

A SUCCESSFUL MAN

By
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CHAPTER 1

Jimmy was born a wiggler. In fact his mother said he started wiggling when he was only two months old in her womb. She had trouble sleeping because he was so active. And when he was born, they had a bit of trouble putting a diaper on him because he wouldn't lie still.

By the time he was three years old, his daddy had had all of the activity he could stand. So one day he went to work, but never came back; Jimmy's mother, Edna, wondered why.

After two years of wondering what had become of him, she got an uncontested divorce and married Robert Sawyer. Now Jimmy was five years old and just as full of mischief as ever. But his blessed mother and new father were very tolerant of him because he was really a very lovable child.

When he started to kindergarten in Forgan his mother had a talk with the teacher, and warned her that her son was a little prone to be overactive.

He was not mean to the other kids; in fact they all liked him. So in due time, Jimmy became an above normal student. He was a very intelligent child, and he had learned to read quite well before he got out of kindergarten.

He did have one rather strange quirk; he liked to chase the little girls. They didn't seem to mind and just considered it as playing. The interesting thing about his chasing the little girls is that if he had ever caught one he wouldn't have known what to do with her; but that all changed as he grew older. In fact by the time he was in the third grade he was asking the girls for a date. If they accepted he would have them sit with him while they ate their lunches.

His mother, Edna, was not really pleased with that kind of behavior, but she was at a loss as what to do about it. Finally she gave up and just put him in the hands of the Lord.

He stayed out of trouble; and when he graduated from the eighth grade he had the highest average grade in the class, and was presented with a nice placard. (He also changed his name to Jim; he said "Jimmy" sounded too childish.)

High school was in a different building, but on the same lot where the students could play football and basketball. Jim was very athletic, and was very good at basketball. In fact, coaches from various colleges offered him a scholarship in basketball. He accepted one from the coach at Goodwell, Oklahoma, as it was only seventy miles from Forgan.

CHAPTER 2

Jim was a handsome lad and had a way with the girls. He was very careful though, and never let his dates keep him from his studies. And when he did date a young lady, he never gave her any ideas about getting serious in their relationship.

He had majored in Business Administration with minors in English and Mathematics. He reasoned that if he failed in a business he could go into teaching. And due to his intelligence and good personality, his English teacher told him he would make an excellent teacher.

Jim graduated with a high grade average, but he couldn't find a job that he liked in any business; business was entirely too dull. So he applied for a job teaching Mathematics and English in the high school in Beaver, Oklahoma, and he got the job.

Beaver was a rather small city, having a population of only ten thousand. However, he liked the fact that his home town of Forgan was only seven miles away.

He found a nice two bedroom house that was within walking distance of the school house, and moved all his belonging into it.

He had not been teaching but a short time until the school board found out he was an excellent basketball player; so they increased his salary and started him coaching a basketball team.

All of the students took a liking to him, and this made it easier for him to scold the students when they weren't as interested in their subjects as they should have been. But his being so likable had its disadvantages. Some of the girls fell in "love" with him early in the year.

He naturally avoided giving them any encouragement. And to help with his ignoring them, he started dating some of the teachers from both high school and junior high.

He had no intention of falling in love with any of them, so he dated several different ones during the nine months of school.

But when summer vacation came, he found himself already fond of one of the junior high teachers. Her name was Helen Minton and she was from New York.

After he had dated her several times, he asked her why she came all the way to Oklahoma to teach school. Her answer was that she liked the drier climate of the High Plains better than the humid climate of New York City. She also said she liked the friendlier attitude of the people in the Oklahoma Panhandle—Jim took that as being a compliment.

CHAPTER 3

Helen was a very pretty lady, very intelligent, and had a delightful personality; and she and Jim had a lot in common when it came to entertainment. They both liked action movies with some romance interspersed, and they took turns watching such movies on their televisions.

They went bowling frequently and had a lot of fun teasing each other about their “gutter” balls. Then after they got tired of bowling, they would go to the little café right next door.

