

The Dollar Bride

Sixth Installment

To get fifteen thousand dollars for the family honor, Nancy Gordon promises to marry the well-to-do Dr. Richard Moore, her beloved brother, kindly, but come from New York to convince that he has taken that amount from the bank where he was because a woman needed it—and that will be jailed if he is found out before returns it. So Nancy, in love with penniless Page Roemer, decides to let her money from Morgan and pledges here to marry him to return. He agrees to bargain, feeling sure he can make her his wife. While they are talking at his home, however, comes in here, "Oh, Richard, don't let him come in here," begs Nancy when she hears his name. And as Richard looks at her the strange, little secret of love for Page is revealed to him.

Now go on with the story.

Day dawned at last and the sun rose gloriously—sunshine mocks human misery.

It was shining in the kitchen windows where Amanda, with her sleeves rolled up, was cutting potatoes. She paid no heed to the door.

"Take me up and set me down, please," said Nancy.

"No, de Lawd, Miss Nancy, come startled!"

Nancy had appeared unexpectantly on the threshold. It was early, she was fully dressed for the street and wore a big hat that shaded her eyes.

"Amanda, I'm going out—I want to see a friend. Can I have a cup of coffee?"

"I reckons so, Miss Nancy; I'd make it for you."

Nancy sat down in a kitchen chair and took the cup from Amanda's hands. The coffee was hot and good; Nancy sipped it slowly, watching the dim brown hands that worked. "Take me up and set me down, please," said Nancy.

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ard's voice and it sounded strange. Nancy looked up at the motor and saw Helena's face at the window, her eyes looking at them. She leaned forward, startled, bowing to them and Nancy's cheeks grew rosy. Helena's eyes looked as if they knew.

"With this ring I thee wed, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow."

"Her worldly goods? She turned hot and cold. She hardly knew what she was doing when the minister shook hands with her. Then he spoke to Richard kindly and frankly; she felt the change in his tone. He seemed to know that Richard was sincere."

She was shaking hands now with the witnesses; then they walked down the long aisle—they two alone—past the vacant pews under the low gallery.

Richard opened the swinging doors and the cold spring air met them like a friend.

Across the city square the blue shadows of the dusk had gathered. Terror and homesickness clutched at Nancy's heart; she looked up and met Richard's eyes, they frightened her; he saw through her, she knew he did!

"Richard, I must go home!" she panted.

"I'm going to take you home," his voice shook, "my home is yours now, Nancy."

"Oh, I don't mean that. I meant I'll have to tell father and mother now!"

"Then—" he paused an instant, not looking at her, you want to go home tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow?" her tone was tinged with agonized dismay. He meant to stay here then—or to go farther away still!

"You want to go now?" he asked quietly, "at once?"

"Oh!" she drew a long breath. "I couldn't—"

He was silent. They had reached the corner of the street and he stopped abruptly, apparently lost in thought.

"You mean—you'd like to go home alone—that—that—" he choked.

For a long moment the man struggled with the mounting passion of fury in his soul. Then he turned quietly, without making her even aware of the tremendous effort he had made to control himself.

"Come with me now," he said softly. "I've taken rooms at the hotel here, close by. You need rest—I can see that—and I must talk to you."

Something in his tone struck her suddenly. She remembered. She begged his help and pledged herself. It was her doing, not his, and she was begging out! Even now, married

Helena would wonder why Nancy was going to Washington with Richard. Would they have to tell him? Her heart sank—it would make real before—before it happened.

She consciously faltered; her very lips grew pale. Richard saw it. Up to this moment he had been carried along by a rush of feeling, by the deep of his own passion for her, but now in a moment—the thing fell to pieces. They were almost at the station, when he stopped short.

"Nancy," his voice was harsh and broken. "I wish I knew—you make a fellow feel like a brute! I can't go on with this—if I'm forcing you to marry me against your heart!"

She stood still at his side, her profile toward him. She did not lift her eyes.

"I—" she struggled with herself, and then steadily: "I pledged myself to marry you—if you want to refuse twinkling."

Nancy hurried. "I can't come in today, but—give Angie my love, please," she faltered.

The major chuckled. "Think I'm a carrier pigeon, eh? Angie and I saw Roddy hurry by last week—why wrong? He never looked at us, Nancy, went by like a shot."

