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The Canadian Post. LINDSAY FRIDAY JAN. 24, 1890. QUATERMAN'S WIFE. BY H. RIDER HAGGARD.

Copyrighted by Mr. Wm. Bryce Esq., Publisher, Toronto, Ont. and Published by Special Arrangement. I was about to visit one of the sweetest and loveliest women in the whole world...

"Do you know how long you have been married?" he said. "For several years. I have slept here with one eye open, for I thought she had made a plan. Tonight I kept wide awake, though I pretended to be asleep. An hour after you got into the blankets the moon rose, and I saw a beam of light come into the hut through the hole in the roof. Presently I saw the beam of light vanish. At first I thought that a cloud was passing over the moon, but I listened and heard a noise as though some one was squeezing himself through a narrow place. Presently he was through and hanging by his hands. Then the light came in again, and in the middle of it I saw the babayan-frau swinging from the roof, and about to drop into the hut. She clung by both hands, and in her mouth was a great knife. She dropped, and I ran forward to seize her as she dropped, and gripped her round the middle. But she heard me and, seizing the knife, struck me in the dark and missed me. Then we struggled, and you know the rest. You were very nearly dead to-night, Macumazahn."

Then Mr. Carson spoke. "Allan and Stella," he said, "I believe that the ceremony which has been performed makes you man and wife in the sight of God and man, for all that is necessary to make a marriage binding is, that it should be celebrated according to the custom of the country where the parties to it reside. It is according to the custom that has been in force here for fifteen years or more that you have been married in the face of all the people, and in token of it you will both sign the registry that I have kept of such marriages, among those of my own people that have adopted the Christian faith. Still, in case there should be any legal flaw, I again demand the solemn promise of you both that on the first opportunity you will cause this marriage to be re-celebrated in some civilized land. Do you promise?" "We do," we answered.

CHAPTER XI. WONDER if many married couples are quite as happy as we found ourselves. Cynics, a growing class, declare that few illusions can survive a honeymoon. Well, I do not know about it, for I only married, once, and can but speak from my limited experience. But certainly our illusion, or rather the great truth of which it is the shadow, did survive, as to this day it survives in my heart. But complete happiness is not allowed in this world even for an hour. Three days after our wedding Mr. Carson had a stroke. It had been long impending, now it fell. We came into the center hut to dinner and found him lying speechless. At first I thought that he was dying, but this was not so. On the contrary, within four days he recovered his speech and some power of movement. But he never recovered his memory, though he still knew Stella, and sometimes myself. Curiously enough he remembered little Tota best of all three, though occasionally he thought that she was his own daughter in her childhood, and would ask her where her mother was. This state of affairs lasted for some seven months. The old man gradually grew weaker, but he did not die. Of course his condition precluded the idea of our leaving Babayan Kraal till all was over. This was the more distressing to me because I had a nervous presentiment that Stella was incurring danger by staying there, and also because the state of her health rendered it desirable that we should reach a civilized region as soon as possible.

At length the end came very suddenly. We were sitting one evening by Mr. Carson's bedside in his hut, when to our astonishment he sat up and spoke. "I hear you," he said. "Yes, yes, I forgive you. Poor woman! you too have suffered, and he fell back dead. I have little doubt that he was addressing his lost wife, some vision of whom had flashed across his dying senses. Stella, of course, was overwhelmed with grief at her loss. Till I came her father had been her sole companion, and therefore, as may be imagined, the tie between them was much closer than is usual even in the case of father and daughter. So deeply did she mourn that I began to fear for the effect upon her health. Nor were we the only ones to grieve: all the natives on the settlement called Mr. Carson 'father,' and as a father they lamented him. The air resounded with the wailing of women, and the men went about with bowed heads, saying that the sun had set in the heavens, now only the stars (Stella) remained." Indaba-zimbi alone did not mourn. He said that it was best that the Inkoo should die, for what was life worth when one lay like a log—moreover, that it would have been well for all if he had died sooner.

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