

MY JAPANESE HUSBAND.

SYNOPSIS.

MY JAPANESE HUSBAND.

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- Chapter IV. December 1915. Our wedding day. First months. Adjustment. The rebuke. Reconciliation. I become a draughtsman's "Nigger". Iwahiko's first client. Absorbed in his work, I feel myself neglected. Another reconciliation. The blue gown. We attend a Japan Society Banquet. Plans for the client's house complete, we go out and celebrate.
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Chapter V.  
(cont.)

June-July in St. Luke's Hospital. Our child forgets his mother. Heartache. Convalescence at Sea Isle City.

Chapter VI.

Our deepening joy and understanding in and of each other. Husband's ambition sweeps him onward. Opens office in partnership with a Japanese landscape gardner. Very busy. The World War. Fuel conservation and a cold office. My husband has acute attack of pleurisy. Long convalescence. After bills are paid, finances are low. Anxiety. Iwahiko plans a visit to Japan early following year to contact important architects. He negotiates large loan from New York friends. Leaves early in January, 1919. My sense of desolation.

Chapter VII.

Encouraging letters from Japan. Gratifying reception by noted Tokyo architects. Iwahiko is extensively entertained and gives many addresses, lectures and interviews. Japan to-day and fifteen years ago. A husband settles a question of etiquette for his wife, eight thousand miles away. June 1919. Joyful reunion.

Chapter VIII.

Facing the future unafraid. Volume of work from Japan. Increasing responsibilities. Iwahiko takes a new partner and a large office on Fifth Avenue. Force of designers and draftsmen. Friendship of Mr. Saito and my husband. Many demands of professional social life which

Chapter VIII.  
(cont.)

rarely includes me. Lonliness. My son and I become good friends. The Vanderlip garden party. The green-eyed monster. Iwahiko decides to relax for a couple of weeks. We go to Sea Isle City taking the Saitos with us. That green-eyed monster again. I receive a well deserved scolding from my husband. Same year--autumn. At home ill, under doctor's care with a nurse. At same time, Iwahiko is in hospital for appendectomy. My agony of fear for my husband. Our convalescence. We go to Kew Gardens Inn, Long Island, for one month. A second honeymoon,

Chapter IX.

Our son reaches kindergarten age. Headstrong, great initiative, lovable. Counterpart of father. Child training problems. East and West clash. Compromise. Aboard the battleship "Kasuga". Iwahiko feels need of relaxation and takes up golf. We discuss the future. Dinner at the Bayside Country Club. Anti-Japanese feeling. Year 1920, August. Iwahiko makes a second trip to Japan and takes his partner, John Thompson. Son and I spend month on Jersey coast. November. My husband returns. I am shocked by his ill appearance, but visit to our physician reassures us. A short but happy holiday at Lakewood, N. J. Office very busy. Drawings are promised and men work overtime to complete them. We buy a home in Flushing, Long Island, February, 1921.

Chapter X.

We move to our new home in a blizzard. Furniture arrives at midnight. The joy of owning our own home. We plan our garden and anticipate a happy summer. Summer. My husband's sudden collapse. Physical breakdown and sense of hopelessness. No desire to live if health is broken. He is finally persuaded to go to the mountains for a rest. Saranac Lake, Adirondacks. X Ray shows no Tuberculosis. After one month, returns in splendid condition, mentally and physically. Enters Golf Tournament and wins a silver cup. Fall, same year. Another breakdown. Local M. D. demands another X. Ray. Result is positive. The shock. Spring 1922. We rent our house and Iwahiko goes back to Saranac Lake to take "the cure" for wife and son's sake. His grim determination and my own heartbreak after his departure.

Chapter XI.

George and I make our home with my half-brother in Jersey. Two weeks<sup>8</sup> rest. Encouraging news from Iwahiko. After a struggle with my foolish pride, I return to my old position in millinery. Bad news. I go to Saranac Lake, and meet the Doctor Lawrason Brown. I like him tremendously. My husband is moved to a nursing cottage at once. After one week, I return to my work. My brother writes me a letter. It is decided best that I return to Brooklyn and leave my son entirely in brother's care. For George's sake only, can I

*Same idea  
of patients  
cheerfulness —*

Chapter XI.  
(cont.)

take this step. Utter loneliness. Encouraging reports from my husband. One long month passes, and I spend a Sunday with my son. Conflicting emotions: joy, disappointment, resentment and again joy.

Chapter XII.

