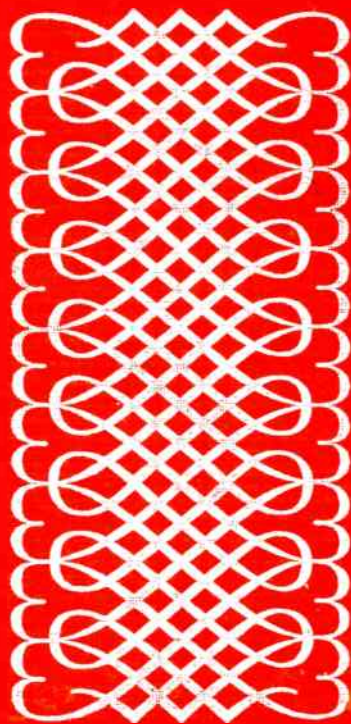


**BACHELOR'S
CHILDREN**



BACHELOR'S CHILDREN

A SYNOPSIS
OF THE RADIO PROGRAM

Written by
BESS FLYNN



PUBLISHED BY
OLD DUTCH CLEANSER
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

This story of "Bachelor's Children" is dedicated to the radio audience of America by the makers of Old Dutch Cleanser in the interest of better cleaning. The loyalty and friendly interest of this great audience is evidenced by the thousands upon thousands of letters we have received. We trust that "Bachelor's Children" will entertain you in the future as it has in the past, and that Old Dutch Cleanser will merit your continued use.

COPYRIGHT 1939, BY THE C. P. CO.

Printed in U. S. A.

BACHELOR'S CHILDREN

Synopsis of Story

DR. ROBERT GRAHAM is a bachelor—35 years old. The only surviving child of a father who had spent his life in the practice of medicine, Dr. Graham had been brought up by his father with the ideals of the old-time family physician, and had learned to love his profession as something more than merely a means of earning a livelihood. To him it means a creed—the privilege of giving to his fellow human beings not only of his professional skill, but of his personal interest as well. Men and women from all classes of society have found their way to his office which he maintains in a part of the home where he was born and raised and where his father had also practiced his profession.

In place of the mother whom he lost at the age of eight, Dr. Graham has been reared by Miss Ellen Collins who came to them as a housekeeper and stayed to fill the place of mother as well, to her “Dr. Bob!” After the death of the “old doctor” as she always called him, her whole life was centered about the young doctor whom she has come to love as her own son, and whom she alternately spoils and scolds.

At the start of the story Dr. Graham, while entertaining his closest friend, Sam Ryder—likewise a bachelor, but eight years younger than the doctor—received a letter from James Dexter, his top sergeant during the war. He was greatly surprised as he

had lost all contact with Dexter since they had returned home at the close of the war. Dexter had written from his death-bed asking Dr. Graham to take his motherless twin children under his care, since he was dying penniless and knew of no one else to whom he might turn in his necessity. He reminded the doctor of a promise he had made: that should he—Dexter—ever find himself in need of a friend or of help, Graham would go all the way for him. Sam Ryder considered the request a preposterous one and asked Dr. Graham why he had ever made such a rash promise. The doctor explained that when he—under fire in France and panic-stricken—had tried to run away from the horror he was facing, Dexter had made him face about and go forward with his company and when, a few minutes later, a shell broke, seriously injuring the lad, it had been Dexter who carried him safely back to the trenches. Graham told Sam that he felt that Dexter had not only saved his life but his self-respect as well by what he had done for him that day, and that a promise given under those circumstances could not be denied. He would send for the children and by caring for them pay a part of his debt to their father.

When told about the telegram Ellen was at first inclined to resent the prospect of any interference with her accustomed order of things, but soon got over that and threw herself wholeheartedly into preparations for receiving the orphans who would fulfill her desire to have children to mother. When, a week later, they arrived, there was great surprise and consternation to find that they were twin girls—identical in appearance and—eighteen years old. This was something entirely unexpected and Dr. Graham, while willing to give a home to a couple of small children, felt hardly equal to having the responsibility for two beautiful young women shoved upon him.

The twins—Ruth Ann and Janet—saddened by the loss of their father and more than a little frightened and confused by



BESS FLYNN

AUTHOR OF "BACHELOR'S CHILDREN"



DR. BOB

the sudden change in their lives were ill-at-ease and almost unfriendly in their new surroundings at first.

