Hildred had never, in all her

life, deceived her mother. But she felt she must deceive her now.

She could not refuse this parting request. Surely it would be more wrong to do that than to give the promise asked for. She said again,

"I'll remember, darling—if such a time ever comes."

"Don't come to the door," her mother admonished. "You know J

never like actual good-byes, darling. Besides, this is not one—jus

for a few days—then I shall see my little girl again."

"That's right . . . just a few days," Hildred answered. And be-

cause of that bright confidence on her mother's sweet face, she could

say those words with confidence

too. She could make her own smile bright, in this final moment.















LITTLE GOLD-DIGGER

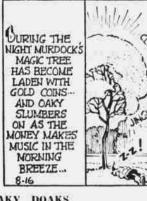


















OAKY DOAKS









I'LL SAY! THE MONEY GEE, MR. IS THE G-GOSH, YOUR LOOK MURDOCK'S MONEY TREE SURE WENT MAJESTY! I WAS STUFF... 18-CARAT . UP! S'POSED TO BE ON GUARD HERE





DICKIE DARE









SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE







UNFAIR COMPETITION









SOUND VIEW

this week are Mrs. Robert Lewis, Bertha Mann, Mrs. Lester Mrs. Hall, Lelland Hall, Mrs. Paul Taylor, June Dare Taylor and Mary Taylor.

Mrs. Minnie Sharp visited Mr and Mrs. Marvin Dixon Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Herring, three children and Mrs. Nellie Pot ter visited Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Sharp Sunday.

Mrs. Linwood Fulcher and children, of Miami, Fla., have been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Garner the last two weeks.

Those who visited Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Hall Sunday; Mr. and Mrs. James Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Randal Hall, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hender son, Lester Hall, Jr. and Claudia Mr. Bennie Russell, of Wilming-

ton, is spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Taylor. There was a family reunion at Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Garner's Sun-James and Everett Taylor were

business visitors in Raleigh Satur-Mr. and Mrs. William Piner and children, Mr. and Mrs. James Tay

lor visited a short while at Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Taylor's Sunday. Mr. Gallard Garner, of Cortez

Fla., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. I. Garner. Mrs. Alvania Garner spent the

week end with Mrs. J. H. Lewis. The ladies aid met at the home of Mrs. Robert Lewis Wednesday night. There were twelve members present and six visitors

Mr. Roland Farmer and children spent part of last week with his mother at Snow Hill, N. C. The first time all of the .ysb

Mrs. Maney Thomas Salter vi sited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Taylor Sunday.

Mrs. H. A. Taylor and sons children had been together in Those present: Mrs. Linvears. wood Fulcher of Miami, Garland Garner of Cortez, Fla., Jerome Garner and children of Morehead City and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Garner of Charleston, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hall, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Randal Hall and Lester Hall visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Hall, Sr. Sunday night.

SMYRNA

Major and Mrs. Guion Simpson and son, Guion, Jr. returned home from California Sunday.

The Horne family from up the tate are spending this week here with Mrs. Mitchell Willis and family Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Chadwick

were in Beaufort and Morehead City a few hours Wednesday. Norman D. Gillikin and family, of Arlington, Va., are here visiting Mr. Gillikin's mother, Mrs.

Hilda Gillikin. The Woman's Society of Christian Service met with Mrs. Harry Lane Willis Thursday night of last week.

Mrs. Thelma Moore, of Marshallberg, was in our community a short time Monday night Mrs. Fannie Nelson and Mrs

"I believe so." Her look did not waver. "In fact, I believe it so much that, well, I am willing to marry you, Lucien, if you will agree—and help make it possible." Hettie Stead, of Gloucester, attended services at the Methodist church here Sunday night. Reverend L. C. Chandler filled

Baptist church here Sunday morning at ten o'clock. Miss Eleanor Wade, of Willis-

ton, was the guest of Miss Elise Willis Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Piner, of

Marshallberg, were here visiting relatives Sunday afternoon.

who celebrated birthday

"It's about Ellen and me." He dropped the cap and had to pause to pick it up. "We're fixing to get married, you know."

Hildred had known, but smiled once more and said that that was fine. But she knew that

was not all. "It's been on both our minds, like I told you; Ellen, she's been after me. She said she knew you, being a lady, and such a friendly one and fine, would understand."

tainly would try.

"Mr. Lucien is fine, too — just fine!" Robin said. "He's giving us a little cottage on the plantation, that little white one near the edge

She did not go with her mother to Atlanta. Mrs. McNaughten

Ellen, it don't seem right to mention this matter first to him."

"What is it, Robin? You know I'll do anything at all, if I can."

"I know you will, Miss—you're that good!" The admiration was a soft glow in his eyes. "It's the boy—Jimmy—we'd like to have him—Ellen and me. For our own, I mean, We'd like to have it done up in court, regular, so he would be ours, if you get me, Miss Hildred."

Hildred "got" him—and with it her own heart suddenly seemed

done?" Robin was asking, his whole face anxious because of her silence. "There's too much in

CHAPTER 30

Jafternoon with Lucien and Jimmy. She could not have spent it alone, waiting for the wire Randy had promised to send as soon as the operation was over.

She must spend it as if she were not waiting-otherwise she could

When she and Lucien were

alone-Hildred told him that she

would marry him.
"There's something I want you to do for me," she said.

