himself. The recital of what had happened on the trip to Acadia, that interlude between the college station and a flag stop 50-odd miles away might have ruffled the composure of a man about town. And Joel Conroy had never pretended to be a sophisticate. His chivalry was hative to him, bred in his bone. "Cam, she—damn it, she asked me to marry her. She said she'd comfort me. She said she didn't expect me to love her right away and—well, for just a little while there, I almost weakened."

Her eyes were on his. "Did you, Joel?" "By the time we'd gotten off the train and I'd taken her over to the inn to wait I'd gotten my balance back. I told her so. But she went right on begging me not to sell the farm. It seemed almost like a fixation with her, by then. Say, if Beefy's out front with his car," he said, "what are we waiting for? She's only five minutes from here." But before he would let her go, his mouth came down over hers and possessed it. His kiss was swift, but it was thorough. It burned white fire along Cam's veins.

TO BE CONTINUED

Red Cross To Aid Navajo And Hopi Indians With Cash

WASHINGTON, D. C. To help the thousands of destitute Punjab refugees in India and Pakistan, the American Red Cross has shipped 10,000 sleeveless sweaters for distribution there by the Indian Red Cross society. The consignment of sweater-produced woolsens is divided into two parts, 5,000 of them going to the New Delhi branch of the Indian Red Cross, and 5,000 to the Karachi branch.

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