Ellen at once took them to her heart and did all that she could for the two lonesome, unhappy girls. Gradually by their kindness and understanding, the doctor and Ellen won the girls over and induced them to give up their idea of leaving the doctor's home and striking out for themselves. Alike as two peas in looks, they were entirely different in disposition and before long a virtual state of war existed between Janet, the impulsive, hot-headed one of the two and Sam Ryder, who took great delight in teasing her whenever an occasion presented. Ruth Ann, on the other hand—gentle, quiet and even-tempered—was always ready to promote peace between the bantering, light-hearted Sam and her tempestuous twin.

Since they had always dressed alike, the doctor and his friends at first had great difficulty in distinguishing between the girls, but as time went on, they gradually learned to tell them apart.

A few weeks after their arrival Ruth Ann went with the doctor one evening to put his car in the garage, and, as they stepped out of the car they were confronted by a young man with a gun. At that moment the policeman on the beat, seeing a light in the garage, came to investigate, and coming up from behind, disarmed the man and quickly placed him under arrest. Just before the case came up for trial, Mrs. Gardner, the boy's mother, came to the doctor to plead for her son. After listening to her story he agreed to do what he could for him, and at the trial arranged to have Frank paroled in his custody. Knowing that the boy must have work to keep him from getting into further trouble, the doctor employed him to drive his car and work about the place. And so Frank met Margaret Adams, the doctor's office girl, who was another of his protégées.

One evening, on being called to the scene of an automobile accident, Dr. Graham was shocked to find a boyhood friend of his—Fred Hopkins—seriously injured and Hopkins' wife and nine-year-old son, dead. Graham took the injured man to the hospital, and after several weeks he was well enough to leave there—cured in body, but with a heart broken by the loss of his wife and son. Both Dr. Graham and Sam realized that their friend was suffering great mental anguish and did what they could to help him. While visiting friends one evening, the doctor had a frantic call from Sam asking him to come to Hopkins' apartment at once. On his arrival there he found that Fred, crazed by grief, had attempted suicide, and only the timely arrival of Sam had prevented the tragedy! Hopkins resented the interference of his two friends, saying that he had nothing left to live for but Dr. Graham pointed out to him the cowardice of his act and exacted a promise that he would not again attempt such a thing.

As time passed, both Dr. Graham and Ellen came to care very deeply for the two girls, and the twins, by this time happy and content in their new home, returned their affection lavishly. By Christmas time the twins were almost reconciled to the loss of their father and it was a happy throng that gathered about the big tree in the living room to celebrate the day. Even Sam and Janet had, by this time established friendly relations—Janet even going so far as to call him her best friend. There was but one fly in the ointment, and this was a sore spot with Ellen, as well. Dr. Graham had become acquainted with Mrs. Elizabeth Ferguson, a wealthy and philanthropic widow, and was seeing a great deal of her—so much in fact, that the twins and Ellen began to fear that he might marry her, and the three had many a conference about it—all agreeing that Mrs. Ferguson was a designing woman who was doing her best to take their beloved doctor away

from them. When Ellen, one evening, made a slighting remark about the lady, she and the doctor had a real disagreement and Ellen prepared to leave home. However, before she could carry out her threat she slipped and fell and all Dr. Bob's anger vanished in his concern for his old housekeeper whom he loved so dearly.

By this time both Ruth Ann and Janet had secured work—Ruth Ann as secretary to a temperamental author and Janet as assistant to the owner of a tea-room, and everything looked very rosy for the two. At least it did until Janet, irked because she had been reprovved for making a practice of getting to work late, quit her job. When Ruth Ann, the doctor and Sam told her that she shouldn't have done it, she airily declared that she'd soon find another place, but after several weeks of fruitless search for one, she contracted a heavy cold which developed into a serious case of pneumonia. For days she hovered between life and death, with only Dr. Graham's skill and ceaseless care and frantic Ruth Ann's prayers pulling her safely through.

In the meantime, two serious situations had developed. Carefree, bantering Sam finds that he is in love with Janet, but hesitates to declare his love since it is so very obvious that she regards him as nothing more than a good friend and he fears that should she find out the true state of his feeling for her, their happy comradeship might be completely spoiled—and Ruth Ann has made the amazing discovery that she is in love with Dr. Bob. At first this so startled and distressed her that she didn't even confide in her twin—the first secret that had ever been between them. However, with the intuition that has always been a part of the close bond between the two, Janet finds out and does everything in her power to help her unhappy twin. Dr. Graham, looking on the girls as nothing more than children, has no inkling of the state of Ruth Ann's

feelings and treats her as he would a beloved younger sister.

