THE DAILY NOVELETTE

A QUESTION OF RIVALRY

By A. W. Peach

STANLEY MURDOCK looked with somber eyes into the brown, amused eyes of the girl opposite him. "Ruth, you are a puzzle, and I wish you would unravel or unriddle or something else. You know I love you; you let me go just so far until I think you have some feeling for me, and then—then the cold water," he added gloomily.

She studied him gravely. "I do think a great deal of you. I like to be with you. You are handsome, and as a rule, good company. You do many things the right way, but—" She paused, her baffling eyes studying him.

"But——" he urged.

"But," she continued, "there are obstacles."

He stared at her sharply. "Obstacles or obstacle? Ah, I see: there is some one else. I thought so—a rival—back in the old home town. Won't you tell me about him?"

She mused as she paused before answering. "Why, yes, I might—a little. I like him because—well, he is splendidly unselfish, thoughtful of others and always even-tempered——"

"He must be getting ready to die with such a record," he interposed a bit bitterly.

"And always good-natured," she added quietly. "I never heard him say an unkind thing except in defense of kind things."

"Ruth, I beg your pardon. I swear I am sorry, but I can't bear the thought of some one else having you," he said earnestly. "Tell me, isn't there much of a chance for me?"

She laughed softly. "Why do you desire me so much? Yes, Stanley, there is a chance, of course. I do like you, but—well, I guess you understand."

He did not understand, however. He simply knew that there was a rival who must be beaten, who must be prevented from winning the brown-eyed, brown-haired girl whose slight but graceful form had walked into Murdock's heart the first time he saw her. Beyond a grim determination to win her from her old home lover he did not go in his thinking.

The next day a dim ray of light struck him. An error by a subordinate in the office aroused his ire, and a quarrel followed that led to his being summoned into the manager's office.

"Stanley, that confounded temper of yours makes more trouble in this office than any other thing. Now you are worth too much to us to fire you, and you know it; but for heaven's sake take a brace. Treat people a bit more decently, and they'll think more of you," the manager said earnestly.

The phrase that stuck was "think more of you." "That was what Ruth was driving at. Thunder! I didn't realize I was such a nut as that," he said to himself as he debated the matter. "That home-town chap has something on me there."

From that hour he braced decidedly, and he was astonished at the changed attitude of the office toward him, but he was more happy over the change in Ruth.

They were returning from an afternoon together at their favorite beach. She slipped a small hand through his. "Stan, do you know that this is a record day? You haven't quarreled with anybody today—not even the conductor who 'sassed' you on the 'L.' How ashamed of you I have been sometimes!"

"You never will be in the future because of these hot-headed stunts of mine, Brown Eyes. I am going to gain on that home-town chap."

She mused in her merry way and walked a bit closer to him.

Out of a clear sky, destiny or what—? Is that how it looks to a man's way of life and shoves him into the right path, another incident came to open his eyes.

Adjoining the apartment house where he had his rooms was a fine court, cool and comfortable on the warm days. Returning from work one afternoon he found the two children of one of the apartment dwellers playing in his chosen corner. He drove them out with some degree of anger.

He was rewarded with the sound of a heated girlish voice saying: "You big brute! You are the most selfish man in this house!"

He stared at the flushed face of the young mother. "Selfish!" He heard another voice, girlish like this one, say of his rival—"splendidly unselfish."

He rose, called the children back, sat down, and, taking the scattered blocks, began to erect a fascinating tower. The children slowly drew close to him, and in a few moments they were deeply interested. The mother, hard to win, softened until she smiled.

When the playtime was up the youngsters were his friends and the mother apologetic, but Stanley was sober.

"I am mighty grateful to you for what you said. Really, I did not realize I was such a chump, but now I see. Here's where I take a brace."

He found it hard, but the effort paid. Unconsciously, his circle of friends widened; men he had learned to avoid because they made it evident that he was not their kind, warmed to him. In a word, the attitude of life took a tremendous change. But the best change was in Ruth.

On that memorable evening she was making ready a dainty lunch for him, and she announced: "Stan, I am going home for a brief visit."

The news sounded like a knell to him. Out of his life and back to the rival he feared. He looked at her quietly; to his lips rose no bitter comment, sarcastic in tone; all that lay behind him in the weeks of determined effort in which he had killed, and for good, the habits that had made him less of a man, served him now.

