

FINDING HIMSELF

By Cecille Rushmore

"I am not the girl for you and I shall not spoil your life by trying to make myself believe that I am," said Huldah Brill.

"But maybe you love—like me a little, Huldah," flustered honest Bryan Wylie anxiously.

He was so dead in earnest that a sharp pang struck the heart of the girl. At that moment, had he pressed his suit, so appealing and eloquent were his manner and expression, he would have won. Resolutely, however, she turned from the temptation.

He had been a hard, practical experience. Young as she was, Huldah had seen only the seamy side of life. Her uncle and aunt, with whom she lived, had led a sordid, loveless existence. Their system, the atmosphere about them, had stifled and chilled the ingenious instincts latent in the soul nature of their adopted charge.

So, when Bryan Wylie continued to show her attentions, and, in his well-meaning and blundering way, spoke of an engagement, Huldah closed her heart stubbornly to sentiment. She felt that her experience had made her not like other girls. She recognized fidelity, sterling worth, in this sincere suitor just on the threshold of a business career. If he made no progress she would be a burden. If he scored a success, there were brighter, prettier girls who would fitly adorn the social circle in which he would move.

"Then—then," submitted Bryan, after a pause, "what am I to do?"

Huldah tried to laugh lightly, but it was a hollow mockery. There were actual tears in her eyes. It was with extreme difficulty that she composed and commanded her turbulent mind.

"Bryan," she said seriously at last, "I am so much older than you in

worldly wisdom I will give you advice like a sage."

"It isn't advice I want," mourned the young man apathetically. "It's love, your love, no one's else. If I can't have that, of course, I cannot stay here. It would be too frying."

"Yes, Bryan," advised Huldah deliberately, "go away and find yourself."

"Am I lost, then?" propounded Bryan, with the ghost of a smile.

"I think you are," asserted Huldah. "You have surrendered to your en-



He Did Not Appear to Be in Love With His Business.

vironment too readily. You have looked no farther than this dead, dull community. You have taken the first business position presented. You are ready to tie yourself for life to the first girl who takes your fancy. Don't you see you are not doing justice to yourself? You are worthy of the right kind of a wife."

"You are my only kind," vehemently declared Bryan.