When they received their share of their father's bonus money, the girls invested it in a tea-room which they operated together and surprised both Dr. Graham and Sam by making it into a successful and paying business.

Frank Gardner, having through the doctor's help obtained a good position, has asked Margaret Adams to marry him and in June they were quietly married, with Margaret retaining her position as Dr. Graham's secretary. Frank's place as handy man about the house is taken by Clem Harvey, an elderly man for whom Ellen has a decided contempt and there is constant conflict between them. Clem has none too great a regard for the truth and his tales of his prowess afford the doctor and the others no end of amusement. Ruth Ann has become increasingly unhappy over her unrequited love for the doctor and one day while she and Janet were discussing the situation, the doctor walked into the room unexpectedly. The twins concluded that he had heard the conversation and Ruth Ann, in her embarrassment, declared she could never look him in the face again—that they must leave the house at once. Accordingly, a short time later and during Dr. Graham's absence, they packed and left, giving no excuse for their departure. When he returned and found that they had gone he was completely baffled and not a little hurt. The next day he located them and tried to persuade them to return home. Realizing then that he had not heard their conversation and unable to find any excuse for their precipitate departure, they stubbornly refused to go back. After two unhappy weeks Dr. Graham received a frantic call from Janet saying that Ruth Ann was ill. He went for them at once and in a short time the two lonesome girls were back home where they were received with open arms by their good friend, Ellen and in the home atmosphere Ruth Ann was soon herself again.



RUTH ANN



JANET

Meanwhile, spring has deepened into summer and Mrs. Ferguson, with her crippled son, David, has gone to the camp that she has established for a group of under-privileged boys. Before she left she had a long talk with Ruth Ann in the course of which she told the girl she was aware of the state of her feelings for Dr. Graham and assured her that between herself and Dr. Graham there existed nothing more than a fine friendship. Ruth Ann was deeply grateful to her for her advice and counsel, and when a few weeks later, Dr. Graham, noticing that Ruth Ann was losing weight and unable to understand the cause for it, suggested that she take a short vacation, she went to Mrs. Ferguson's.

The situation between Sam and Janet has become almost unbearable to him, and, spurred on by his mother, he decides to put his luck to the test, and one evening asks Janet to marry him. Accustomed as she is to his constant pranks and teasing, she takes his proposal as a joke and Sam, fearful of making a fool of himself, lets it pass as one. To cover up his chagrin he tells her a tale about a woman he is in love with—one Marjory Carroll. Janet, solicitous for her friend's happiness, takes him seriously and is so deeply concerned about his hopeless love affair that she tells Dr. Graham about it. He, unable to understand, questions Sam, and is told that Marjory Carroll is a purely fictitious person—that that particular name had popped into his head for lack of a better.

The doctor returns from his vacation and immediately plunges into work for his contemplated sanitarium for children afflicted with heart disease. He is so completely engrossed with this that he has little time for anything else and Ruth Ann gives up all hope of him ever seeing in *her*, a woman who might be desirable.

In the meantime, Lawrence Mitchell, a well-to-do man, whom Janet has become acquainted with and likes, so she

says, better than any man she has ever met, shows a decided preference for Ruth Ann, and for the first time in their lives there is a serious misunderstanding between the twins. Ruth Ann, although she likes Mitchell very much, refuses to have anything to do with him when she finds out that Janet really is interested in him, and starts going about constantly with Philip Brooks—a young man whom she met while employed by the author, Mr. Sherwood. Hoping that by associating with other men, she may overcome her affection for the doctor, she forgets that she may be giving Philip false hope, and one night he proposes. She refuses him, but Philip persistently refuses to give up hope of eventually winning her.

Mrs. Ferguson returns from the camp in September and at a dinner to which she invites the doctor and his friends she announces her engagement to Fred Hopkins.

In the early fall Janet was electrified one evening, to see a notice in the society column of the paper that a Miss Marjory Carroll had arrived in the city to spend the winter with her aunt—a Mrs. Fraser. Janet lost no time in telephoning Sam and insisting that he come to the house at once. When he arrived a short time later and Janet told him that Marjory was in town, Sam was in a pretty predicament and could only trust to luck that his path and that of the young lady whom, up till then, he did not know existed, would never cross. However, a short time later, the twins met Marjory one afternoon at the home of Mrs. Ferguson who is now Mrs. Fred Hopkins and Janet, eager for Sam's happiness, invited Marjory to Dr. Graham's home. Sam, also, was invited, without being told whom he was to meet, and when he arrived and discovered the situation in which he had placed himself through his fictitious tale, he knew there was but one thing to do—and that was to tell Marjory the truth. She proved to be a very good sport about it all and it was agreed that they would

play the game. Everything went very well until New Year's Eve when Sam, unable any longer to keep his love for Janet to himself, told her the whole story about Marjory and again asked Janet to marry him. She refused, however, saying that although she had a very deep devotion for him, her feeling was not love. Since then Sam has become increasingly unhappy and is convinced that he will never be able to win Janet for his wife.

