

### Caught in the Rebound

By MARTHA McWILLIAMS

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Action and reaction being always equal, how was Benning to disprove the axiom? Be sure it was no question of his asking—he did not, indeed, realize its existence. He was, you see, self-sufficient with malice aforethought, hence took no account of the winds of chance.

Yet they had blown him through painfully meager college years to a scholarly degree that he felt assured success still greater. Thus he had had no time for playing, still less for the pretty game of love-making—there expressed concretely in expensive things like flowers, candy, auto and theater parties, not to mention giddy raiment of the latest mode. Girls meant all these—so imperatively Benning had stolidly passed them up. Notwithstanding, he did not lack sex consciousness—but it was so braided in with thrift and ambition that he had held it rigidly in check. Yet in the backmost corner of his mind, where he visioned a future of eminence, he stored an appraisal of Persis Moon, not strictly of the college set, her father being only an adjunct professor in the lethargic law branch of the university. Persis looked thrifty personified—and lived up to it, yet owned a delicate small prettiness, and a gently clipped speech, that wasted no breath in undue emphasis.

If he did not tell her so outright he knew she understood—as is the privilege of such ingrowing natures. So when he plunged into the world of affairs, got a foothold, only to be swept from it by the war flood, he felt that only an "if" stood between them. Several life, in fact—if she lacked patience, if another man desired her, if he himself found out somebody more to his advantage—even the dazzling "if" of sudden success that would set him beyond her potentialities—all these he pondered, but ended by leaving his mind clouded with mist, only now and then roseate.

Luck lay in wait for him. Home from the war, with never a scratch,



"I Was Wishing You'd Come—Right Away."

she opened a way for him, not gilded but gilt-paved. It led to millions, some few years ahead. Meantime he had to get acclimated in the atmosphere of wealth—learn to dress with such quiet elegance it all but amounted to camouflage, to forget the name of money, except when he seemed to himself to squander it—and to do the squandering with the gayest good will. He caught quickly the disparaging implication of "lightwad." There Poppy was a rock of refuge. Poppy being the synonym of a "super-faithful buddy, unreasonably rich and reasonably sensible. Through the medium of his own hearty sincerity he saw Benning as a wonder. Therefore he was glad to sponsor him socially, even to make him known to Melitta Vane, the queen of his own affections.

Melitta was, after a sort, compounded of salt and siren. Vividly beautiful, alive to her finger tips, dancing like a menad and singing like a thrush in June, she had undisputed right to be first in the hearts of her countrymen. Benning had no intention of disputing the right—when it came to Poppy Sanders, there was another story. Poppy had already more than deserved—besides, he could not possibly need Melitta as Benning himself did. Hence, therefore and because Benning set himself sedulously to the supplanting of his friend. At first cannily, covertly, but soon by open and eager pursuit. He haunted her waking hours, wrote to her daily or oftener, sent fine, small, well-chosen gifts upon any occasion, or note, and by clever maneuvering made himself her social complement upon the most part of important affairs.

Fate appeared to have taken the side of him. Somehow there was a

growing distance between Melitta and Poppy—not an open break, but a withdrawing from camaraderie. Poppy had spells of being actually taciturn, but Melitta, away from him, was gayer than ever. Benning flattered himself that it was because of him—a woman's heart, like the moon, thought he had always a man in it. No other man should have a chance to set his image in Melitta's breast. Since two bodies cannot occupy the same space, Benning was relying a lot upon pre-emptions. The sense of security they bred in him went to his head—he not only spent with both hands almost ostentatiously but got a mad joy from the spending. Melitta loved luxury—he wanted to prove to her that with his potentialities capitalized, as was easily possible, as his wife she would need only to wish for a thing and have it.

He fancied her ambitions, therefore he played upon her skillfully, but without ceasing in full stream, all the celebrities with whom he had touch, social or official. Also he let her know indirectly that he had not yet reached apogee. If he chose he could slide into politico-capitalistic life, where his brains, plus influence, would soon exalt him greatly. He visioned Melitta an empress-dress, presented and presenting at courts, a cabinet lady, even dimly, first lady of the land. She would grace any station—he told her so more than once. She made faces at him, calling him flatterer, but he knew she was not offended. So he ventured upon open love-making, with a warmth and earnestness that amazed himself. She listened, sometimes laughing, sometimes yawning, giving him neither yes-nay nor nay-say, but elfin oracles that made her more than ever maddening.

This could not last forever. Two careers were open to him—which he should choose depended on Melitta. One, semi-scientific, spelled secure consequence among men of his sort, but nothing spectacular, no beating of drums nor sounding of tomtoms. This was greatly to his inclination—he truly loved delving into deep things. But over against it there lay a breathless opportunity to gain, by somewhat of risk, millions, great power, and the whole world's applause. It would mean Paradise—plus Melitta. Without her he refused to let himself think. Instead, he went to her, rather white-faced and shaken, but feeling himself so full of compelling he did not doubt the result.

She met him on the piazza, her eyes stary, her lips falling instantly into a soft, merry smile. "I was wishing you'd come—right away," she said. "Did that bring you? Or is it just a lippen so?"

"Providence brought me, I think—if you wished for me." Benning began in a throaty voice he hardly recognized as his own. Melitta started a little and drew a pace away, saying with her head high: "Maybe so! But you would have known before morning anyway. Poppy is looking for you to ask if you'll help us—we have to be married early tomorrow—and there is so much needs doing."