"It's about Jimmy. I am sure I

decision, rather than explain that Robin had come to her first. "You

know I feel that he should be adopted, Lucien, legally, so that his whole future will be the same. Well"—she drew a long breath—"I talked with Robin—you know how fond he and Ellen are of the how—and it seems they both had

boy—and it seems they both had already had that idea—that they would like to adopt him."
"You believe that would be bet-ter for the boy than for him to stay on with me?"

There! She had said it: "You mean that?"

"I give you my word," Hildred

a smile.

ILDRED spent that Saturday

SHE found that Robin wanted to talk to her. He told her, as he held the door for her to get out of the big limousine, having drawn up before her door, that he had been wanting to talk with her about a certain matter for a long time.

"It's about Ellen and """

"It's about Ellen and """

"See what I mean, Miss Hildred? And we, well, of course Ellen and me couldn't begin to buy him all the self, I mean. You must stand me couldn't begin to buy him all the self, if mean and the self, I mean. You must stand me couldn't begin to buy him all the self and the self, I mean to your own begin to buy him all the self and the self. That is the only way to find happiness."

"Robin, I understand — full the self and mean in the self and the self. That is the only way to find happiness."

"I'll remain the self and the self and me couldn't begin to buy him all the self, I mean. You must stand me couldn't begin to buy him all the self, I mean. You must stand me couldn't begin to buy him all the self, I mean. You must stand me couldn't begin to buy him all the self, I mean. You must stand me couldn't begin to buy him all the self, I mean. You must stand me couldn't begin to buy him all the self, I mean. You must stand me couldn't begin to buy him all the self and the self, I mean. You must stand me couldn't begin to buy him all the self and t

ised, wondering further why her mother spoke this way in parting. "Promise me," her mother urged gently. "I know if you give me your word that you will remember—if a time should ever come when remember you must."

"Then you'll talk with Mr. Lu-cien?" Robin's interruption came straight from his heart so that it

would not be held back. She said, "Yes, Robin. I promise you I will talk with Mr. Lucien." And in saying that she also scaled the fate that she felt was over-taking her. For she would have to make that her price—Robin and Ellen must have the boy. If Lume and fine, would understand." From would consent to that, then Hildred murmured that she cer-

Robin said, "Oh, thank you

of the big grove. He's done so much and will do more, which is another reason, as I tried to tell Ellen, it don't seem right to mention this matter first to him."

"What is it is done so done as Randy would be there Saturday—she was leaving, with Dr. Schouemaker Friday evening—it was not necessary for Hildred Company of the Schouemaker Scho

How glad she was to be that she had managed that - to send her mother off with a smile, ing stead of with tears. For Mrs. Mc

her own heart suddenly scemed her daughter returned obediently too full.

silence. "There's too much in the big house for one small boy—the cottage would be a home if

am glad you see it that way."
She could let out her breath

Naughten did not come out of the operation. She went to sleep that same bright, confident smile on her lips, as Randy was to tell her daughter later-never to wake up again.

but before she closed her eyes for that long sleep she had said something to Randy, standing beside her in his long white doctors robe and his white mask that covered all his face except his steadfast gray eyes that always would

"I don't see any reason why we should not tell her," Hildred a sane, normal man—with Robin and Ellen to guide him." agreed.

And then he smiled at her once more; he caught up her hands and pressed them, fiercely, fervently now, slowly. That, then, was set-tled-and it was a solution to to his lips.

know him?

was, Randy stepped into the room,

"You know, without naming it, that I will gladly grant any request of yours, my sweet." He had said he did not care if Mildred loved someone clse; but looked up long enough to flash her only human, after all. She would have to be honest with him, yet have found the best—the right she could make it as gentle as solution." She had decided to make the telling seem to be her decision, rather than explain that would do that no matter what it might cost her, once she became Lucien's wife. She had not said that she did not love Bandy; she would love him always,

though she had just promised to marry him. His dark eyes had that intent look, almost that brooding shadow of tragedy. He said, "I will do my best, my utmost, Hildred my beloved, to make you

"I know you will." Her eyes re-turned his look.

her to know that you are the one | gagement."

which Randy, also, would agree. And this made it stranger still that Lucien should speak of him Afterwards she was to recall that that was their betrothal kiss. Would she ever understand, or not have got through that time at now. "How about that doctor of

yours, the one so young, so hand-some? You have found, then, that you did not love him as much as It was Ellen who brought the message. But it was not a telegram. Ellen announced that there was a gentleman to see Miss Mgyou thought? You do not mindyou will not regret putting him out of your heart-your life for-ever?" Naughten, And before either Hif-dred or Lucien could ask who it

Hildred's surprise was so great that she could not believe her that she could not believe hereyes, or find even a word of greeting. And then, seeing Randy's face, she knew why he was here—why he had come, himself, instead of wiring. It was written is the firm line of his stern least jaw, the resolute set of his fine mouth; it was in the steadfast regard of his clear gray was gard of his clear gray eyes.

that she did not lowe Bandy she would love him always,
Still she could not tell, from Lucien's face, what his thoughts were. But now he did come over to her; he sat down beside her, but he did not take her two hands in his as he usually was wont to do. He did not offer to touch her, though she had just promised to "You know then, Hildy?" His

voice was very gentle, very tender for him; one of his hands stroked her fair, bent head; the other arm held her fast, tightly against him. "There is no need for me to tell "Yes

answered.

"That is good enough for me,"
Lucien said. He did not come over to her now, as she had supposed he would. He surprised her even more, by adding, "I agree it will be best for Jimmy. Liz and I would ruin him between us. He should grow up to be a fine manher to know that you are the one

(To be continued)

SCORCHY SMITH









SCURCER SMATH













