©CL 17568 C WOMAN, WAKE UP!

By Ben Moore Clay

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Monte Collins had told many girls that he loved them, but he really meant it when he said the same words to Anne Clegg, whom he met when his airplane developed motor trouble in mid-air and crashed to a sad fate on the mountain where Anne lived a secluded life with her uncle, a retired college professor.

And so they were married. Monte, gay trifler, found the sweet simplicity of Anne's idea of life becoming tiresome. He longed for his gay friends and the excitement of the bright lights. One night he and Anne joined his frivilous friends at the Red Mill, an extravagant cabaret, where Anne found herself entirely out of her element.

She was humiliated by her inability to dance the latest steps, and displeased with the secret drinking. She then learned that a wife never really knows her husband until she sees him with another woman. It was all a great shock to Anne, but she realized that she must adapt herself to Monte's life, not try to adapt him to hers.

So she learned to dance and bought some stunning and daring new gowns, and had her hair marcelled, and when Monte pleaded a business engagement on the night of their first wedding anniversary, instead of staying home and crying about it, she put on her new clothes and went to the Red Mill with Henry Mortimer, Monte's best friend.

At the Red Mill Anne's suspicions about Monte's "business" engagement were confirmed, but she pretended not to see him. He saw her, but could not believe that such a stylish person could really be his simple little Anne. Aghast, he watched her smoke a cigarette,

and then he stole home and sat at the foot of the stairs with a shotgun to await their return. Strange how a husband's moral code is never so strict as when his wife steals some of his own stuff!

Anne prolonged her return home until she was certain Monte's suspicions were thoroughly aroused. She found him sprawled on the steps asleep.

The next morning she would only speak to him through the locked door. He saw her ride away with Henry. They enjoyed a picnic on an island off the coast, but on the way back the motor boat lost its propellor. Anne was unperturbed by the accident-- the longer she was gone the better the lesson for Monte.

They are picked up by fisherman the next morning and landed at Catalina Island, where they are found by a detective engaged by Monte. Henry tried to phone Monte, but the wire was busy-- it was the detective advising Monte of his wife's whereabouts.

Monte was in Catalina twenty minutes later, via the air route. Enraged, he threatened Henry's life, but Anne intervened and declared that he should not kill the man she loves. Monte withdrew in sorrow and buried himself at his club where Henry sought him out and made him realize that Anne was only saving her husband from committing a murder.

In the mountains, where he first met her, Monte found Anne and asked forgiveness. "I suppose I might as well-- seeing we were both wrong," she smilingly said.

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