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### To the Ambush of Roses

By MARTHA WILLIAMS

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Juliet stepped from the west porch with her grand air, but reached the pergola at the garden end dancing madly to the newest bit of jazz whistled rather out of key by her own red lips. This is a manner of saying she was of the new time—new, as unmistakably as Marjorie, who sat waiting for her, was of the old time, old. Yet there was but a month's difference in the ages of the pair. Otherwise they were worlds apart, albeit close kin. Juliet had never known anything but lavish luxury, the indulgence of every whim or caprice. Marjorie had grown up between the dim blues, the happy silences of wide, wide fields. She loved them with a passion Juliet had never felt for anything, but now, tall and twenty, pulsing with life and health, it was joy indeed to find herself part of a world so different.

Juliet was a pocket Venus, golden as was her fortune; Marjorie of a dusk fairness—white skin, barely dashed with pink in the cheeks, eyes so deeply dark you might not name their color, with silken black hair, and feet that seemed made for dancing, high arched and light stepping, as though they trod habitually on air. Both were slim and lithe, Juliet a curve the rounder. She resented her curves more than ever since Marjorie had come.

"How did you happen to be made so right out there in the backwoods with nobody to see you?" she had asked almost peevishly as her cousin slipped out of her traveling cloak.

"Wholly unintentional. I don't know a thing about it." Marjorie had laughed back, running on. "You'll find me a bundle of ignorance, done up in your last year's garments, dear Miss Trent."

Juliet had flushed deeply as she broke in: "Who told you that rubbish? About calling me Miss Trent? You shan't do it—instead I'll be Judy to you unless you want to be sent straight back home."

"I read all dad's letters—being his private secretary," Marjorie answered. Juliet broke in, "How was I to know you weren't a gawk—the impossible sort nobody wants to claim kin with?"

"Don't know—unless by seeing my portrait—it's in the spring exhibition here," Marjorie replied civilly, long lashes veiling her twinkling eyes.

Juliet sat down aghast. "Portrait? Now—who on earth—you don't have artists way out there?" she exploded. Marjorie explained—a wandering artist in search for things paintable had halted for the night at the plantation—had so loved the place and all about it he had stayed for a fortnight—making sketches of her but nothing beyond. Then at Christmas he had sent dad a package—a replica of something aimed at the gallery. A portrait of Miss Marjorie indeed—he had done his best with it but felt he had fallen below reality. Dad had not seen it that way—to him the picture was perfect. One reason for sparing his girl was to let her see herself on the famous walls—and let the artist himself see how marvelously close he had come to nature.

An explanation that had quite changed the color of affairs. Juliet had made haste to see the picture, to tell her friends all about it, to make touch with the artist, invite him to Greatrock for week-ends, and lionize him more than he liked. Possibly the milking had had something to do with his sudden running away to the wilds. Marjorie was not sure—indeed she was doubtful as to several things. Chiefest among them was the state of her own heart. Tennant, the artist, was undeniably fascinating, handsome, vivid, world schooled, yet keeping something of wholesome freshness. He had not made love to her in her own home—a scruple that had appealed to her strongly. Safe away, he had written of what he felt for her, asking neither answer nor return—they could wait until the two of them met again—meantime she must not quite forget him, but think and think of him, so she might know what answer to make.

In face of that she could not write him of her engagement to Bill Clark, planter and next neighbor, who had gone away with his sick mother to Arizona, hoping its air might save her life. He was there still, though the hope had vanished. "But—she loves it so here—and will die easier," he had written to his sweetheart. She had told Tennant everything the first time he came to Greatrock. The telling had been a fiasco, but he took it gallantly, saying only: "My hope will live until it faces either a wedding ring or a coffin lid," but making neither outcry nor protestation. A month later he had lost himself—and throughout the long weeks since, no word had come from him.

Thus he percola roses were in their flush of high summer bloom when Juliet sank down breathless in their shade, her mirth all gone, her face tense, her eyes darkening. She turned upon Marjorie, saying angrily: "I suppose it will be a statue next—you're learning to hold the pose for it so beautifully."

"For which of the Christian virtues do you think?" Marjorie asked with a wintry smile. Juliet's mood had grown more and more edged of late—so edged Marjorie had been tempted to go home six weeks ahead of time.

### CASTORIA

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"Waiting—not at the church but on the way there." Juliet fung back. Marjorie sighed. "I don't like statues—they are so stiff and bloodless—and you can't stick pins in them no matter how much you may want to," she said. "Besides, I never could hold a pose—staying put is beyond me, almost, in anything. Otherwise I might be asking you to be my bridesmaid."

"Oh, who is the happy man?" Juliet broke in savagely.

"That I don't know yet," from Marjorie, tranquilly. "You see, it's a matter of choosing which I love best."

"Really? How romantic!" Juliet sneered.

Marjorie's face suddenly melted. "Tell me, on your honor, do you truly love Tennant?" she asked very low. "Love him so much life means nothing without him?"

"I do—oh, I do," Juliet hissed, then broke into wild sobbing. "And—and—I would make him love me—if only you were out of my way."

"You are sure" from Marjorie. Juliet fell face down upon the marble seat, crying between tempestuous sobs; "I know it! Men have to love me if I want them to."

"You would take him from me, even if I loved him as you do?" Marjorie asked, the melting gone from her face. "I would. You cannot love him, need him as I do," Juliet burst out, springing suddenly upright, her hands clinching.

Marjorie looked at her hard. Then, "You may take him—if you can! Oh, life's spoiled child!" she said, hurrying away after the last word, meaning to go straight home by the earliest train.