Shortly before Christmas the twins had a great surprise in a letter they received from a Mrs. Grace Knox of Washington, D. C. In it she told them that she was their mother's only sister, but that she had become estranged from her sister because of the family's disapproval of the twins' mother's marriage to their father, James Dexter. In the years that had since passed, she had come to regret this estrangement and when she learned of her neices' existence, she lost no time in contacting them. After an exchange of letters Mrs. Knox came on to visit the twins and, a widow and childless, she at once became very fond of them and before her return home asked them to go with her to Washington and make their future home with her. To this proposition neither the twins nor Dr. Graham were agreeable, and she left, deeply disappointed, but told the girls that should they ever change their minds, they could be certain of a warm welcome in her home.

In the meantime, Marjory Carroll and the twins had become very good friends and she became a frequent visitor at the Graham home. Being a talented musician, she and Dr. Graham had a common interest and, returning from a symphony concert one evening—emotionally wrought up by the music she had heard—Marjory disclosed to the doctor's astonished ears the fact that she had fallen deeply in love with him. It was an awkward situation for both, and Dr. Graham, as gently as possible, told her that such a thing as love and marriage was out of the question between them. Marjory—lonesome, un-

happy—and having no other confidant, told Ruth Ann of her love for the doctor, unaware of the fact that Ruth Ann, herself, had been in love with him for a long time.

Early in February Dr. Graham had a house visitor for several days—a Dr. Andrews—a former college mate. The night that Dr. Andrews was to return home, the twins, unintentionally, overheard a conversation between Dr. Graham and his friend concerning themselves, in which Dr. Andrews said that he was sure that one of the twins—he could not identify which one, because of their close resemblance—was deeply interested in Dr. Graham. Feeling that he would be certain to find out about her love for him after this warning, Ruth Ann told her twin that she could not stay in the same house with the doctor any longer and, after making hasty preparations, they left to make their home with their aunt.

They had only been gone a couple of weeks when Dr. Graham cut his hand and an infection set in, which later developed into blood poisoning and for a time it appeared that he might not recover. When the twins heard how dangerously ill their friend was, they at once packed up and returned home. Sam took them to the hospital the evening of their arrival and they learned that the attending physician had decided on a blood transfusion in an effort to save Dr. Graham's life, and Ruth Ann, offering herself as a donor, was accepted. The transfusion was successful and the doctor slowly fought his way back to health.

In the early spring, Janet met a young man named Don Carpenter and, almost at once, began seeing a great deal of him—a fact which only added to Sam's unhappiness.

One night in early April Dr. Graham was called out into the country to see a sick patient and Ruth Ann begged to be allowed to accompany him. On their way home, through a heavy downpour of rain, their car was sideswiped by another

and, skidding, was overturned. Dr. Graham, escaping with only minor injuries, managed to get Ruth Ann out of the car and hailing a passing motorist, rushed her to the hospital. An examination proved that, in addition to cuts and bruises and severe nervous shock, she had received a badly fractured elbow, and an anaesthetic was administered so that the bone might be set with as little pain as possible to Ruth Ann. Since Janet could not be reached, Ellen went to the hospital in her place, and she and Dr. Graham took up their vigil by Ruth Ann's bedside. While they sat there, watching her as she came out from under the anaesthetic, Ruth Ann, unconscious of what she was doing, told the whole pitiful story of her hopeless love for the doctor.

Stunned by what he had heard—almost unbelieving at first—he was at last able to understand many things which up till now had had him baffled and perplexed. Realizing that Ruth Ann would rather die than have him know the secret that she has guarded for so long, Dr. Graham exacted a promise from Ellen not to tell anyone of what they had heard that night and Ruth Ann, unaware that she had given herself away, was both pleased but surprised at Dr. Graham's tenderness and solicitude for her. When she was well enough to leave the hospital to go home, she told her twin that, in spite of the fact that the doctor is so kind and considerate, she realizes he will never learn to love her and she said she had made up her mind to do everything possible to put this hopeless love out of her heart.

