

FATE'S WEB

By AGNES G. BROGAN.

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Fate has a mysterious way of weaving her web and enmeshing within it the most unsuspecting. Thus, Polly Wintergreen, planning in her village home a trip to the city to buy a new hat, and big John Brand, home for the first time in many years from the West, little knew in their hearts that Fate was slyly drawing them together.

Perhaps if Polly had known, she might have remained in Fairville. For her knowledge of love and its ways had been gained entirely from certain books, first censored by Aunt Electa. From these tales Polly learned that ideal lovers approached their fair ones always in an attitude of reverent homage. Foreknowledge of John Brand's confident manner of claiming his own might therefore have deterred a frightened Polly from visiting the city.

John himself, fresh from the life of the great outdoors, would have scoffed at being drawn under any circumstances into the gilded atmosphere of a ladies' millinery parlor—yet here they both were, with Fate preparing to fling her net.

In Polly's sheltered life, the buying of a hat was an adventure. So, her cheeks flushed with excitement and her eyes sparkled in pleasure as she wandered from table to table, selecting those to be tried on.

Big John, waiting frowningly on a satin-covered sofa, was overlooked. With the memory of those perfect heroes stamped upon her mind, there was nothing in the Westerner's appearance to arouse Polly's interest.

She selected a velvet turban from a stand at his side, and proceeded to draw it down over her fluffy hair. The effect was charming. The Westerner, who had been regarding half-contemptuously the girl's frail daintiness, sat up suddenly with new attention. There was an expression in the dewy eyes beneath the turban's brim which he had never seen before. Half shy was the look, and wholly appealing.

John Brand had known many women—efficient, good and clever. But their eyes had not shone with that self-sacrificing womanly light, or so the Westerner thought, for fate, you see, was holding the mirror.

He was obliged to see the manager of this great department store upon a matter of business; his impatience led him in the chase to the millinery department, where it was said that worthily could be found.

His impatience vanished as he leaned back, watching Polly as she surveyed her own reflected face.

"I like this shape very much," she said.

"It is great!" the Westerner genially commented.

Polly wheeled about, flushing rosy; she had fancied herself speaking to the saleswoman, who was not now near.

"I've got a picture of my mother," he went on, "with a little velvet thing like that on her head; it was taken years ago. She died before I was old enough to remember her. But you make me think of that picture some way—the hat, the look in your eyes."

Polly stared.

The strange big man finished musingly, as though he had forgotten her presence.

"I would like to have this same shape covered in blue," Polly said. "I made the trip in town today because it is necessary to have the hat for a special occasion. Could you promise it surely for the day after tomorrow?"

"Impossible!" the woman answered, wearily. "We are swamped with work. Twelve hats promised for a big society wedding tomorrow; more the day after. It is an unusually busy season. Could you not take this purple shape?"

"The hat must match my blue suit," Polly lamented.

John Brand, upon his own side of the mirror, could not know of the disappointment through which the blue-eyed girl was passing.

Polly had dreamed of the blue suit and hat she would wear; simple they would have to be, but of a late fashion. No other hat of suitable price or appearance was available in her limited search. The train for Fairville would leave soon. She would have to go back and wear again among them all her old and faded felt.

"I suppose," the saleswoman suggested presently, "that I could persuade one of the trimmers to take the hat home and make it up for you after hours. But they've been working so hard they are pretty tired—"

Now, though John Brand could not realize in his experience of the big things of life, how very real to Polly was her disappointment in this instance, he did realize the unselfishness of her prompt response.

"Oh! I would not think of adding to the girl's work," said Polly. "I will come in again at a later time."

Around the Westerner's heart crept a comforting glow. It was as though after long search he had come upon that which he most desired.

And as Polly came around the mirror he was talking to the manager, who listened with deference.

The manager turned to shake hands with his customer, Miss Wintergreen, and the Westerner, whose great success had been achieved through recognizing opportunity, immediately brought the manager for an introduction.

Ekimo Kayak.
One of the oddest crafts ever seen near Provincetown, Mass., was the Ekimo kayak, in which Explorer Donald B. MacMillan paddled about. The kayak is a man's canoe and is built on a frame on which is stretched skin, water tight. It is handled with a double paddle, is decked over, and, with an expert in it, is one of the safest small craft known.

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NOTICE.

North Carolina, Feb. Term, '19
Hertford County Superior Court

Sidney Cohn, Plaintiff,

vs.

A. Goldberg and H. S. Rosenblatt, trading as Goldberg & Rosenblatt, Defendants.

The defendants will take notice: That the plaintiff has entered suit in the Superior Court of Hertford County, N. C., to recover the sum of Four Hundred and Two and 56/100 Dollars, with interest from July 15th, 1915, for services rendered by plaintiff during the year 1918 and has sued out a warrant of attachment in said action against the property of the defendants in said county, returnable to the February Term, 1919 of Hertford Superior Court.

That the defendants are required to appear at said February Term to be held in the court house in Winton, N. C., on the last Monday in February, 1919 and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or judgment will be rendered against them.

This November 25th, 1918
D. R. McGilobon,
Clerk of the Superior Court of Hertford County.

Winborne & Winborne,
Attorneys. 48 4

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Administrator's Notice.
Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Willis G. Hare, deceased, of Northampton County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Willis G. Hare to present them to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of Nov., 1919 or their notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
November 19, 1918.
D. C. Barnes, Adm'r.

Administratrix Notice.
Having qualified as administratrix of the estate of J. S. Pugh, deceased, late of Hertford County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned attorney, on or before the 11th day of November, 1919, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 9th day of Nov. 1918.
Nancy J. Pugh, Admx,
of J. S. Pugh, dec'd.
Roswell C. Bridger,
Attorney for Administratrix. 466

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