Jim tried hard to control his feeling about Helen, but he was not very successful. He had vowed that he was only going to hug her occasionally, and not give her any kisses at all. But after going with her almost two months, he ditched his vow.

So one evening after they had finished their bowling, and had eaten dinner at the little café, Jim took her for a ride to the Sand Hills which were just a few miles north of Beaver.

They took off their shoes and walked up the big sand hills. They had no trouble seeing where they were going because the moon was full.

When they got to the top of one of the giant sand dunes they were really pooped! So they sat down in the warm sand and held hands. Then much to the surprise of Helen, Jim put his arms around her and gave her a very passionate kiss. She liked the loving attention, and repaid Jim with a returned hug and kiss.

Then Jim put his arms around Helen shoulders, pulled her up tightly, and softly whispered in her ear, “Helen, I think I’m falling in love with you.” She whispered her reply in his ear: “Don’t think, be sure, please.”

But Jim had never before been really in love, and he was not quite sure what the next act on his part should be. But Helen helped him out.

“Jim, I have loved you for several months, but I was afraid it was a one way street on your part—you didn’t seem to love me in return. So I am very grateful that you have made a loving move tonight; and I believe you really do love me. Is that a correct assumption?”

“Yes, it is, Helen. In fact, I want you to marry me if you think we could be a happy couple ‘til death doeth us part.”

“Oh Jim,” she replied, “I think we would be a very happy couple. But to be more assured of that happiness, I have a suggestion.

“Why don’t we sit down together and ask each other questions about what we like and dislike?”

Jim said, “I really think your suggestion is a good one. So why don’t we drive back to my apartment, brew some coffee, sit down at the table and pursue this suggestion further?”

Helen was all for it; so they drove back to Jim's apartment, brewed some coffee, got a couple of cups full, and sat down at the table

Then Jim said, “Helen, I think your suggestion is really a good one. My only suggestion is that for future reference we write down everything we discuss. For instance, if I ask the question we would write down my name followed by a colon; then we would write down the question. Then following the question, we would right down your answer.

“For example, we would write: “Jim,” colon, “What church do you attend?” question mark. Then following that question mark we would write your answer: Baptist.”

Then Helen said, “Jim, your suggestions are very good, but I have one further suggestion: If we disagree on a question or an answer, I believe we should stop and discuss it. If we can't reach an agreement at this time, I suggest we put a star beside the thing being questioned, and go on with the questions and answers. Then after we finish them, we can discuss the things we put a star by. If you agree with that suggestion, let's get on with the questions and answers.”

Jim replied, “I think your suggestion is a very good one. So here is my first question: Do you want to have children?”

Helen's answer was, “Definitely, yes.”

CHAPTER 4

The questions and answers went on for two hours, and then the couple was finished. There were very few stars, and the couple agreed that none of those questions or answers having stars were significant enough to preclude a marriage.

“So what do we do now, Jim?”

“Well, my sweetheart, since we have two months of summer vacation remaining, I suggest we get married as soon as possible, and then we will have two months to get more acquainted with each other; and we can go wherever you want to go for our honeymoon.”

“My beloved, I have always wanted to go to Hawaii. I have seen motion pictures made on those islands, and I was always fascinated by their beauty. Would you be interested in having our honeymoon in Hawaii?”

“Yes, my darling, I would like to spend our honeymoon there. So my next question is, do you want a big, lavish wedding, or would you be satisfied with having a Justice of Peace perform the ceremony?”

“Oh Jim, I guess I would like to have a lavish ceremony with lots of family and friends attending. But since all of those people live in New York I will be satisfied with having the marriage conducted by a Justice of Peace. After all it is up to us to make the marriage work; just saying a few vows don’t guarantee the marriage will be a happy one that lasts ‘til death doeth us part.”

“All right, sweetie, if you agree I will have my mom and dad be our two witnesses for the ceremony. They live in Forgan and that is only seven miles away; and I know they would be proud to do that for us. And I know my folks will be glad to meet the lady they have been hearing about in my letters and phone calls.

“Why Jim, I didn’t know you had been telling your parents about me!”