Dr. Graham, however, is greatly troubled about the whole affair and cannot make up his mind what to do about it. Anxious—eager to do anything he can to make Ruth Ann happy he, nevertheless, feels that he would be doing both her and himself a great injustice if he were to ask her to marry him, when he knows that his affection for her is more that of

a brother for a sister than the love a man gives to the woman whom he expects to make his wife.

As time goes on, Dr. Graham decides that he must arrive at some decision in regard to Ruth Ann and himself, and arranging his affairs, left for California on a vacation—telling Ellen that on his return he will have made up his mind—one way or the other.

On his return Dr. Graham told Ellen that, since he knew Ruth Ann was deeply in love with him—and since he himself loved no one else and wished to see her happy, he had decided to ask her to marry him. When, a few days later, an opportunity presented itself and he asked Ruth Ann to be his wife, she was, at first, unable to believe that this great happiness, which she had long thought out of her reach, had at last come to her. Never for a moment doubting that the love she has for the doctor is returned in kind, she is wildly happy and so—they become engaged with the wedding set for sometime in the fall. However, Dr. Graham is not happy about the situation and one night, while Ruth Ann was away on a vacation, he decided that it was unfair for him to marry her unless she were told the whole truth in regard to his feelings for her and, acting on the impulse of the moment, he wrote her a letter explaining the whole situation. However before he had an opportunity to mail the letter, it, in some unexplainable manner, was lost. Fearing that such a personal message might fall into the wrong hands, the doctor was greatly concerned as to its whereabouts but, search as he might, it could not be located. By this time, he had decided that it should never have been written in the first place and that—if Ruth Ann were to know the truth—she had a right to hear it from his own lips.

Janet, meanwhile, has had a busy summer—what with frequent dates with Don Carpenter and occasional ones with Sam who, although he feels his chances of winning Janet for his

wife are very slim, nevertheless wants her friendship and is willing to keep their relationship on that basis if that is the best she can offer him.

Although she feels a great sense of personal loss in the coming marriage of her twin, Janet has nevertheless, thrown herself wholeheartedly into the wedding preparations—eager that her beloved sister may find fulfilled in this wedding the dreams that are the common lot of all young girls. With the wedding set for October twelfth Ruth Ann and Janet find every moment occupied as they prepare for the great day. The wedding dress has been ordered and Dr. Graham, too, has been to the tailor's—and feeling the need of some new suits as well as wedding clothes, orders two, to be made up as soon as possible. The day the suits arrive, the doctor had gone to the basement only to find that Matt, the hired man, had not carried out his orders to clean it. Hanging up his coat on a nearby hook, he plunges into the work himself. He is called to the phone and while he is answering it, Matt finds the long-lost letter among a bunch of newspapers which had been carried to the basement. Thinking it is one of several the doctor had given him to mail that morning—and that he had dropped it Matt was about to take it out to the mail-box when, hearing the doctor coming downstairs, he hastily sticks it in the pocket of the coat which had been left hanging on the hook.

Later that same afternoon, the new suits arrive and, in response to Ellen's urging that he change at once into one of them since the suit he is wearing is looking somewhat shabby, he does so and the old suit—with the letter in the pocket—is put away in the doctor's clothes-closet—against the day when he may want it for any rough work to be done about the house and yard. At different times it has come close to being found either by the doctor or Ruth Ann—but on each occasion something has happened in time to prevent it coming to light.

As the family await October twelfth—the wedding day—with happy anticipation—the only discordant note is the fact that Frank Gardner, Margaret's husband, has developed pulmonary tuberculosis and has been sent to Arizona for treatment—with loyal, courageous Margaret carrying on—determined to make the best of this new crisis in her life and to earn a living for her infant son and Frank's old mother.

At last the date of the doctor's and Ruth Ann's wedding arrived and Doctor Graham, ordinarily so calm and self-possessed, was a typical bridegroom—nervous, almost panic-stricken over the ordeal—and furnished Sam with an opportunity for plenty of good-natured kidding. Ruth Ann, happier than she had ever hoped to be, was a radiant bride, and after a wedding reception and breakfast at the home of Elizabeth Hopkins, they left for a brief honeymoon in the east.

After their return Doctor Graham plunged immediately into his work and Ruth Ann, for a time, had difficulty in adjusting herself to the realization that a doctor's wife must expect, because of the very nature of her husband's profession—to share him with his patients and to be willing to spend many lonesome hours. However, as time passed, she gradually adapted herself to circumstances and they approached the first Christmas of their married life with a constantly growing sympathy and understanding which augured well for their future happiness.

