

NOVEL.

by

A. ASBURY ROCKRISE.

TITLE

Germ Synopsis of Book.

Story revolves around the life of a man and woman. The man, a victim of the last war and shell-shocked, has lost confidence in himself as an individual which he can no longer do and this helplessness is only increased, binding him the more, because of the adoring love of a mother and younger sister. Their idea of love being to spare him from every hard place and effort and struggle until he has reached the point where he is utterly despairing, believing himself incapable of accomplishment. Closer and more relentless grow these bonds in the name of love.

Into his life comes a woman who has loved and suffered and has seen again the light. But for her, she believes that love is over, save wherein that love touches her own son whom she ~~in turn~~ adores, and she believes her remaining duty lies only in the consummation of one more thing...to see that son happily married. Then her work will be finished. This adored son, she has felt it to be a privilege to help in every way to get him to the point where he can get on his own feet and be self-reliant. She has no patience with those mothers who say that children owe their parents this and that and etc. Children owe their parents nothing except that which they voluntarily give through love. Parents bring their children into the world and it is the parent's duty to prepare these children for life to the best of their ability at the same time encouraging them to be independent, also. This son, though

though young, has, so to speak, arrived, in his profession. His work takes him him for long periods and in that time, she has opportunity to think of many things. Suddenly, it comes to her that she is a lonely woman with many good and useful years ahead of her. Comes the wish for masculine companionship, nothing more but she feels the need of the stimulation that it naturally gives a woman and she craves that. Nothing more. Her heart belongs completely to her son. *She is quite possessive of that!*

Then comes the time when most unexpectedly, she meets an old time childhood friend of her youth. It is a source of satisfying delight to them both...the renewal of old times

Then studying him, she realizes his fetters - his lack of father himself - and believes she can help him - make him feel she needs him - subtly - in himself, not knowing of the bonds which bind him so in-

~~exorably.~~ She treats him naturally as any other man she might meet and this fact alone has a stimulating effect upon the man, like a transfusion, as it were. He takes stock of himself and realizes what he has been enduring all these crippling years in the name of love - *almost believing he might have saved or life for himself* - but makes not any sign - *But his mother* - loving his mother too dearly for that. She is old now and he is very tender with her. *and accused not now each her care as do - starkly - Perhaps sometimes*

if all men - alter man - had -

The woman, in turn, does not realize what this new and thrilling relationship is meaning to her...how much she is depending upon it. She is looking at it only in the light of what she seems to be able to do for the man for by now she realizes how matters stand and ~~she is~~ naturally maternal but she comes to the realization of the effects of a mother's love under some circumstances, and congratulates herself that she had not so handicapped her son. And all this time, she does not recognize this growing deeper

Her's passes - in name of service - which she does increasingly - descent, she leads him, and of his shell -

feeling within herself. They see a great deal of each other and find they have much in common but ridicules the idea that love could come to any woman of her age. The young man's mother strengthens this feeling and between them is the greatest confidence and trust. a thing which is a source of happiness to the younger woman. Romance precludes that,,. romance, of course.

Quite unexpectedly on the horizon, there appears a young woman, a charming, vital personality who immediately annexes the man, as does she every man she comes in contact with. It is fun for her and helps pass the months she spends with this wealthy aunt in this town. Not at heart a wilful creature but she has been always spoiled and had her own way and takes it for granted. The man, on the other hand is secretly flattered that so charming a creature could be interested in him....he had so long imagined himself unattractive to the other sex. Their friendship grows with the days and for some strange reason, seems to prosper. He has recaptured his youth in her and is drifting pleasantly along toward to what he believes is love and which is reciprocated. Blindly, he can see no other reason for her apparent enjoyment in his company, for of above all things, he is honest and sincere and believes all are the same. He is touchingly grateful for her kindness to him because he is not a conceited man and basks in his tender and shy love for her

The older woman looks on and reads what all may read and with it comes the heartbreaking realization that she too

too, loves this man. It comes as a shock and brings both exquisite pain and happiness. She realizes that a man is always young as long as he can fall in love but not so a woman. She is old and first time, feel that the weight of each year presses upon her and there is nothing she can do about it. To make it harder, the man, all innocence and sweet gratitude, comes to her humbly and thanks her from his heart for what she has done for him, giving him confidence in himself and making him feel once more a man, regardless of his infirmity. New life, new hope, confidence and now...even love. Hiding her own pain, and because she does love him so dearly and tenderly, as a woman and as a mother, she would not destroy that which she had created and she listens patiently while her heart seems drained of its life-blood. Follows that period when she must hide from those sharp sharp, eyes of youth her hurt and bring her pride ^{post} to the fore. She is sweetness itself to the young girl for only in that way can she preserve the happy relationship which must remain. The man is happy to see that his old friend is so understanding and if anything, that bond between them is strengthened. Youth has guessed the older woman's secret and it in turn brings to the surface something which is fine in her but with true modernity, she crushes such feelings and is the more heartless and ridicules such an idea and inadvertently makes a remark which struts the man and puts him on the defensive. Seeing her mistake, she hastily makes a better play. and all is forgiven, and she more than ever charming in her humility,....

Without warning, comes the woman's son into the picture. With a true but merciless probe, he reads what is in the mother's heart and is very tender with her and would not have her hurt and a slow but hot resentment burns against the man and the girl.

Quite apart from the man and woman, he meets the girl and is instantly attracted and she to him. Only a chance meeting. and he pays no more attention. A pretty girl is no event in his life. But as it happens the very indifference of this young man piques her and intrigues her curiosity.

"You don't like me, do you?" provocatively.

"I don't altogether dislike you, " he said digging his heel into the ~~sand~~ gravel walk.

"Wellllll..^{making headway}~~that's something~~, I suppose. (mock resignation)

Love comes to the young girl who had discounted love. Now she knows the meaning of it and her finer nature finally coming to the surface, she goes to the old man and tells him the truth, gently and honestly not sparing herself.

"But he doesn't love me. He hates me but I shall always love him. Always. And to make up for what I have done I want you to know that love, real and fine and beautiful love is patiently waiting for you. She may not know it but I know.

You mean.....-----? in amazement.

I do."

You have made me very happy and very sad but I know Youth calls to youth and that is as it should be. ~~Ben~~Leaves him, calmly and unconcernedly but there is a softness in her voice that was not there before.

Always that sense of maternal love saves her and helps her over the hard places and when the man returns, repentant and humble to be warmed and comforted by her smile and word, she is waiting. The beautiful realization sweeps over him, that here is the real woman for him, always was and always will be, the woman who understands him and gave him back his life, ~~as it were.~~

Young people are brought together in a dramatic way and their love is avowed, the ecstatic, ardent love of youth. Must enlarge all this and intertwine through the latter part of the book.