Off when woman disposes, Fate interposes. She did it now sending Tennant and Bill Clark to Greatrock at the same hour, though from opposite directions. They came first upon Marjorie, but with Juliet three steps behind her, a lovely Juliet, flushed, downcast, appealing, as no man had ever seen her before. Marjorie, both hands fast in Billy's, opened her mouth to say: "Here is your new cousin." But something in his eyes checked the speech. She saw wonder melt electrically into a quick flame—one she was too wise to misunderstand, too righteous minded to smother. Therefore she presented them one to another in due form, turning then to Tennant, with the thing he had hoped for shining in her own eyes. As she gave him a single hand she whispered mischievously: "We are in the way—those two need to console each other. But remember how you will be handicapped hereafter, marrying your model after the usual fashion."

"I am fully resigned," Tennant whispered back, leading her again to the ambush of roses.

### AMID EARTH'S OLDEST ROCKS

Mount Morris Park Peak, in New York, May Actually Be Millions of Years Old.

Mount Morris park, in New York city, stands in the axis of America's most famous city street. Fifth avenue runs "as straight as a string" from Washington square to the Harlem river at One Hundred Forty-third street—a distance of seven miles—except at Mount Morris park. There it is blocked by a mass of Manhattan schist, about eight acres in extent, and as high as a seven-storied building, standing in the midst of a 20-acre park, which traffic circumvents by way of Madison avenue on one side and Mount Morris Park West on the other.

This impediment of Fifth avenue is one of the many rocky islets of which Manhattan island is composed, heaved up in the dawn of creation and left standing above Harlem plain when rain and flood, corroding atmospheric agents, and the sharp chisel of the glacier had worn away the softer rocks around it. Manhattan schist is considered to be pre-Cambrian. This means that the rocks of Mount Morris park are among the very oldest of the earth, perhaps a million, perhaps several millions of years old.

### Origin of Queer Word.

Grouch, connoting ill will or resentment against a person or condition, or grumbling discontent, dates from 1400. As a synonym for ill humor or bad temper it is a colloquialism common to the United States. "The word sprang up from the fertile hotbed of American patois—it was the spontaneous coinage of the streets. Like Topsy, it 'just grewed.' Let's make one, and say that it is contraction and combination of the words 'growl' and 'speech'—the first sound of the one joined to the latter sound of the other. That really fits the case. The man with a grouch begins almost every speech with a growl," says Eugene Thwing in the Christian Herald. The words grouch and grouchy are colloquialisms.

### The Cut of Man's Coat Collar.

The nick that appears in the collar of the masculine coat is a reminder of the days when the back of the collar actually stood up around the back and sides of the neck to the height of the neckerchief, while the lapels lay flat. The nick was then a deep slash without which the collar could not have stood up or the lapel lain down. The padding on the shoulder was primarily designed to keep the sword belt from slipping off, while the braided down the outside seam of each trouser leg reminds that the trousers were built so tight that the foot could not be got through them and they had to be buttoned down the outside of the leg with a line of closely-set buttons.

The mind by being engaged in a task beyond its strength, like the body strained by lifting at a weight too heavy, has often its force broken and thereby gets an unaptness or an aversion to any vigorous attempt ever after.

The more one judges the less one loves.

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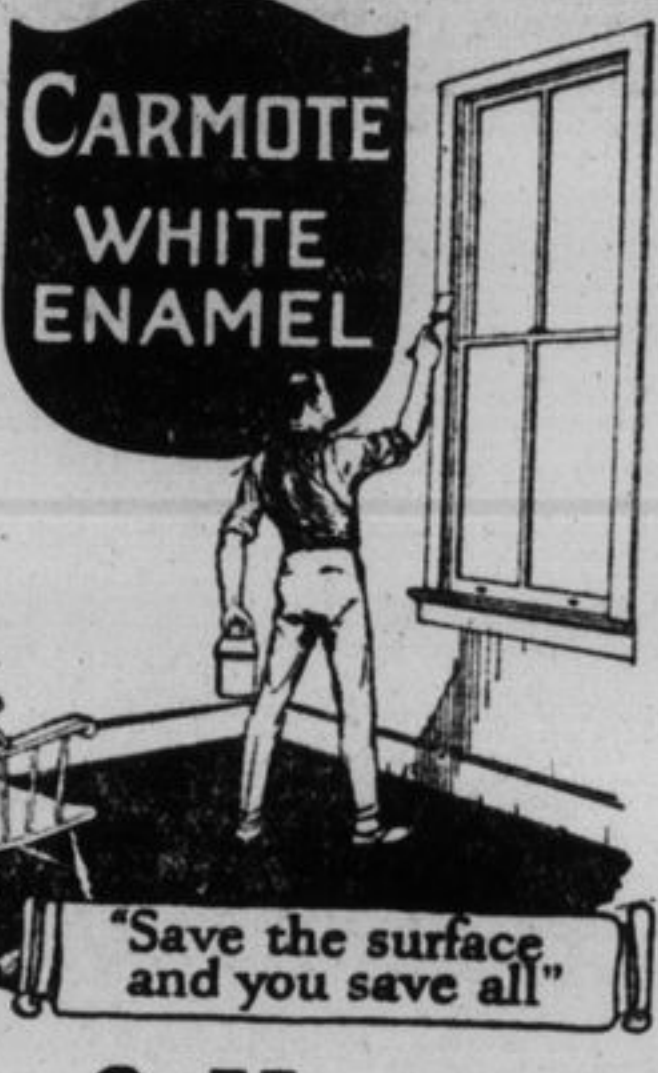
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