Shortly after the New Year as the doctor and Ruth Ann were preparing to go out to a formal dinner, a man came to the door and asked Doctor Graham to go with him to attend a Mr. Larsen, a wealthy patient of his, who, the man said, had been seriously injured in an automobile accident. Telling Ruth Ann to go on to the dinner and that he would join her as soon as he had seen the injured man, the doctor went out. When several hours later she returned home a little an-



ELLEN



SAM

noyed because he had failed to put in an appearance at the dinner and found that he was not there, she wondered at his prolonged absence but went to bed confident that he would soon come in. When she awakened the next morning and found that he was still absent, she became alarmed. Sam was called and when he heard the story, notified the police at once. Meantime, we had followed the doctor as he went in the car which had been sent to take him to the injured man. Realizing that instead of being taken to Mr. Larsen's home, he was being driven out into the country, he inquired of the two men who were in the car with him, where they were going and was told that since the accident had happened on a country road, he was being taken to the house where the injured man was. Finally, his suspicions were aroused and he demanded that he be allowed to stop at the next gas station to telephone his wife. Then the two men with him dropped all pretense and told him to do as he was told—and that when they were through with him, he would be returned to his family. Realizing that he was powerless to help himself he went on with the men to an out-of-the-way farmhouse where, when he arrived, he was shown a man who lay near death from a gun wound—and ordered to care for him.

When the police were notified of the doctor's disappearance they feared that he might be in the hands of a band of outlaws who had been robbing banks in the surrounding territory, and every effort was made to find their hide-out. Then followed days and nights of heartbreaking anxiety and worry for Ruth Ann and the members of the doctor's family. Nearly three weeks passed before there was any clue to his whereabouts, but finally a man, whom the doctor had befriended a couple of years before, came to the house with word that he had overheard a conversation in a phone booth which led him to believe that he could show the police the hide-out where

Doctor Graham was being held. However, before they could raid the place, the gangsters had become suspicious that they might be discovered and taking the doctor with them, they left, under the cover of darkness. After an exciting chase, the police closed in on the car, and the doctor was rescued and returned to his home.

After the excitement over the doctor's disappearance and safe return had died down, things gradually settled back to normalcy. One snowy February afternoon Doctor Graham, returning from a call out in the country, encountered a young lad on the road and—since the boy was walking—asked him to ride into town with him. On the way to town the doctor learned that the boy, Michael Kent recently left alone by the death of his mother—had no home and was wandering from place to place in a pathetic attempt to fulfill his beloved mother's dying instruction—to find his place in the world. Touched by the boy's story and knowing how hopeless it would be for an eighteen-year-old boy to make his way alone, the doctor took him home with him and insisted that he stay there for a while. After a time the boy was persuaded to stay on and continue his schooling and before long his gentle ways, his pathetic gratitude to these people who had befriended him, had so entrenched him in their affections that Michael became a member of the family and dearly loved by each and every one in it.

Sam, feeling that there was little hope of ever winning Janet for his wife, had fallen into the habit of calling on Marjory Carroll who, by this time, has reconciled herself to the fact that Doctor Graham and Ruth Ann are married and has decided that she was not, after all, as deeply in love with the doctor as she had imagined she was. One night, when Sam was calling on her, the two fell into a discussion of marriage and before either quite realized what was happening, Sam

had asked Marjory to marry him and she had accepted—agreeing that although they might not be in love at the moment, they liked and respected each other and saw no reason why their liking should not develop into a deep and lasting love. When Janet heard of the engagement she was greatly surprised, but assured Ruth Ann that since she was unable to return Sam's love, she was glad that he was to find happiness with Marjory. Both Ruth Ann and Doctor Graham, as well as Sam's mother, who had come on for a visit with him, felt that Sam was making a mistake and was still in love with Janet—but refrained from interfering in such a delicate matter. There were no definite plans made for Sam and Marjory's wedding and meantime, she went to Cleveland to fill a concert date which had been arranged for her months before.