Summer passes. Restless. On sudden impulse, I make visit to Iwahiko. The realization that I had really been sent to him in his great need. Terrible earthquake in Japan. Effect of shock upon my husband and anxiety for so many of his friends. My thankfulness to be with my husband at this time. After one week, I return to New York. Enroll in evening course of Interior Decoration. Pleasure in this new work. Cheerful, happy letters from Saranac Lake. The telegram. Bewilderment. My husband's peremptory wish for me to go to Saranac Lake to make my home. As an obedient "Japanese wife", I pack my trunk. That last Sunday with my son. Reunion with my husband. I marvel at his good health and amount of strength. We rent a small furnished apartment. My husband's happiness to be once more in his own home. It is "open house" to all other Japanese patients as well as American friends. Iwahiko makes repeated attempts to do some designing, but strength will not permit. Very deep disappointment. Finances become serious concern and we have a long conference.

Chapter XII.  
(cont.)

Spring 1924. Another parting. My husband goes to an "Up Cottage" and I return to our home in Flushing, to open it to paying guests.

Chapter XIII.

Happy reunion with my son. My earnest efforts to secure paying guests meets only with disappointment. At last, one Japanese guest arrives and my hopes mount. Husband's continued gain. Dr. Brown permits him a ten day leave of absence and our family is united once more. Finances shrinking, despite my one guest, who pays generously. Again my husband directs our affairs. He decides we must leave our home again and George and I must make our home in Saranac Lake with him. Bewildered, I commence to pack. Also have an auction sale. Close up house. Son and I go to the mountains. We rent a furnished house in good neighborhood, with idea of taking "up patients". Following Dr. Brown's advice, our son is placed in a Boarding School, that he may not be exposed to T. B. Considering his age, I have misgivings. Sad leavetaking and lonely days without our boy. We await patients but none arrive and we try to show a brave front to each other.

Chapter XIV.

Weeks pass and no patients. Hope as well as funds continue to dwindle. We sell the Flushing house. Unsatisfactory telephone conversation with son. Anxiety about his happiness and health. My husband visits the school. In his absence,

Chapter XIV.  
(cont.)

the first patient arrives. Christmas holidays. George comes home. His frightened, cowed manner. The realization that our boy is not happy. Holidays end, and he goes back to school and I am helpless to prevent it, being guided by doctor's advice. Two more patients arrive. I engage a maid. The sleighride across the lake. Easter vacation. Our son returns home, a sick, neglected child. I take matters in my own hands and he leaves school, to regain his weight and strength. Summer. My husband is permitted to work for a couple of hours daily in local architect's office. We face the future hopefully and with deep gratitude. I watch his amount of endurance carefully that he does not overtire. Discord over the position of a cure-chair on the porch and we lose a patient.

Chapter XV.

Financial struggles, despite sale of house, which covered in part old debts. Returns from our venture does not cover our expenses. By September, remaining two patients, now cured, return to their homes. My husband collapses in architect's office. Critical condition. Terror-stricken, I assume responsibility of nursing my husband with Dr. Brown in close attendance. Our son, now a strong, husky boy, enters public school. My neighbor in Flushing, makes me a long visit. Iwahiko rallies. One month passes. We move to upper part of two family house. Another setback.

Chapter XV.  
(cont.)

So little hope remains now, it would seem, but my prayers for strength and courage are answered. After long weeks, Iwahiko regains some strength. His gratitude to have privilege of watching his child grow and develop.

Chapter XVI.

~~Year 1926. I take a look at Saranac Lake and the people in it. Life among the patients. Their splendid, courageous and ever hopeful spirit. The general feeling of good-will and understanding existing among the townsfolk which means so much to each new patient.~~ After two years of patient curing and rest, Iwahiko is once more able to take short walks out of doors. Hope renewed. Problem of George. Clash of all three wills. A Japanese father realizes the difficulty of bringing up a son as a Japanese boy in America. Our happiness seems threatened but we talk matters over sensibly, and a way is found. Having the leisure, my husband now turns to the Chinese classics for study and relaxation. He also writes articles for architectural magazines and The Japanese Times. Also commences work on his autobiography. Concrete expressions of sympathy and neighborliness from the Presbyterian Church. George joins the Sunday School. We invest in a couple of second hand Alpine Sun Lamps. We overhaul them and put in new burners. We are fortunate in renting them and this brings in an income of \$20.00 each a month.

*moved ahead to chap XVII.*

*rather instead acquaint reader early in book of life in S. Lake*

Dr. Sone, Chugo, Negano,  
Hidaka, Sano, etc.

O.K.  
-9-  
Dec, 6, 1926

Chapter XVI.  
(cont.)