His silence caught her attention, and she looked up. Perhaps in his face there was the shadow of his longing for her, his great fear that he might lose her, his abiding regret for unhappy things of the past. Anyway, he saw the brown, fathomless depths of her eyes clear, and through them glow a steady light. Then she came to him, caught his cheeks in her cool palms.

"Stanley, dear, don't look that way. I do love you and you may have me."

Somewhat later he said happily: "I am sorry for that rival of mine."

She laughed, her eyes twinkling to his. "That rival was you—your other self, dearie, thoughtless, selfish, hot-tempered. There was no other. You won me for yourself from your other self. See?"

4 TAKEN IN LEITER THEFT

Men Suspected in Liquor Robbery Caught After Gun Fight in Capital

Washington, Nov. 2. — Four arrests were made by the police last night in connection with the robbery of rare liquors from the summer home of Joseph H. Leiter, in Leesburg, Va., on October 11. One man was wounded in a general fight which started when the officers descended upon the house on K street, where the four were surrounded.

The robbery of the Leiter home was said to be the largest single theft of alcoholic liquors since prohibition went into effect.

The Reading

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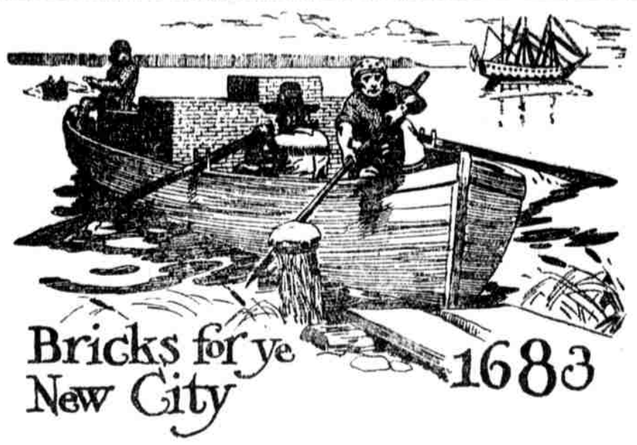

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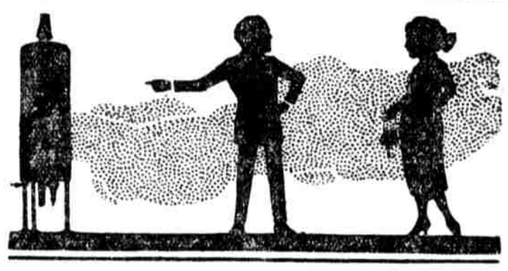
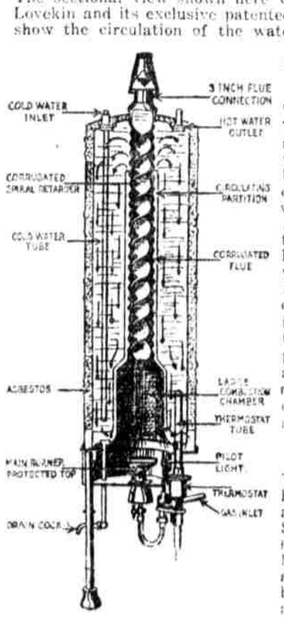


What is a Lovekin

—and how is it different?

These are questions which are being asked us every day. Some people think that the Lovekin Automatic Gas Water Heater is of the instantaneous type;—it gives instant hot water, but is a storage type heater, and has no copper coils or heating sections.

The sectional view shown here will give you an idea of the Lovekin and its exclusive patented construction. (The arrows show the circulation of the water.)



How the Lovekin Operates

The Lovekin is a Storage Type of heater consisting of a specially constructed boiler with a central heating chamber, the heat being applied directly to the special boiler, where the hot water is stored. After the heater is started the gas burns until water is heated to about 140°, at which temperature a thermostat automatically shuts off the gas. When hot water is drawn, cold replaces it in the heater, lowering the temperature of the water, and again the thermostat operates, automatically bringing on the gas, thus the water is always kept hot.

Economical

The Lovekin Storage Type has long been popular on account of its economy. The Storage Tank is covered with heavy asbestos, reducing the loss of heat by radiation to a minimum. Only one small burner is required to assure an abundant supply of hot water.

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