

## CONFESSIONS OF A WIFE

### LOVE OVERLOOKS ALL FAULTS

"Margie," said Paula, "there could not have been anything more different from my work as an actress than my work as secretary to Congressman Smith."

"The critics tell us the actor must know life, but I have found that he knows only one side of life, and that is the life of the emotions, and I think after a little it becomes only the life of one's own emotions."

"Certainly a controversy about some seeds in which Mr. Farmer is much interested may be very vital to the country at large, but there is nothing very dramatic about it."

"I had plenty of dramatics in my new position, as you will see, but they were the kind where I was the interested spectator instead of the actor."

"After my call upon Mrs. Smith and the episode with Jeff I decided to wait quietly in the room for Alma."

"When she came in I knew she had been crying. She seemed both surprised and amazed to see me."

"I thought you were out somewhere with Tom Perry," I said.

"I haven't seen Tom today," she answered quickly. "Have you?"

"Then it occurred to me that I had not seen Tom Perry since we had been in Washington five days ago. I had been so much concerned with my own affairs I had not thought much about it, but I supposed, of course, that Alma had seen him."

"What do you suppose has become of him?" I asked.

"He has been at the Willard hotel most of the time in his room," she answered.

"Is he ill?"

"Yes."

"Let us go right over and see what we can do for him. I'll call up Jeff and have him go with us."

"Alma looked at me rather incredulously. 'Didn't you know Tom Perry could not leave drink alone?' she

asked.

"Why, Alma?" I exclaimed. "I knew nothing of the kind. Are you sure this is so. He is so young and so brilliant it would be a tragedy."

"Isn't it always a tragedy, Paula?" asked Alma.

"Oh, Alma, do you care for Tom?"

"Of course, I do."

"Oh, but I mean—"

"I know what you mean, Paula, and I want to tell you if by going out there and letting a street car run over me I could keep Tom Perry from drinking I would do it gladly."

"But he never drinks when he is home."

"Yes, he does, once in a while. You see, Paula, Tom is one of those men who simply drink occasionally. If they take one glass it means a week or two of booze. When he is on the paper he knows he must keep sober, but every once in a while he goes off and does this."

"But he is so young, Alma. Has he always been this way?"

"I think he contracted the habit at college. Anyway, he has had it ever since I knew him."

"How could you fall in love with a man like that, Alma?" was my silly remark.

"Don't you like him, Paula?"

"Yes, dear, I am very fond of Tom, but I don't think I would intrust my life to a man who drank if I loved him as much as you seem to."

"That is just it, Paula. My common sense tells me if Tom does not care enough to stop drinking for me now, he will not do so after we are married, and yet I would marry him tomorrow."

"Let us find Jeff and see what we can do," I said.

"Jeff had told me he was going right back to the hotel and we found him quickly. He promised to go and see Tom."

"Now, don't worry, girls. It's only