

The Peerless Series
No. 46

SUITORS THREE;
or,
Her Test for True Love

A SKETCH

By C. Gordon Kurtz



PRICE 25 CENTS



Frank J. Stanton, Publisher
Norwich, N. Y.

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FRANK J. STANTON

Norwich, New York

SUITORS THREE; OR, HER TEST FOR TRUE LOVE

CAST OF CHARACTERS

- Helen Camp, a popular society girl.
William Connor, one of her admirers.
Harry Williams, another admirer.
George Hartford, still another admirer.
Jane, her Irish maid.

PS 635
.Z9 K959

TIME OF REPRESENTATION

30 to 35 minutes.

COSTUMES

- For Helen: an attractive house gown.
For Jane: a neat maid's dress, apron and cap.
For the Suitors: all dressy business suits, each different.

PROPERTIES

Parlor table, chairs, sofa or tete, books, magazines, victrola, ferns, plants, in fact anything to add to setting.

DEC -2 1921

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SCENE---Sitting room of Helen Camp's home. A neat, cosy room, furnished and arranged according to taste of the players. Jane, is discovered arranging things about the room, humming as she does so. Entrances are Right and Left. When curtain is up Helen enters R.

HELEN Speaking as she enters Jane, I'm so worried and perplexed I really don't know what to do.

JANE Shure Miss Helen, are ye not falein well er sumthin?

H No, Jane, I'm not sick.

J Shure an oi'm glad o that. Miss Helen, oi'd like ter know jist what's troublin ye.

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H Oh, Jane, it's simply nerve racking to think of it. I wish you could help me out!

J Miss Helen, you know that oi always do all in me power to help me mistress along.

H Yes, Jane, I know you do, and I appreciate it very much. But it is so different this time.

J Well, plaze tell me an oi'll try the best I kin fer ye.

H sits Well, it's like this: William, Harry and George have been constantly proposing to me. I like them all, but am at a loss to know how to find out which loves me most or would make me the best husband. I want a man who speaks truthfully and will not misrepresent things. Do you know or think of any way that I could find out? You know my father's will states that if I do not marry before I am 23 years old the estate is to go to his second cousin. That's why I am so worried and perplexed. I want to marry, but I want to marry the right man who will always love me. I'm not hard to please, am I?

J Shure yer fur from bein particklar. Now let me see. Seems loike oi rid a story somethin loike you. Lemme see. pause Oi know! It was a pictur oi saw at a movie onct an they called it "The Acid Test." 'Twuz bout a girrul loike yerself an in jist sech a pickle as you are in. She has jist as many fancies.

H Fancies?

J Yis--fancies.

H laughs Jane, you're a scream. You mean pronouncing the word fee-an-say.

J Yis, that's 'em. Well, she thought an thought of a way to find out which of thim--er--what kind of an animal did ye say they wuz, Miss Helen?

H laughing I said fee-an-say.

J Yis. Well, she didn't know which one o thim--er--jist what you called thim--to choose fer a husband. So the nixt toime they come to propose to her, she told thim she must have a great big bunch o things after they wuz married, an she knew thim--jist what you called thim--could niver git all those things for her. Well, they all tould her they'd git the things excipt one young man, an shure he

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wuz handsome oi tell you. So she found out that the one who tould the truth wuz the one she shud marry.

H Splendid! Jane, you're a life saver.

J looks at herself Shure Miss Helen, you don't mane to till me oi look loike one o thim thim things on the ships, loike a big doughnut wid a hole in it, what they have to save folks from drowndin, do ye?

H laughs No, no Jane. I mean that you afe the nick-o-time heroine. You have come to my rescue and furnished a way for me to find out which of my suitors loves me best. I am going to adopt the same plan that the young lady in the moving picture did. Jane, you're a jewel!

J Oi fale highly honored to have you say that. Shure oi'm iver so much plazed.

H Remember, not a word about my plan to any of the boys, if they should show up to-night, Jane.

J You can always rely on Jane, Miss Helen, yis-sir-ee.

