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## "THE WIFE"

By Jane Phelps.

### BRIAN RENTS OFFICE RUTH SELECTED

CHAPTER CXLVIII.  
About eleven o'clock Ruth and Brian called on the agent, who had so kindly allowed Ruth to hold the option for so long a time on the office she selected. She felt almost afraid to ask him if it were still vacant, but when he assured her that it was, and added:

"I was perfectly sure you would want it, Mrs. Hackett, so have not tried to let it," she thanked him profusely.

Brian was delighted with it. The location just suited him, and the room was bright and sunny with a small waiting room leading into it. It was all the space he should need until he became famous, he remarked jokingly.

"Which I hope may be very soon, Lieutenant," the agent politely replied.

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"It is going to be soon," Ruth added with decision.

Ruth insisted that they at once get the office cleaned and furnished. In this she was not quite so unselfish as it might appear. She would have something to occupy her mind for a day or two—the first spent out of business in years. To tell the truth, Ruth rather dreaded these first days, altho she in no way allowed regrets to fill her mind. She couldn't! Brian was too boyishly happy.

If, in his exuberance, he said things which hurt a little—if he didn't seem to realize that she had given up anything really vital for him—the tried not to notice, and did not explain.

Brian's absence, his danger, his wounds, and lastly the recognition given him by his country, had made all her own desires and plans seem very unworthy to Ruth as compared to making her soldier-husband happy and contented with his home. This she realized that he never had been. And she also sensed that it was partly because he did not feel that it was HIS home, but he thought of it as HER home, the home she provided.

The agent had recommended a cleaning woman who was working in the building, so Ruth left Brian talking to him while she found her and made arrangements for the thorough cleaning of the office. Then she and Brian measured the floor and windows. New shades and a nice rug were the first requisites. They went at once to a department store, and selected them. Then they took a taxi and drove to the warehouse where Brian had stored his small library. They ordered the books delivered, but Ruth decided the old bookcase wouldn't do. It was an old walnut one Brian had picked up for a song when he first left college and opened his office.

"You must have the sort of bookcase which can be added to as you buy more books," Ruth said decidedly. "You are going to need more books right away. You haven't near as many as auntie's lawyer down home had."

"Considering that Mrs. Clayborne's lawyer was an old man, and had been practising many years, I scarcely think that is very strange," Brian returned with a laugh. But his eyes were a little moist, his manner very tender because of Ruth's thought for him.

That night after dinner they talked of what they had done during the day, of all they hoped it might mean to Brian to have an office in such a locality and in the same building with men of affairs. Ruth astonished Brian with her grasp of both essentials and what he had deemed non-essentials, but which he saw were really things necessary to build himself up in his profession—after she had explained.

Ruth was really very practical where business matters were concerned. The responsibility which had been necessarily hers because of the war taking so much of her employer's time and attention so throwing on her shoulders the onus of the business, had developed her greatly. Not only had she become an artistic and valuable member of Mandel's force because of this, but also because she had, thru this late experience, become almost the business manager of the firm as well.

Brian was truly astonished at her acumen, but he said nothing of this to her. He was too well pleased with the way matters were going; too happy that she was going to, at last, be contented to remain at home.

"Will it put you out if I bring Major Williams home to dinner to-morrow night?" Brian asked as they started for bed. Ruth was delighted. More because it pleased her to know she WAS doing what would be for the best happiness of both in the end, than because she really cared about meeting Major Williams. To-morrow—Ruth Plans A Surprise For Brian.

### 10,000,000 JOBLESS IN UNITED STATES

Director of Employment Says Situation is Serious.

New York, Jan. 27.—There are 10,000,000 jobless persons in the United States to-day, Dr. George W. Kirchwey, Federal Director of Employment for New York State, declared in an address in Brooklyn.

Dr. Kirchwey predicted that there would be a period "not terrible, but serious" while soldiers and war were being replaced in peace-time industries.

Asserting it was "not lack of good-will, but lack of jobs" that was hampering the service, Dr. Kirchwey urged that state and national governments provide work for jobless men.

Limit Schools to One Language. Regina, Jan. 27.—Resolutions asking that English only be used in the schools of Saskatchewan were the unanimous support at the given unanimous support at the School Trustees' Convention, 200 being in attendance. Efforts were made to introduce a resolution asking that all conventions use the English language.



"It's dood for me"

### TALKING IT OVER

--With Lorna Moon--

#### Te Deum Laudamus

He's an artist at side stepping matrimony, he's been doing it for twenty-five years. He is still stepping carefully round the edge avoiding all the pitfalls. He has always got a girl of course, and he weighs his attentions minutely, always appearing to be ready to declare himself, and yet never saying a word that might lead to a wedding ring.

He is forty-five and has a fat red face with over-eating, a twin six car, and laundry business which gives a big return. There's nothing in his mind but profit and loss—absolutely nothing! There's nothing in his heart but a desire to make the profit bigger. There's nothing in his brain but plans for building new laundries, and nothing in his soul but steam from dirty water, I think.

I know, because the pretty Little Thing, and he and I went to hear Galli-Curci last night. The pretty Little Thing loves music, and she thinks she loves him. I caught sight of his fat red face from time to time as the famous Diva's flute-like voice filled the great hall. Or what was he thinking? I longed to know. The pretty Little Thing was quieter with the wonder and beauty of it all, she looked up at him for sympathy in her joy. His four chins were sunken against his collar and his dull little eyes were closed—I was horribly afraid that he would snore!

The pretty Little Thing turned her eyes to the stage again a little puzzled, and forgot him. I ached to hear his very first comment—and just as we were adjusting our wraps it came, glancing round the leaving audience, he remarked, "I wonder what they'd make off a house like this."

The pretty Little Thing looked up at him in distress. "Oh, but don't you think it was wonderful?" she asked.

"Sure—sure," was his detached answer as he lit for a cigar.

The light of love died out of the Little Thing's face, she reminded me of a child who had treasured a rosy apple only to find that it was all bad inside. She was very silent on the way home, but I hummed the Te Deum.

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