

# HER ONE CHANCE

By VINGIE E. ROE.

Hedda bent above the glowing stove, turning this and stirring that with the practiced and delicate hand of an artist. From the doorway, across the room, the men were coming noisily in to supper—their voices loud and lecherous in the silence of soft rain.

"The woman, raw-boned and capable, with a huge rope of pale hair coiled tightly on top of her head and every aching swelling swollen, regarded them out of hostile blue eyes. She knew what was coming with them—boisterous chaffing and good-natured jokes—and she hated them—every one! The best cook in the lumber region was Hedda, and she had no gift of tongue.

Now as she watched them come storming up the narrow, rain-soaked path to the cook-shack, there leaped into her features a certain savage triumph, a fire of victory.

"Hello, Hedda, old girl," cried young Jack Baker, poking his curly head into the kitchen's steam and starting the customary pleasantries.

The cook paid him no heed whatever and another took up the fun.

"Still unmarried, Hedda? Now ain't it funny that a pretty girl like you'd stay single so long when the hills're full of lonesome miners?"

"Aye, but you know me," she said patiently, and the laughter roared.

This was the object of the baiting, this heavy gaze like the anger of a caged animal, harmless because of its environment, and it tickled the humor of these men—simple as children in their narrow lives.

But Hedda raised a great red hand for silence and they hushed, grinning.

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But Hedda did not even hear the remarks that at other times would have brought anger hot in her cheeks.

"She hurried through her work amid many trips to the mystery of her room, and at last, in the breathing space between breakfast and the beginning of dinner, she sat down on the bed and contemplated the white face on her spotless pillow.

"It can be old trouble!" asked Hedda with clumsy tact.

"The girl nodded.

"Hear! The doctor—I couldn't pay him after I lost my job—said I might have a chance if I could get to the sea and live near it. But I'm tired, I don't care. I can't work, and how can I live?"

"People look at me like I was a mad dog! I wish I'd die, here and now! You've been so good! I'd be a good fish! I tried hard, but I ain't near there yet, and I can't work when I get there, and I'll help me!"

"You can't work. Three miles, you go to sleep now."

And nodding wisely, Hedda departed into her room.

The world-weary bird stayed secretly in the cage of the rag-carpeted room, and not a man at the lumber camp knew that anything unusual had happened in the lonely valley between the ridges.

Now and then she came weakly into the kitchen between times and sat in the rocker and told Hedda bits of a commonplace life, an innocent, hard-working life.

And on Wednesday that to which Hedda had been looking forward occurred.

Jim Hendricks came down from Quarter Creek, big and awkward from his logger's clothes and car-duroys and knee-laced boots, and stood in the cook-shack door.

"Really, Hedda," he said. "I've got a package, and I'll go down to Toledo to the preacher when you're ready. Got to take up some grub—"

"Aye," said Hedda, turning from her baking board and dusting her hands. "Aye, you want to talk to you. You come in."

He stepped gingerly in, bulking like an elephant in a china shop.

"Yim," said Hedda straightly, "Aye, but you know me."

"What? Why?"

There was disappointment in the big fellow's tone.

"Yas, Aye, you want to work some more. Aye, don't want to go into no hills, and dot cabin yours, it can't be near the sea. Dot, roar, roar, it make my head go round. But you listen here, Yim—Aye, you got you a girl right."

And with a certain skill Hedda told him the story of the wail from Salem who was ready to die because she must go to the sea and there was no one to take care of her.

"But," he said, "but I don't know—maybe she'd be scared o' me."

"You big fool, Yim," said Hedda, "you come along." And she led him into the sanctum.

The girl was asleep, a white flower drifting on the golden seaweed of her hair.

The small sound waked her and she opened her gray eyes full upon him. Like twin mysteries they were deep and half-frightened and tired and death, and they appealed like those of a lonely child.

"Why—why—your poor little thing!" he whispered to the first wonder of awakening. "You want—your mother," closing his lumber-jack's fingers over the tiny, clawlike hand on the patch-work quilt.

She was not frightened, neither was there any withdrawal from his clasp. It was as if she saw sanctuary in his face, and with the sure instinct of the young, accepted it without question. Of this Hedda saw nothing. She only saw her plan working out as it should.

"You can go with Yim," she said confidently, "he got a cabin up in the hills and the sea it roar, roar, and the wind blow and you can get well. Yim can go with you. And he left them together to look after some other mystery of the kitchen.

When a half-hour later Jim Hendricks came out and caught his pack horse close to the stove he took her big red hand a moment.

"I'm mighty glad, He," he said tactlessly, after the fashion of a man, "and I want to thank you. 'He's goin' with me. Why—why—I can't understand it—no party little thing—no me—why me, such a big, over-va brute!"

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ROY H. WAITE, Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.

On many farms all the eggs are left to run with the flock. Such eggs are often held in a warm room for a week or more and then carried to town in the boiling hot sun. The germ starts to develop, then dies, and the egg spoils very quickly. Is it any wonder that there are so many bad eggs spoiled every year?

It's a simple matter to get rid of the "rooster" and the hens will lay equally as well, if not better, without him. If you have a valuable male at you wish to keep over for another breeding season, pen him up in a separate enclosure or if you have an extra pen, build a cage 3 feet by 4 feet or larger in which to keep him if you don't put special value on him, make a meal of him, and save one of your oldest, strongest and most vigorous cockerels for next season's breeding.

### Dutch Potato Balls.

Prepare a quart of fluffy mashed potatoes (this necessitates the use of about ten potatoes). Beat in an egg then form into balls; while still hot roll lightly in an egg beaten with one half cup of water, and set on a hot greased sheet in a hot oven till browned. Remove with a pancake turner.

### Stuffed Dates.

One pound of sugar dates (stoned), three-fourths pound walnuts (with shell on), one nechalote cheese, put nuts through food chopper and then mash with cheese until thoroughly mixed. Then stuff dates with the mixture and roll in coarse sugar.

### To Clean a Carpet.

Instead of sweeping your stair carpet try wiping it over with a damp cloth. Use a teaspoonful of ammonia in two quarts of warm water. Your carpet will look clean and bright and there will be no dust.

### State Refrigerator.

To take out the stale smell from a refrigerator after a winter of uselessness go over it with a quart of three-quarters lukewarm water and one-quarter borax. It will refresh and give a wholesome scent.

### Making Your Own Washcloths.

A satisfactory washcloth is made of two or three thicknesses of mosquito netting. The edges are finished by crocheting a scallop in pink or blue.

The time has come to undertake the study and teaching of secondary agriculture seriously, and not merely as a means of glorifying country life, and arousing enthusiasm for the possibilities of farm endeavor.

### Wood's Seeds

## Seed Potatoes FOR FALL CROP.

The planting of Seed Potatoes in June and July is increasing to a wonderful extent. A great many farmers claim that they give better crops planted at this time than they do when planted in the spring. Potatoes planted in June and July mature in the cool weather of the fall, at a time when they can be harvested to best advantage.

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Washington, Alexandria, 4:45 p. m.; Glymont, Liverpool Point, Riverside, Bushwood, Lancaster, Coburns, Stones, Leonardtown, 5 a. m.; Abells, Piney Point, Clintra, Lodge, Mundy Point, Kinlake, 12 noon; Coan, Bundick's, Lakes, Walnut Point, Coan, Leonardtown, 12 noon; Abells, Grason's, 5 p. m.; Broome's, Porto Bello, 6 p. m. Baltimore.

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# WATCH

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Having established a Brickyard, I beg to notify the public that I am fully prepared to furnish bricks of all grades at the following cash prices: \$1.75 and \$1.80 to \$1.90.

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