H Fine. Now I'll go up to my room and prepare my speeches before any of them come. rises.

J All right. This is goin to be great.

H going R, speaking If any of the boys come call me. I'll be ready for them. Exit R.

J Shure, I will. Well, well, this is goin to be better'n the show itself. Oi wonder how it will turn out. Oi'll jist bet the one she thinks duzzent love her, will love her the most. Well, jist wait, jist wait; we'll see who is the honest to goodness lover. Starts arranging things, humming. Door bell off stage, L, rings There, oi'll bet that's one o thim fancies coming in quest of her hand. We'll see whether or not an who's who. Exit L. Speaking outside Good avenin Mr. Connor, come right in. Yis, Miss Helen is home. No, she's up stairs in her room. Come into the settin-room an oi'll go an call her. Re-enter L, with WILLIAM CONNOR. Oi'll go right up stairs an tell Miss Helen that you are here.

Wm Yes, do Jane. I have something very important to ask her.

J aside You'll ask her, but look out! you'll have to pass the test. aloud Yes, Mr. Connor, oi'll go right up an tell

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her. Exit R.

Wm sits L To-night she will not refuse me. I have prepared a wonderful proposal. She can't resist; I know she can't.

J Re-enters R Miss Helen will be down immediately.

Wm Thank you. Jane, you look unusually cute this evening.

J aside The fresh divil. Oi hope he flunks the test.

Wm rises as HELEN enters R Good evening, Miss Helen, I've come on a very important errand and I would like to see you alone. May I?

H to Jane Will you excuse us a few moments, Jane? Mr. Connor has come on important business.

Wm Yes, little Jane will excuse us.

J Shure, Miss Helen, anything ye ask of me oi'll do. aside For that lummox oi'd niver lave the room. Exit R.

H Now, William, what is it so important that you wish to see me about?

Wm Let's sit on the sofa and I'll tell you.

H aside I believe he's going to propose again. aloud Certainly, William. they sit on sofa.

Wm Helen, the great and important errand is this. taking her hand I want you to marry me. It's you, just you; all through my life it has been you. No one has ever adored you and loved you as I have. Helen, I will make you the best of husbands. You are to me as the sunshine. I need you as the flowers need the sunshine and as the whole world needs it, I need you. Will you marry me?

H very thoughtful. pause Yes, I will marry you.

Wm I knew you couldn't refuse me this time. places arm around her We'll always be happy won't we, dear?

H Of course we will. clasping her hands together Now just think, William dear, we will have a wonderful church wedding won't we, and six bridesmaids and all the fixings and William, I know a dear little house I'd like to live in and it's only \$8,000. There is a duck of a garage where we can keep our own little car, for we'll surely have one, won't we dear? And William, I saw a living-room suite in town the

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other day for \$850., and a solid mahogany set for only \$1200. You see, dear, I had a sort of hunch you'd ask me soon, so I've been scouting around, for I believe in preparedness, don't you know. We'll have all these things won't we William? watching his face for reply.

Wm Yes, yes Helen, all. All I can get you, all you desire. There's nothing that you wish but what I can get for you.

H coldly That settles it. rises You don't love me.

Wm I don't love you? Even after I've promised to buy you all you wanted you say I don't love you.

H That is just why you don't love me. You know you cannot give me all the things I asked you for. You have deceived me. You try to make me believe that you can buy all these things. Once a deceiver always a deceiver. stamps her foot No! I will not marry you! Leave me at once and let this be a lesson to you, never misrepresent yourself again. goes to L, calls Jane! Jane, please get Mr. Connor's hat and gloves.

Wm Helen, have you gone mad. Are you crazy?

H Quite the opposite. I've just learned the truth of affairs.

JANE Enter L, with hat and gloves Here they are, Miss Helen.

H Hand them to Mr. Connor please, I think he's about to leave us.

J Shure, Miss Helen, wid plazure. hands them to him.

H to Connor Good evening.