“Yes, my darling, I have told them all about you, and they are very anxious to meet you. So I know they will be very glad to come to our wedding and take a part in it.”

Jim called his parents that night, and asked them if they could take part in the wedding ceremony on the coming Saturday; they said they would be delighted to do so.

So Jim made arrangements with a Justice of Peace to marry him and Helen at ten o’clock Saturday morning. Then they went shopping for new clothes. Jim bought a new suit, and Helen bought a lovely dress and some new shoes; they also bought two golden wedding rings.

Saturday came and Jim's folks showed up at his house at nine o’clock and rang the door bell. Jim opened the door with Helen standing beside him; and as soon as his parents got into the house he introduced them to Helen. She hugged each of the parents and thanked them for being willing to take part in the wedding ceremony.

Then after Jim had given them a hug, Helen ushered them into the living room and seated them on the couch. After about forty minutes of visiting, they decided it was time to go to the office of the Justice of Peace.

They arrived at his office a few minutes before ten o'clock, and introduced themselves to him.

He then had Jim's mother and father stand in front of him alongside Jim and Helen. Then he said a prayer and read the usual wedding vows.

Turning toward Jim, he asked, "Jim, do you take Helen as your lawful wedded wife, to love and care for until death doeth part?" Jim answered, "Yes."

"Now place the ring on her finger as a sign that you accept her as your lawful wedded wife;" Jim carefully and lovingly placed the ring on Helen's finger.

Then he turned toward Helen, and asked, "Now Helen, do you take Jim as your lawful wedded husband, to love and to cherish until death doeth part?" Helen answered, "Yes."

"Now place the ring on his finger as a sign that you accept him as your lawful wedded husband;" Helen lovingly placed the ring on Jim's finger.

Then the J.P. said, "I now pronounce you husband and wife. Jim you may kiss the bride." Jim took Helen in his arms, drew her up close, and gave her a loving kiss.

The parents gave the bride and groom hugs, and then Mrs. Bilbro said to Helen, "My darling, welcome to the Bilbro family. You are now the daughter we always wanted but were unable to have."

Jim's parents had lunch with the newlyweds, hugged them, and then departed for Forgan.

CHAPTER 5

After they got back to Jim's apartment, Jim said to Helen, "My lovely wife, I have a confession to make now that we have our plane tickets. You married a coward when it comes to flying, and I'm going to tell you why I'm a coward. It is a long story so please bear with me."

So Jim launched into his story. He told Helen stories about wanting to fly when he was little. Then he told her about seeing a plane that had crashed while his brother-in-law was watching it do a loop.

He finished his stories by telling her about the many commercial and non-commercial flights that he had taken. And most of them were stories that ranged from his flying in a defective plane to planes that had encountered bad flying weather—and he was frightened in every one of the flights

Helen was amazed at his stories, and said, "Jim, are you sure you want to fly to Hawaii? We could always take a passenger ship."

Jim replied, "Yes, we could take a passenger ship both ways, but that would greatly shorten our honeymoon in Hawaii. Besides, I will have you to help me overcome my fear while we are flying."

So they drove to Amarillo, put their car in storage, and boarded a plane to Hawaii. He didn't tell Helen, but he had put two whistles in his pocket, just in case they were needed later.

They landed in San Francisco where they stayed overnight. The next morning they boarded a new type of plane, one that was designed specifically for flight over the ocean.

And as soon as they were airborne, the hostess showed them the equipment they would use if the plane had to land on the water. And while holding up the equipment, she would tell them all about it; she started with the lifesaver suit.

"It is a kind of suit designed specifically for survival in the ocean." Then she held it up high so all the passengers could see it.

"You put it on just like you would put on coveralls, and it will automatically inflate when the person jumps out of the plane and into the water; and it will keep a person afloat indefinitely. Also, it will keep the person's head above water even if they are unconscious. In addition, it has a waterproof bag attached that will be above the water line when the person is lying afloat on their back.

"The bag contains a flashlight and a special food that will provide nourishment for five days, but the food will not generate a bowel movement. The bottom of the lifesaver is designed to hold the urine for five days. Are there any questions?"