Nancy felt a thrill of fear throughout her. Did the old man know she must not betray Roddy, she must not let him see her, she must not now. She swallowed the lump in her throat.

"He had to catch a train, that's all," she explained gently, "I'm sure he didn't see you."

Nancy hurried now. She had told Richard not to come for her, to wait at the station. She thought it was easier to go there alone, but it was not; it was harder every minute. Suddenly she saw him waiting for her, standing at his own gate.

He seemed to loom up there, the figure that her fevered dream had conjured—as a child dreams the bogie-man—but Richard, tall and strong. The same face, too, not his some like Page Roemer's, but yet something in it that frightened her. Yet his eyes were warm and glowing now—and yes, they were kind.

"I couldn't let you walk all the way where alone, Nancy," he said huskily clasping her hand a moment and then it went again, "I've felt a heavy burden, not to come to tell your father and mother, and take you off a church like a man!"

"You did what I asked, Richard, she got her voice—at first she thought she couldn't—and they walked on together. Once she raised her eyes and gave Richard a sidelong look, and was stricken by it. Again she thought how he loved her and it terrified her. It was like meeting something ugly and irresistible. She was wicked, but a wicked and sordid thing to do to a man who loved her."

"There's Mrs. Haddon," said R.

Richard had not told Haddon; banker never looked her way at all. Suddenly she felt as if she wished he had. Why hadn't Richard—

thought you wouldn't want to talk to her all the way, so I didn't tell you where here," Richard said, slipping up and taking her bag. "The train's going in two minutes, Nancy, we have to get aboard."

The church was almost empty but there were some roses in the white font, a little way from the group of witnesses, strangers, two men and a man—the church sexton on the face of this company, together this man and this woman's mind staggered back from it. He lifted her white face and looked into the minister's eyes. She was shaken by their look, their odd, glowing look. A pang of fear shot through her.

They stood beside Richard, but she no longer lifted her eyes. She did not want to meet that look again. Not unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, in the fear of God."

Low solemnly he spoke. He seemed

to be seeking her out and searching her, not Richard. He must be doing it on purpose!

"Nancy Virginia, wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?" He paused; his strange voice seemed to grate and pierce her, to try to drag the truth out of her. He was doing it on purpose!

"I, Nancy Virginia, take thee, Richard, to be—"

Her ears were ringing now and her lips were dry. She had said it, she had repeated it after him, chokingly, unmeaningly, like a parrot. She would see him all her life with that look in his hands and his spectacles slipping down his nose. But she had heard her own voice repeating it, and now it was Richard's turn.

"With this ring I thee wed, and with all my worldly goods I thee endow."

His worldly goods? She turned hot and cold. She hardly knew what she was doing when the minister shook hands with her. Then he spoke to Richard kindly and frankly; she felt the change in his tone. He seemed to know that Richard was sincere."

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NORTH CAROLINA, JACKSON COUNTY.

County of Jackson vs

Julia Crane heirs: Pearson Sherrill and wife, Mrs. Pearson Sherrill, heirs of Julia Crane, and all other persons claiming any interest in the lands herein described.

Under and by virtue of the power and authority conferred upon me by a judgment rendered in the above entitled action on the 9th day of January, 1933, I will, on the 28 day of February, 1934, offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash at public auction, at the Court House door in Sylva, at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described property:

A certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in Qualla township Jackson County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

Being the lands adjoining the Beck heirs, Mollie Martin and others, appears of record in Book No. 103, at page 388, in the office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County, North Carolina.

This property is sold for the collection of the 1927 taxes, costs, interest and penalties.

This the 22nd day of January, 1934. DAN K. MOORE, Commissioner of Court.

NORTH CAROLINA, JACKSON COUNTY.

County of Jackson vs

M. Buchanan and wife, Belle Buchanan, and all other persons claiming any interest in the lands herein described.

Under and by virtue of the power and authority conferred upon me by a judgment rendered in the above entitled action on the 6th day of March 1933, I will on the 26th day of February, 1934, offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash at public auction, at the Court House door in Sylva, at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described property:

All those tracts or parcels of land, lying and being in Webster township, Jackson county, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

First Tract: Adjoining the lands of J. L. Broyles, S. J. Owens, W. T. Buchanan, John H. Davis, Isam Evans, A. M. Henson's (A. B. Allison place) and Hedden property and being the property purchased from Joe Buchanan by the said M. Buchanan, said deed being recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County in Book No. —, at page —.

