

# Dollars and Sense

Love Rose Superior to Scruples About Her Wealth

By JOANNA SINGLE

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Frederic King met his friend at the door and relieved that perspiring partner of his heavy suit cases.

"Poor Porty," he soothed whimsically. "I marked you from the window and saw that the usual thing ailed you. I sent you to work on a case, and you return with 'girl' writ large on your plump, fair countenance. Was it so bad as all that? I know what she did to you, for you're easy, poor boy, but who was she this time?" He pushed forward the biggest chair and thrust a cigar between Porter's willing teeth. The two men smoked.

"Never mind, son; you always recover. Some worthy tobacco, a little time and another girl, and history will repeat itself. How about the case?"

"Depositions all straight and fine; good stuff," Porter answered briefly as he wistfully scrutinized his partner's fine, high bred face. "Confound you and your commiseration, King! I need the commiseration, however; that's sure. But I just live to see you meet your Waterloo. You're vulnerable somewhere. And you have not met Rose Law yet. Fate is bringing her here tomorrow to spend the summer with her aunt, Mrs. Morton. I observe your finish. It's been due you these three years."

"No, not till I have something better than a pumpkin shell to keep the lady in. Porty. Dismiss me. But tell me what she's like. I'll have to hear your ravings sooner or later. I see she did a thorough job with you. Proceed."

Porter nodded an affirmation. He launched into his subject with a whole heart. The lady's list of charms and their effect was long. King was patient. Finally, as all things have an end, Porter paused for breath, which he needed, being short and fat.

"Is that all? Finish at this sitting. I'm not always complacent with the meanderings of a lunatic. What else? I can't think of another single charm myself."

"Two more. She's rolling in dollars—her grandmother's. And—I'm no dog in the manger—any one could see she is just the girl for you, little and fair and—"

"Shut up, Porty!" he commanded indignantly. "I hate that sort of thing even from you. I'm not in the market. And you know, I'd hang myself before I'd destroy my self respect by marrying a rich girl. The dollars in themselves put her out of my class; that's all."

"But it was not all, for Rose Law came, was seen and conquered. Porty had not exaggerated. And Frederic King, with the quick knowledge of the man who has not desensitized his heart by constant exposure, knew his queen at sight. The Waterloo had come."

That summer a silent battle was fought. Choosing the discretionary part of valor, King carefully treated Rose Law, accustomed to adoration, as he did every woman—with gay, perfect, impersonal courtesy. It was hard, especially as society, like nature, knows a pair when she sees it. She was always his partner at dinners and dances, at picnics and frolics, till in sheer self defense he began to devote himself to little Sallie Grey, who had always openly doted him. Then this refuge was taken from him—a flash, too warm, in the child's eyes bade him protect her from herself.

Rising to his feet, Rose played a perfect support. Then she became leading lady in his own play of friendly indifference. They were friends, while the world wondered, for to women like Rose men are lovers first. Afterward they choose between friendship and the outer darkness. The girl's vanity was hurt, her pride wounded. She was first amazed, then angry. Then her heart was touched. She began to suffer. Real love never plays with its object. Her skill deserted her. She became a silent, sensitive thing, registering each day some new impression of Frederic King's fine face and voice, his little tricks of mind and body, his strength and ability, his loveliness.

She became very miserable, waking at night to see no good, no charm, in herself, to suffer what she had made others suffer. She had not known that love awakened and denied really hurts. She regretted her cruelties and became so unwontedly gentle that before she knew it she had three more hearts laid at her small feet. She wondered what others saw in her when she was powerless to draw the one.

As for King, the thought of the girl gave him no peace. He tried vainly to fight her out of his consciousness. He did not know that she cared for him, but he had an overwhelming impulse to ask her if she could and would care every time he came before her. He would hate her "wretched money" and devised wild plans by which she might lose every cent, so that he might storn her heart, toil for her and finally win for her her every wish. His common sense fled. The fortune became a nightmare and life an emptiness.

One night he went early from the Mortons', knowing that when the party should go out on the moonlit lawn he should seek her and say that which he intended never to say. He no longer trusted himself. He sat in the dazy consuming cigarettes and hating himself for doing it. It was not his way to ruin his health intentionally. Then Porter came puffing in and flung himself into a chair. He knew he was not wanted and did not care. He began to talk.