Janet, meantime, had sold the tea-room and invested her capital in an interior decorating shop, which she is running in partnership with a Mr. Booth, whose wife had been a patient of the doctor's. Through the kindly interest of Neil Burgess, a friend she had made during the past winter and whose house was her first job of decorating, she has a steadily increasing clientele and her shop is on a paying basis. Deciding that she needed a car as an aid in her business, but fearing that Ruth Ann and the doctor might feel that she was being extravagant, she bought one without asking their advice and rather guiltily drove up in front of the Graham house just as the doctor and her sister were leaving it to keep a dinner date. Anxious to show off her new possession she asked Sam, who happened to be there, to go for a ride with her, and the two started out. Later that evening they were overtaken by a sudden storm—and when it had abated sufficiently to allow them to proceed home, they found they were out of gas. Going to the nearest house, which happened to be the one belonging to Neil Burgess, they asked to use

the phone—but since it had been put out of order by the storm the caretaker offered to drive into the nearby village for gas and at the same time bring back a doctor to see his sick child. Sam and Janet stayed with the child and when the father returned with the doctor they were disagreeably surprised to find out that the child had scarlet fever—and that they would have to be quarantined there. When Doctor Graham was finally reached he told them that the local doctor was within his rights in keeping them there—and after getting Mr. Burgess' sanction for them to use his house for the period of the quarantine, they settled down to twenty-eight days of what Janet considered, imprisonment—with Mrs. Ryder, Sam's mother, as chaperone. During this time Sam realized that he had been mistaken when he thought that his love for Janet was dead—and finds himself in the uncomfortable and unhappy position of loving one woman and being engaged to another. After the quarantine period was up and the two had returned to their homes, Janet, realizing the state of Sam's feeling for her—decided that for his sake she should avoid seeing him any oftener than possible.

As the months have passed since their marriage, Doctor Graham seems to have lost all his doubts concerning the wisdom of his marriage to Ruth Ann and there appears to be nothing in the path of her complete happiness—nothing except the lost letter, which still remains hidden in the pocket of the doctor's discarded suit and which, on more than one occasion, has almost been discovered.

As the summer months pass Janet becomes increasingly restless and moody—and, one evening when Sam was at the Graham house helping her hang a picture, she lost her balance and fell—into Sam's arms—and suddenly she realized that she was in love with him. The two, delirious with happiness, started planning for a future together when they remembered Marjory



RUSS YOUNG
ANNOUNCER



Carroll and Sam's engagement to her. Sam declared that he would go to Marjory and tell her the circumstances and ask to be released from the engagement, but Janet refused to allow him to do this—declaring that she would not take her happiness at the expense of Marjory's. For many weeks the two were completely hopeless—seeing their happiness slip away from them—but one night Marjory unwittingly solved their problem by asking Sam to release her from the engagement so that she might continue her musical career, unhampered by any marital ties. When he went to Janet and told her he was free they decided that, for the present, they would keep the news of their engagement from Marjory and so, save her and themselves, as well, from any unpleasant embarrassment. However one day, while Marjory stood at the curb talking to Janet who was in her car, Janet accidentally slammed the car door shut on Marjory's fingers—causing what, for a time, threatened to be a permanent injury to the fingers. However, after a time, the fingers healed and Marjory continued with her plans for her fall and winter concert tour.

As autumn nears the problem comes up about Michael and his future. Doctor Graham insists that the boy must finish his education and it is finally decided that he is to go east to the college where Doctor Graham studied and he left in September—leaving an empty spot in the hearts of these people who had known him such a short time. Janet and Sam are happily planning for a November wedding—and all is serene in the Graham home, except for one thing—Ruth Ann has developed a jealousy which she herself can hardly understand, toward Allison Radcliffe, a patient of the doctor's—and sees in her a possible menace to her happiness.

The day before the invitations to Janet's and Sam's wedding were to be mailed out Sam received a telegram announcing that his sister's husband had been injured in an automobile

accident and Sam left for Philadelphia at once. The next day the injured man died and after he had taken an inventory of his brother-in-law's financial affairs, Sam was shocked to find that his sister and her four small children were left practically penniless. Feeling that they were his responsibility and that he could not possibly support them and a wife as well, there seemed nothing else to do but to postpone, indefinitely, his marriage to Janet. Firm in her belief that Sam was doing the only thing possible under the circumstances, Janet bravely covered up her disappointment and put away her wedding dress until such time as the two would feel that their circumstances permitted their going ahead with their marriage.

Shortly after these events had taken place, Janet's attention was called to a man who had for several days been following her and, on a couple of occasions, spoken to her. He proved to be a movie scout, and she received an offer to go to Hollywood for a screen test in connection with the filming of a much-advertised book, for which film executives had not found an adequate actress to take the leading rôle. After much discussion Janet agreed to take the test and left for the west, with Ruth Ann accompanying her. Returning home in time for Christmas, she awaited word of the result of her test which, she herself was sure had been a failure—and finally gave up all expectation of anything further developing from it.

