

THE REUNION

"Yes, I'll be there," she had said as they met briefly in the hotel lobby. Bill had been looking forward to the reunion since he had received the invitation, and now he felt doubly blessed. Ellen was here! They had been high school sweethearts until she moved away shortly after graduation. His hurt had been long and deep--she never wrote. Then his work took him to far-off places and he had lost touch with most of his old friends. Also, the loss of his wife two years ago left a void.

Now he would see Ellen again. As he dressed, he laid his plans. He would switch the place cards so he could be seated next to her. They would catch up on all that had transpired in the intervening years. Then they would dance--close--and he would hold her in his arms. He felt a rush of emotion. Too, since they were staying at the same hotel, perhaps a nightcap and who knows.....

As he entered the club ballroom, his eyes searched the sea of faces. Ah! There she was, talking animatedly to a group of friends. She had kept her youthful figure--even improved on it--and she was beautifully dressed. Her smile that had always dimpled her cheeks and lit up her eyes made him hurry across the room to her.

"Oh, Bill, I'm so glad to see you!" she said, "and this is my husband, John....."