Second Tract: Adjoining the lands of M. M. McKee, heirs of Nathan Allen and others, and beginning on the Main Street at the N. E. corner of M. M. McKee's lot; thence runs a N. W. direction with the line of M. M. McKee to the State road; thence a N. W. direction with said road to the line or corner of the Nathan Allen tract of land; thence with the line of the said Nathan Allen tract to a stake on the main street; thence with said Main Street to the beginning, containing 3 acres, more or less.

The above tracts being all of the lands of the said M. Buchanan and wife in Webster township.

This property is sold for the collection of the 1928 taxes, costs, interest and penalties.

This the 22nd day of January, 1934. DAN K. MOORE, Commissioner of Court.

NORTH CAROLINA, JACKSON COUNTY.

County of Jackson vs

D. L. Love and wife, Mrs. D. L. Love, M. Buchanan, Sr., and wife, Belle Buchanan, and all other persons claiming any interest in the lands herein described.

Under and by virtue of the power and authority conferred upon me by a judgment rendered in the above entitled action on the 6th day of March 1933, I will on the 26th day of February, 1934, offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash at public auction, at the Court House door in Sylva, at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land, lying and being in Savannah township Jackson County, North Carolina, containing 100 acres, and being the same lands as sold by G. W. McConnell Sheriff, to J. D. Buchanan and D. I. Love, Sept. 1, 1890, recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County, North Carolina, in Book No. 16, at page 575.

This property is sold for the collection of the 1928 taxes, costs, interest and penalties.

This the 22nd day of January, 1934. DAN K. MOORE, Commissioner of Court.

NORTH CAROLINA, JACKSON COUNTY.

County of Jackson vs

M. Buchanan and wife, Belle Buchanan, and all other persons claiming any interest in the lands herein described.

Under and by virtue of the power and authority conferred upon me by a judgment rendered in the above entitled action on the 20th day of February, 1933, I will, on the 26th day of February, 1934, offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash at public auction, at the Court House door in Sylva, at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land, lying and being in Caney Creek township, Jackson County, North Carolina, being the lands conveyed by John H. Smith and wife, F. M. Smith, to M. Buchanan, containing 8 acres, more or less and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County North Carolina in Book No. 26 at page 322.

This property is sold for the collection of the 1928 taxes, interest, cost and penalties.

This the 22nd day of January, 1934. DAN K. MOORE, Commissioner of Court.

NORTH CAROLINA, JACKSON COUNTY.

County of Jackson vs

M. Buchanan and wife, Pearl Buchanan, and all other persons claiming any interest in the lands herein described.

Under and by virtue of the power and authority conferred upon me by a judgment rendered in the above entitled action on the 3rd day of April, 1933, I will, on the 26th day of February, 1934, offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash at public auction, at the Court House door in Sylva, at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described property:

All that tract or parcel of land, lying and being in Cullowhee township, Jackson County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

Being lot No. 72 of the W. L. Heron lands in Cullowhee township as subdivided by the Home Realty and Auction Co., of Franklin, N. C., and sold by O. B. Coward, surveyor, in November, 1924, said map or plat being recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Jackson County, N. C., in Map Book No. 1, at page 28, to which reference is hereby had for a more full and complete description of said land.

This property is sold for the collection of the 1928 taxes, costs, interest and penalties.

This the 22nd day of January, 1934. DAN K. MOORE, Commissioner of Court.

NORTH CAROLINA, JACKSON COUNTY.

County of Jackson vs

S. A. Ashe and wife, Mrs. S. A. Ashe, and all other persons claiming any interest in the lands herein described.

Under and by virtue of the power and authority conferred upon me by a judgment rendered in the above entitled action on the 20th day of February, 1933, I will on the 26th day of February, 1934, offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash at public auction, at the Court House door in Sylva, at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described property:

All those tracts or parcels of land, lying and being in River township Jackson County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

First tract: Beginning on a large