Meantime, Ellen has become very friendly with a man about her own age named Ralph Waldo Crabtree, and his attentions to her at first caused the family considerable amusement. However, as the gentleman's calls on Ellen became increasingly frequent, Doctor Graham began to worry for fear he might be serious in his attentions. Taking Ellen to task about it, he was surprised to find that she resented any criticism of her elderly friend, and to Dr. Graham, Mr. Crabtree became an unwelcome visitor at the Graham home.

While these events have been transpiring, Doctor Graham has been thrown quite frequently, into the company of Allison Radcliffe—first through the illness of her father whom the doctor attended, and more recently to supervise the care of a baby which Allison had taken into her home, after its mother had deserted it. Try as she will, Ruth Ann has been unable to overcome her jealousy of Allison, although she does her very best to conceal it from her husband. The doctor doesn't help the situation any when he praises Allison's fine qualities and the motherly instinct which prompted her to take the little abandoned baby into her home.

Another important happening around Christmas time was that young Dr. Clifford, who has been assisting Dr. Graham with his practice, finds that he has fallen in love with Margaret Gardner—the doctor's office girl—and on the very night when he told her of his love Margaret's husband, Frank, returned home—having broken his treatment at the sanitarium in Arizona, where he has been for the last year, trying to recover from tuberculosis. Frank refuses to return to the sanitarium and against the advice of Doctor Graham, who feels that the man is jeopardizing his health by changing climates in mid-winter, finds himself a job and goes back to work.

On January second Janet and Sam decided to throw caution to the winds and to be married on January 24th, and the two set happily about the preparations for their wedding. It has been decided that Janet will continue to work after her marriage—and they feel certain that, in some way or other, they will be able to carry their financial burden. Less than a week before the wedding Janet had a short, but succinct telegram from Hollywood, telling her that another girl had been selected for the part for which she had been given a screen test in December—and so ended her film career.

The wedding took place on the appointed day and the

bridal couple left on a honeymoon trip to Florida—a trip made possible by a check which was Ruth Ann's and Dr. Graham's wedding gift to them. On their return they were happily surprised by finding that Ruth Ann had, during their absence, prepared an apartment for them with the fine old furniture which had been left to Ellen by a relative, and which she, in turn, gave to them.

Shortly after their return home, the mother of the baby which Allison Radcliffe has been caring for and has grown to love so much that she wishes to adopt it, returns and demands her child. Allison, reluctant to give up the baby, both because of her love for it and because she feels the mother to be an unfit person to be entrusted with its care, calls Doctor Graham. He goes to the Radcliffe house and points out to Allison that there is nothing for her to do but give up the child and goes with her to the railroad station where she is to turn the baby over to the mother, who is taking it to the home of her parents in another city. At the same time Ruth Ann, knowing nothing of the situation involving Allison and the baby, goes to the railroad station with Elizabeth Hopkins to meet her son David, who is returning home after a series of medical treatments in the east. As the train carrying the mother and baby pulls out of the station, Allison bursts into tears and turns to Doctor Graham for comfort. Just at this moment Ruth Ann comes along and sees her husband with his arm around the woman of whom she has been so jealous. Returning home she says nothing to the doctor about the scene she has witnessed, but Elizabeth Hopkins takes it upon herself to call on Doctor Graham and tell him that Ruth Ann had been at the railroad station and seen him comforting Allison. He goes to Ruth Ann at once and explains the situation and assures her that her jealousy of Allison is totally ungrounded. Sensing that she is not entirely satisfied he tells her that if it

will make her happier, he promises not to see Allison again—and the subject is dismissed, even though Ruth Ann may not have forgotten it.

A short time after this happened, a man comes to the Graham house, asking for food. Ellen brings him into the kitchen and while she is preparing something for him to eat, gets in a conversation with him. He tells her a pathetic story of poverty, and noticing that his suit is threadbare, she remembers the old suit of Doctor Graham's which is hanging in the closet upstairs. Ruth Ann, meantime, has come into the kitchen and hearing the story of the man's need, agrees with Ellen that since the doctor has no further need for the suit, it should be given to him. She goes to get it and when she fails to return, Ellen goes after her and finds Ruth Ann sitting in her room—with the suit thrown across the bed—and an open letter in her hand. It is the letter which Dr. Graham had written to Ruth Ann before their marriage, and which has been lost for such a long time.

When she reads the letter, in which the doctor tells her frankly that he is not in love with her, Ruth Ann is horrified and heartbroken and rushing out of the house, goes to Janet, declaring that she will never return to her husband.



This brings the story up to March 1st, 1939