Wm places hat on his head in rough manner Good evening. Out of my way Jane! pushes her one side, as he Exits L.

J shakes her fist at him If yez ever come into this house agin, oi'll drownd you wid the hose.

H It worked, Jane, but I am really sorry. I thought he might be true.

J Oi niver tought anything of the koind. All along oi tought he was a dirty, low down desaver, Miss Helen.

H I'm glad I found out so soon. sits, R, reads

J as:de One's gone, anyway. Aint oi glad he flunked

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the test. works about the room bell rings L Miss Helen, oi'll bet it's another wan of yer fancies. Exit L

H Jane is so funny at times and says the funniest things.

J outside Yis, she's home. She's in the sittin room. Won't you come in?

H That's probably Harry.

J Enter L, with HARRY WILLIAMS Mr. Williams to say you.

H goes to him, shakes hands Good evening, Mr. Williams.

Har Good evening, Miss Helen. I have come on an important mission and would like to see you alone.

H Certainly, Mr. Williams. to Jane Jane will excuse us for a few moments?

J Shure an oi will. aside Another of those fancies to try the test. Exit R.

Har goes toward sofa with Helen, speaking Helen, I have come on an important mission, as I told you before. both sit.

H aside Again I hope for the best. But I shall soon find out. aloud Yes, Mr. Williams, what is it?

Har taking her hand Helen, I love you. I want you to marry me. That is the great mission I have come for tonight. It is the greatest mission I ever set out for. It is you, always you. Since the day we first met, it has been you. I have hoped and planned for our happiness. You cannot refuse, you cannot! You will marry me?

H hesitating Y-e-s, I--will.

Har places arm around her, kisses her You've made me the happiest man on earth. Everything will be sunshine with you by my side.

H With hands clasped, she gives the same speech she did with William Connor, watching him closely.

Har Yes, Helen, anything, anything. I will give you anything you ask for. Anything in this wide world.

H rises, indignantly So you are another deceiver, Mr. Williams? I am glad to find you out so soon. I think that our interview is at an end.

Har Why, Helen dear, what do you mean? Are you crazy? Come, come, you are just a bit upset.

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H On the contrary I am quite all right. stamping her foot No! I will not marry you! You have deceived me now and would do so again if I married you. You could not give me all I asked you for and I know it. I am now asking you to go. goes to R, calls Jane! Jane bring Mr. Williams' things, I think he is about to go. JANE enters L with hat and gloves which she hands to Harry.

Har Helen, you will be sorry for this some day.

H I am willing to suffer the consequences. You've said your part. Good evening. Jane, you may show Mr. Williams to the door.

J Right this way, Mr. Williams, and make it snappy.

Har goes toward L exit, turns, to Helen Bah!

J Yis; bah! This way out plaze. Exit L, followed by Harry.

H Thank goodness that's all over with. goes to sofa, sits To think both of them deceived me. Oh! how could they? starts to cry.

J Enter L, goes and sits by Helen, pats her shoulder There, now dearie, don't you cry. None av thim's worth his weight in mud. You may be thankful ye found thim out so quick. Yis-sir-ee.

H drying her eyes I guess you're right. smiles There's no use crying over spilt milk.

J Yis; it's lucky ye found thim out. rises, starts L, bell rings, she turns Oi'll bet that's Mr. George. Oi hope he proposes and passes the test. Exit L.

H I hope it is George. I always liked him better than the rest and I hope he's true.

J outside Yis, Miss Helen's home. Come right in, Mr. George, she'll be only too glad to see yez. Enter L with GEORGE HARTFORD. Miss Helen, Mr. George to see you.

Geo meets Helen as she rises and comes to greet him with extended hand Good evening, Helen, how do you feel? You look a little worried. You must take better care of yourself.

H I do feel rather blue, but with you as company it will pass away.

G I am glad to hear you say that, Helen, for you give me

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courage to say what I have come to ask you this evening.

J *aside* Oi knew it. aloud Oi'll lave ye to yerselves, Miss Helen.