"King, you precious donkey, I've ooked your goose."

"And mixed your metaphors shamelessly. Get out and let me alone."

"You precious idiot," persisted Porter, "don't stick your stubborn head into the sand and imagine the world is blind. You're selfish past words. You think only of yourself and don't mind whom you hurt. Of course nobody

eyes like the moon following the sun, in this fool friendship game which deceives no one. What business have you to punish an innocent girl because your grandmother willed her a fortune? How could she know your confounded pride would shy at it? You needn't try to shut me up; I'm talking for once! I can't see why a man can coolly take a woman's beauty and youth, every quality of heart and mind, all the real things she has to give, and use them like water or daylight and then balk at the paltry money she is not to blame for having and which is less to her than—well, infinitely less than a single kiss! What if she has dollars? You have sense—or used to have."

"I still have enough to hate your cheap puns, Porter. Get out of here!"

"I won't! Take that from me and wait till I finish. And you've set the old pussies whispering about her. Have you heard the news? No! Well, her cousin told me tonight that she, Rose Law, has made over every cent of her money to an orphan asylum and is leaving early tomorrow morning for New York to take a course in nursing. They all think she's crazy, and she is. Girls are like that—in stories and out of them. When they think love has failed them they want to be good to a suffering world. She is going to have the papers, the deed of gift, made when she gets there. Now, I'm an orphan. You might have given the vile stuff to me if you would not let the child have it to play with herself, while you made her happy in your own independent, imbecile way. I'm sick of you. It's too late for you to do anything, so I'll use the phone in the outer office and go."

As in a daze, not hearing the words, King was conscious of Porter's phoning, then of his putting his head in at the door again.

"I told you I cooked your goose, King. I began, as I left Morton's, by telling Miss Law that you were suddenly called away on business, but were coming back as soon as possible to bid her goodby and asked me to beg her to wait for you in the garden since she was there when I saw her. It will be a romantic setting."

King was too furious to speak. He thought it a very bad joke in the worst possible of Porter's always questionable taste. But it dawned on him that it was no joke, and he rose angrily. Porter continued: "My voice, you know, is strangely like yours. I just called her up by phone and said you would be there in a moment. She said it was too late, and I told her you would see her or rouse the house and that you would tell her what you had to say if the assembled family had to hear it too. She said she would be in the garden. It's not much past 10 and not far. Hurry!"

He fled before King could drive him out.

Willing to slay Porter, hoping, then fearing, that he joked or lied, he set off on the chance of finding her in the garden. But he was certain of one thing, two things—his own heart and the great soft moon. He had no belief that she could care. But he saw himself with Porter's eyes, which were, after all, clear and honest.

And he found her in the garden, by happy chance, however, as Porter was ever gifted with a fine imagination. He came on her suddenly, and she turned in a terror real enough till she saw who it was. She trembled.

"It's warm in the house, and I couldn't sleep. It's lovely here."

"It's lovely wherever you are and misery where you are not. Oh, Rose! Oh, Rose! Could you love me a little? You will not go away, will you?"

He held his arms out for her, and she did not deny the call.

## Very Misleading.

Battersby came across this interesting item in the household department: "If men would answer their wives kindly and courteously when asked for money it is undoubtedly true that the amount requested would not be half as much as it would be if the husband's reply was surly and antagonistic."

Battersby read this item over twice to make sure he grasped its meaning, and just then his wife entered the room.

"George," she said. "I want some money."

Battersby smiled affably.

"Yes, my dear," he pleasantly remarked, "and how much do you want?"

Mrs. Battersby stared at him in amazement.

"This time she spoke with much distinctness."

"An asked you how much you wanted," Battersby merrily reminded her.

"Fifty dollars!" she snapped.

Battersby almost fainted. He had imagined she was after \$5 and that his genial tone would cut the amount to \$2.50.

But he handed over the fifty without further ado and then there the misleading item into infinitesimal fragments.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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FRANCIS L. HUNTER, LEWIS W. SHAFFER. nov 5 3t

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Milton Chew, William Lockard, Henry Close, nov 5 3t

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