Architects and friends in Japan cable I500 yen.  
After paying some debts, we buy more lamps. Success continues. Visiting Japanese architects call upon us. Lamp business competition and we have to drop our price to \$18,00 a month. I take a look at myself in the mirror and turn away. I do some painting on silk, scarves, etc., at a profit.

Chapter XVII.

1926-27

X Ray report shows continued improvement. All capital now invested in lamps--twelve--all rented. <sup>I take a look at life in Saranac Lake.</sup> Future is bright. April. <sup>show</sup> Business suddenly becomes slack. Patient depend on sunshine rather than on lamp's violet ray. <sup>and not to come their money</sup> All capital tied up in lamps. Rigid economy. George enters Junior High School. Youngest pupil. The Women's Club of the Church asks me to give a talk on Japan. I accept and Iwahiko gives me all material and helps me prepare paper. I anticipate a trip to New York because of the Townsend Harris incident. Descendents decide not to donate the chess table and I am accordingly very disappointed. George joins the Presbyterian Church. Lamp business failing. ~~I realize my wardrobe is growing threadbare and I avoid any social gatherings.~~ Iwahiko is deeply distressed, but is encouraged by his steady gain and hope of returning to New York to practise. ~~Surprise visitors, Dr. and Mrs. Ward.~~ My old <sup>Harper</sup> clergyman is convinced now of our successful marriage and his visit gives us much pleasure.

Chap. XVIII: 1926  
Snowed so well - Walking a mile a day  
We three go to Church  
Snow ball incident - March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Aug 16-1928  
Mr. & Mrs. Harter  
call unexpectedly

Lamp business so poor - Appeal to all doctors to  
send me camp pts.  
-IO-

Chapter XVII. Iwahiko has unexpected serious setback. Only to save my strength, Japanese friends insist to put my husband in a sanitarium, all expenses paid. I refuse to let him go, knowing he would be unhappy away from home.

spend it up & burn

Dec. 17' Chapter XVIII. <sup>Sad Xmas</sup> Year 1928. Tactful money gifts from friends in the Church. Pride takes a fall but gratitude comes to the rescue. Husband's condition again critical. New Year's Eve. *Sergeant's birthday - Nov. 25, 1928*

Chapter XIX. Year 1929-30. Dark outlook, seen from any angle. Lamps standing idle. We try to sell few lamps to get ready cash but only we can give them away.. I negotiate two more loans. Our son becomes a Boy Scout. I am asked to allow my name to be presented as candidate for Church Treasurer. Decline honor. Iwahiko has "nerve operation". The Mrs. Voories of Japan makes us a visit. Mutual interest and pleasure in meeting. Winter. Life on an open porch with the temp. at Zero. I name a park and win ten dollars. In our dark hour, help comes. Our long residence entitles us to help from the County and our rent is taken care of. Though Iwahiko is confined in bed for greater part of day, I accept a clerking job in a department store at thirteen dollars a week. Work is interesting also the types of customers in and around Saranac Lake. Saturday nights. Christmas rush. With

~~XVIII~~  
Chapter ~~XIX~~.  
(cont.)

too many responsibilities, the strain is too great and my husband makes me give up on Christmas Eve. Through a church door.

Chapter XX.

New Year, 1931. Husband wishes me to give up our home that my life may be spared for our son, and he will gladly enter the County Sanitarium. I beg him to allow me to go to New York and appeal to our friends for aid. He is deeply touched and refuses but finally consents. I borrow on Insurance Policy for travelling expenses and a few needed clothes. Must observe line between well dressed and shabby. Elated and afraid by turns. Iwahiko goes to Northwood Sanitarium and son to a doctor's family. Prayers for the success of my venture. My beloved New York again. My appeal is generously rewarded by Japanese and American friends alike. Two year's support guaranteed. With deep gratitude, I return to Saranac Lake. Husband's mind at rest. In a general letter to these same friends, he promises to be back in New York before this money is exhausted and a well man. Fall. Friend takes our son to Schenectady for weekend. Same night, my husband has two strange attacks. Unconscious. Condition grave for many days. Now, almost bereft of hope, I wonder what will become of us. Has God turned His face from us? I realize now, Iwahiko will never be able to return to New York. I taste despair.

Chapter XX.  
(cont.)

January 1932. I contract bronchial pneumonia together with nervous exhaustion. Six weeks in the hospital, a charity patient. My foolish shame when I discover the little sign over my bed. Dr. Brown and another physician watch me closely and nurses are wonderfully kind. T. B. Society sends my husband to Northwoods San and pays all expenses for two months and for private room. Doctor's family again takes George, Iwahiko and I have no words to express our gratitude for such kindness. I am restored to my little family.

