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WHEN THE DEVIL DRIVES

By Leah Baird

When Robert Taylor told Blanche Mansfield that he was going to marry Grace Eldridge, a pure, sweet society girl, she realized that the more a woman gives the less she can expect. True, he had never promised to marry her; on the other hand, he had never said that he would not!

On the eve of Taylor's marriage to Grace, in a mood of black despair, Blanche forced her way into Taylor's apartment and asked him if he was going to be fair enough to tell the other girl about their relations. Enraged by his indifference and insults, Blanche flared with uncontrollable passion-- the devil drove-- and she attempted to take Taylor's life.

Taylor was rendered unconscious, and while he hovered between life and death, Blanche was arrested and put in jail over night. John Graham, a rich and respectable cabaret proprietor, and long a devoted admirer of Blanche, won Taylor's promise not to prosecute Blanche and secured her release, but not until the newspapers had carried a flash of the affair.

Disillusioned and disappointed, Taylor's fiance decided to give him up and resume the settlement work which had been her hobby. Secreted in her heart was an intense hatred of that other woman. Blanche, repentant for her rash deed, changed her name and went to live in another part of town. As chance would have it, her apartment was opposite Grace's. They met and, with the passing of time, their friendship deepened into affection. Neither knew of the bond between them.

On Christmas Eve Graham gave a party at his cabaret in honor of his forthcoming marriage to Blanche. Grace attended. It so happened that Taylor, spending a lonesome Christmas, wandered into his old haunt. There, in a moment fraught with drama, Taylor came face to face with Blanche and Grace.

Then it was Grace's turn to be driven by anger and passion-- driven by the Devil-- when she learned that the woman she loves is the woman she hates. She went home, and when Blanche appeared at her window, Grace shot at her across the court. Regret immediately followed the deed and when Blanche, only wounded, pleaded for her aid, she went to her. As love lights more fires than hate extinguished, they reached a new understanding, and Grace promised to forgive the unhappy and repentant Taylor.

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