"Tomorrow!" Benning echoed, laughing hollowly. "When I thought you were done with him."

"You have a trick of making mistakes," she answered gravely. "As for instance, thinking you could supplant your most useful friend. As soon as we realized it, Poppy said: 'Let him go as far as he likes.'"

Benning waited for no further words as he rushed away. Poppy met him, held out his hand and smiled rather grimly, saying: "From your look, if I want to say good-bye, now is the time."

Six weeks later Mr. and Mrs. Poppy Sanders got wedding cards from Benning and his bride—the sometime Persis Moon. They laughed softly over them—Poppy had heard something of Persis in reservation—and said one to another: "He got caught in the rebound."

**WORK FOR CIVIL ENGINEERS**  
Unsolved Problems of Metallurgy That Are Engaging the Attention of Steel Manufacturers.

Very fascinating are the unsolved problems of metallurgy which were discussed at a recent meeting of an institution of civil engineers.

### NEWEST OF WRAPS

Models in Tricotine, Twin Cord, Normandy and Others.

Heavy Black Satin Reversed With Harding Blue, Affords a Winsome Two-in-One Garment.

It is interesting to note the enthusiasm with which women are greeting the newest wraps. Every week new models are shown in tricotine, twill cord, normandy, bolivia and velours.

To cover one's afternoon gown there is a delightfully swagger wrap of heavy black satin reversed with Harding blue satin and heavily fringed at the bottom knee deep. The nicest part is that one may reverse this wrap for evening occasions to the light side, thus making it a sort of two-in-one model.

And the fringe lends graceful effect, swaying gracefully when the wearer is in motion. A big collar cages the shoulders and is tied in front with long sash ends.

Just the thing for motoring is a brand new wrap of plaid wool, fringed at the bottom and deeply collared and cuffed in plain material. This model wraps itself close about the figure, thus insuring warmth and beauty.

Among the slender coat wraps there is one in tobacco brown, excellent for street wear, developed in loose wrap-like lines, shirred at the waistline, gathered by a narrow belt and touched here and there by silk stitching.

For dressy occasions is a coat of gray tricotine, in Tuxedo style, with facing extending from neck to hem. For added attraction the reversers are scalloped deeply and the turn-back cuffs also follow this example. A narrow string girdle is tied about the hips, giving the low line so fashionable this season.

Black satin and navy tricotine combine effectively in many top coats for daytime occasions, and in almost every one there is a hint of embroidery that lends a subtle charm all its own.

### IMPORTANCE OF THE CORSET

Article is Necessary to Aid in Best Appearance of Semi or Wholly Fitting Tailor-Mades.

If you want to look your best in one of the new semi-fitting or wholly fitting tailor-mades you must go back to corsets. There are corsets and corsets, the comment of a writer.

Carefully selected and cured for the one adds grace and support to your figure, and in novice menaces your health, but if you happen to belong to the large body of women who simply go into a corset department, and, giving the girl behind the counter the size of the waist, ask for a long or short corset, it is your own fault if your choice hurts you and makes you squirm in its grip.

When you go to buy a pair of corsets be careful not to choose too small a size. The small size brings your curves in the wrong place and flattens your back.

Be careful about the corset's height and length. To get both correct, take the narrow tape which marks the waistline on the inside of almost all corsets, and, using it as the starting place, see for yourself how many inches a corset is intended to extend above and below the waistline.

How high it should come depends entirely upon your figure. Remember, if you choose too high a pair it will make the shoulders appear too high, and if the bust be large, apparently increase it.

Unless during the past corsetless year you have lost your proper proportions, choose a pair of corsets with bones only in the back and front.

### AN 'OFF-THE-FACE' ROLL BRIM



Opal blue taffeta is featured in this winsome "off-the-face" roll-brimmed hat which is meeting with favor among the carefully dressed women.

**Transparent Hats.**  
Transparent hats of crepe georgette, tulle, organdie, hatbrad, lace and the like are irresistibly youthful and often chosen to wear with a dainty, summery frock on account of their becoming softness. Very smart, the ecru organdie leghorn trimmed with sprays of wheat in the same shade.

**Self-trimmed.**  
The self-trimmed dress is having its day. Incrustations, appliques, futings are all very good. The latter are simply pressed into shape and allowed to fall loose.

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**LYRICS OF LIFE**  
By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

**GEE AND HAW.**  
A FELLAH had a pair of mules That knew no laws and knew no rules But good for haw and hawed for gee And went contrary generally. The darnedest mules you ever see.  
If both had geed when it was haw, While that ain't just exactly law, It would of worked out purty good, If once the thing was understood And they done what you thought they would.  
But not these two. If old July, When you yelled "gee," to gee would try, Old January, 'tother one, Observin' what July had done, Would start to hawlin' on the run.  
So gee and haw and haw and gee, But never simultan'ously, They went through life, and kicked more dirt And done less work and done more hurt Than two hyenas, I assert.  
And I've seen folks just like them mules, Who wed, but never read the rules, Who didn't know you had to wear The marriage collar fair and square And pull together everywhere.  
One can't have haw and one have gee: To gee or haw you must agree And then go forward, gee or haw, Accordingly, without no law— And that's good sense, and that's good law.  
(Copyright.)  
If mistakes were crimes all men would be in jail.  
Hope for the best and prepare against the worst.  
Riches formerly had wings, but now they have wheels.  
A lazy man works overtime telling others what to do.  
Intervention in love is equal to a declaration of war.

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