

# Claudia — Substitute

by AGNES C. BROGAN

1919, by Western Newspaper Union.)  
 At day of the old year seemed weeping its departure, as made her way out of the station and looked anxiously at her umbrella for a red car.  
 I have been nicer for Aunt than the car to meet her, she had, than to have taken her attention that the trolley would be. Ensnared in the back Claudia tried to recall a long at this same aunt's home. I had been a child then, and the on was of exaggerated grand- probably the white marble, rtain memories, were not as they had seemed.  
 house was one of solid block. remembered, their shining pil- plate glass windows, all ex- ke. It had been a brief to her, the magic buttons stantly flooded the wainscot- with light, the luxurious great chairs.  
 's life had been of simple. how rarely simple she could eciate. There were the same helling roses peeping over the t her own bedroom window nner, the continued stillness fulness of the wide-spreading Claudia's parents had gone ago that grandmother in her seemed always to have been of the picture. When grand- was vaguely perplexed by the on that their small income had Claudia had taken her place er in the village school.  
 rly she waved good-by to her each morning, and start- her journey to the hilltop the school building stood. had expected to spend the be- of the coming year like all then Aunt Chalmers' letter of a opened a vista of promise, count upon me," Claudia reply, "but if I can find a sub- to teach for me, I'll just run city New Year's eve."  
 e had found the substitute. court," called the conductor. lighted and passed down be- impressive block of white The heavy rain had turned o dusk.  
 went up the steps of what to be No. 73, but no one was ng to answer her ring. More- n blinds and an air of in- betokened desertion. Pus- passed farther down the line gain appeared to be No. 73. her welcome was assured. -aproned maid opened the edately, requested Claudia ace to her room.  
 side room," the girl ex- "You will find everything e."  
 barely removed her hat ice called querulously, and -becoming persistent in s sound, she went at once de front chamber.  
 face looked pleadingly back on the ruffled pillows of a the Lord!" he exclaimed

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