Chapter XXI.

The conference of three. Iwahiko has his way. To preserve my health, that I may work to help our son through College, he decides we must give up our home. "That I may have easier life, sleep, fresh air, nice clothes, etc." Also, that as much as possible of pledged money be returned to New York friends some of whom have but little themselves. Iwahiko too, realizes he ~~will~~ never will be able to work again. His superb courage and depth of love for wife and son. My vow. Appeal to Dr. and Mrs. Heise of Trudeau to care for our son during his last year in High School, which they generously do. Distribution of our household belongings to friends and neighbors. Husband and son go each their way and their fine spirit and courage put me to shame. Board a train for New York. Two week's rest in a quiet Community Boarding House, which

*unbeknowns to any of my friends - I had to lead  
this period to marshal my forces -*

Chapter XXI. was a revelation.  
(cont.)

Chapter XXII. October 1932. With many misgivings, I register at two Bureaus. Following day, I receive my first case. Enter home of a socially prominent family as nurse-companion. Enjoy my work and feeling of independence. At Christmas, they send me to Saranac Lake to be with my husband and son. My sense of gratitude. Friendship takes on a new meaning. The rare privilege of my association with this family which is to mean so much in my life. June. Our son graduates from High School with honor. Receives partial scholarship <sup>to S. U.</sup>. I am present but Iwahiko's health does not permit. With increase of salary, I am able to place my husband in a private nursing cottage. With thankfulness I work harder and harder, adding to my increasing store of experience, as I am now receiving the maximum salary for a practical nurse. I take a mental case. Two months later, Iwahiko sends for me. Very ill but recovers. Again at Christmas, I go <sup>to</sup> Saranac Lake, having had to choose between seeing husband or keeping job. Joyous reunion. Son back from college. Few days later, I am put to bed under doctor's care, narrowly escaping pneumonia. Two weeks later return to N. Y. 1935. Spring. Jobless. Weeks pass. I become panicky but keep fears from husband. My patience finally rewarded.

Chapter XXII. I get an excellent case. Wire news to Iwahiko.  
(cont.)  
His telegram crosses mine. Only the day before,  
he went back to County Sanitarium, in order to  
relieve my responsibility. I am most unhappy about  
it.

Chapter XXIII. Two months pass. I get a shock. Iwahiko suspects  
people who handle his food. Feels he is deserted.  
I go to Saranac Lake. Dismayed at what I find and  
talk with some doctors. Return to N. Y. Long  
distance call. Assuming all responsibility, I  
have my husband again removed to a nursing cottage.  
He is happy and content for a while. I go to Saranac  
Lake. Once more suspicious, husband insists to move  
to another cottage. My son asserts his right to share  
my worries and responsibilities. He visits father.  
Urgent summons from husband. Give up position in  
Maine and travel thirty-six hours straight by bus.  
Find grave situation. Meeting with son.

Chapter XXIV. Son returns to Syracuse. I take a room near Iwa-  
hiko. Only he has confidence in his wife. All  
food and drink must come from my hands. Despair.  
Otherwise, he is just the same Iwahiko, lovable  
and gentle as before. Psychologist and two physic-  
ians make visit on my husband. <sup>Journer</sup> He says he will  
"pretend to be mentally unbalanced, threaten people,  
etc., so he can enter hospital thereby relieving  
our financial situation." I am bewildered and consult

Chapter XXIV. another doctor. He also advises rest and efficient, understanding care in a hospital as a means of cure, for a condition which has only been caused by a long illness and financial worries. Almost resigned and even hopeful, I make arrangements for Iwahiko's departure receiving his complete cooperation. August 1935. Ogdensburg. Have long period without work. Debts accumulate. Husband makes very marked improvement. Writes cheerful letters. He read, studies classics and makes plans for our future when he leaves hospital. I am overjoyed. October. Am offered a good case in a private hospital. With Iwahiko's consent and because he is so well, I go to Florida with my patient. End of January, unexpected change. Letters are troubled. Mind seems to have clouded somewhat. Telegram from Superintendent of Hospital/ to come at once. Alarming new symptoms. Leave first train out after having first sent telegram to Iwahiko that I am coming to him at once. When I reach New York, I learn my husband has passed away the preceding evening. But nurse had read my telegram to him and he was content. My <sup>one</sup> responsibility now to carry out Iwahiko's wishes and assist in any way possible to help our son to complete his education.

THE END.