H Thank you, Jane, I was just going to ask you to leave us a few moments.

J *aside* Oi hope he passes the test. Exit L.

H Let's sit on the sofa, George; it's more comfortable. they go to sofa, both sit. You say you have something to ask me. What is it, George?

G Helen, hesitating will you marry me? Please don't say "No." It will do you no good for I shall keep asking and asking and will give you no rest until you consent.

H hesitates, in deep thought, looks in his eyes Yes, George, I will marry you. they embrace.

G You don't know what a happy man I am, Helen. taking her hand Just think, it won't be long before I'll have you all to myself. You, just you; one of God's most beautiful creatures for my wife. Oh, Helen, you don't know how happy you have made me. kisses her

H You don't know how happy I am either, George dear. I'll have you all to myself now, won't I? pats his cheek You won't go with that horrid old Raynond girl any more, will you dear?

G No, dear; indeed I won't. All I ever wanted was you and your love and now at last I've had the courage to ask for you. Helen, you were always the girl of my dreams. I only went with the Raynond girl just to try and make you jealous. Really, I hated the sight of her. snuggles close to her I wouldn't be seen with any other girl in the world but you, not for any amount of money.

H takes and pats his hand You are jnst the same old dear you always was and I am going to try and make you as happy as I can.

G places arm around her, All you have to do dear, is to love me with all your heart, for it's your love that makes me happy.

H With hands clasped, she gives the same speech she did with William Connor and Harry Williams, watching him closely. George stares

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at her, during speech and at finish goes to chair at table, sits, very dejectedly, gazing at floor. Helen goes to him, kneeling at his side. What is the matter, dear?

G looks at her, disconsolately Helen, Helen.

H Yes.

G rises, raises her, clasps her in his arms Helen, I love you.

H Of course you do and I love you to distraction, and that is why I can hardly wait for all those lovely things we are going to have.

G places his hands on her shoulders, looks at her So that is it, you love me not for myself alone. sighs Oh, Helen! drops his hands to his sides, goes to sofa, sits with head in hands. She goes and sits beside him.

H George, tell me--

G looks up, moves away, facing her Stop, Helen, please stop. Listen to me just a minute. takes her hands I never intended to misrepresent things, but I surely have if you think I can afford to buy an \$8,000 house, several thousands of dollars' worth of furniture, a car, and all that sort of thing. I've tried to save and thought I had a tidy little sum until I heard your wants. I didn't realize girls needed so much to make them happy. I somehow thought you loved me turns head and gazes at floor and would be willing to start at the bottom of the ladder and climb up with me, but I guess I made a mistake. looks in her face I'm sorry Helen, but I can't expect you to marry me, for you'd never be happy on a salary of \$2500 and a bank account of \$4,000, out of which we would have to buy furniture and get our start.

H snuggles up to him George, dear?

G moving away, slightly Don't make it any harder for me, please don't.

H Very well, then. I've listened to you, now you must listen to me. he watches her attentively George, you are not the first who has proposed to me. In fact, you are the third, right here in this room. I'll not mention names for that would be unfair. I told them the same list of wants I've told you and they sought to make me think they could give me all those things. I knew better and disliked them

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for being so dishonest. Soft music, like "The Love Nest," "Love's Old Sweet Song," etc., until curtain. But you, pats his cheek you great big peach, have just shown how honest you are. they snuggle closer Why, honey, all I want is you and your love, and enough to live on, in a little coop just big enough for well--two at first anyway. kisses him, rises quickly as he starts to grasp her, crossing to Center stage.

G following her Helen, my Helen! embraces her I knew you was true, just as true as gold. I knew you was the girl I thought you and now you're mine, all mine to love. kisses her My true, little future wife.

JANE Enter L Miss Helen, there's a telephone call for yez. Miss Helen, there's a telephone call for yez. George is still kissing Helen, Jane throws up her hands Shure, it's no use! rushes off L, heard outside Hello! hello! No; the line's busy. Good bye!

CURTAIN

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