A passenger spoke up and asked, "Ma'am do the people in Hawaii know where we are at this moment?"

The hostess answered, "The people in Hawaii know exactly where we are all the time. We send a signal to a satellite, and the satellite sends that same signal down

to our receiver at the airport on Hawaii; so they know exactly where we are all the time.

“And if the signal they receive indicates we have had to land in the ocean, they will immediately send a specially built motor boat, large enough to hold all of the one-hundred passengers; and a doctor will be on board.

“This specially-built boat will travel at seventy miles per hour. So if we were to go down right now, it should reach us in about three hours as we are traveling to meet the boat at four-hundred-miles per hour; and we are presently twelve hundred miles from Hawaii. Are there any more questions?”

Another passenger said, “Yes, ma’am. If we do go down, how long will the plane stay afloat?”

“These planes are built with a sealed compartment underneath that will keep the plane floating for at least thirty minutes, plenty of time for all the passengers to put on their survival suits and get out of the plane; and the survivor suit will last indefinitely. Now are there anymore questions?”

There were none, so the hostess thanked the passengers for their attention, and walked back to her little room behind the pilot and co-pilot.

Jim said, “I’m sure glad they have that kind of equipment aboard, but I sure hope we will never need it.”

Helen squeezed tightly against Jim and said, “Darling, I agree wholeheartedly, and I keep day dreaming about what we will do when we get to Hawaii; that keeps my mind off of the possibility of an accident, and onto something pleasant.”

CHAPTER 6

About four hours later, the plane gave a shudder. So Jim looked out the window and saw that the outboard motor was on fire.

At that instant the captain came on the speaker and said, “Folks, we have lost an engine and the remaining three will not keep us aloft very long. So we are going down now so we will be better able to land smoothly on the water and stay afloat long enough for you passengers to put on your survival suits, and exit the plane. Now PLEASE do not panic, the Hawaiians have already started this way in that special boat that holds one hundred passengers and travels at seventy miles per hour on the water. But there will be plenty of time before it gets here for everybody to put on their survival suit and jump into the water. If you need any help in any way, just holler for help and one of the crew members will be with you immediately.”

Jim pulled on his survival suit in just a few seconds, and turned toward Helen to help her finish putting on her survival suit. He handed her a whistle and then took the flashlight out of her survival suit and handed it to her; next he took his flashlight out of his survival suit and held it in his hand.

Then he said, “Sweetie, if we get separated I will point my flashlight upward and flash it off and on so you can spot me. And when you spot me, flash your flashlight off and on in return.

“If for any reason the flashlight scheme does not work, I will blow short blasts on my whistle. If you hear me, start blowing short blasts on your whistle, and keep blowing them. Then I will swim to you blowing short blasts so you will know where I am and that I’m on the way to you.”

They got into the line of people struggling to get out of the door, and when their turn came, they jumped out together. They landed in the water, still holding hands and with their suitcases strapped to their shoulders.

Then a lady swam between Jim and Helen and separated them. And before they could resume holding hands, several panic-stricken people burst through between them, separating them even more widely.

It was dark as there was no moon, so they couldn’t see well enough to spot each other. So Jim started blinking the light from his flashlight, but to no avail. Helen could not see the light as there was too much distance and too many people between them.

Now almost panicky, Jim put his whistle between his lips and began blowing short whistles as loudly as he could. Fortunately, Helen heard the sounds, and immediate began blowing short whistles just like Jim was.

As Helen kept blowing her short whistles, Jim was swimming toward her, blowing short whistles so she could tell he was getting closer to her.

Jim was a good swimmer, so he was soon with her, holding her hand and pulling her as close to him as the survival suits and suitcases would allow.

The majority of people were swimming madly trying to get as far from the plane as possible, because they feared that when it sank, the suction it would generate might suck them under.

Jim did not really believe that would happen, but he and Helen were putting as much distance as possible between the plane and themselves just in case the plane might suck them under. The plane finally sank, but it did not suck a single soul under with it.

Time passed slowly and Jim and Helen were getting very tired trying to remain holding hands and suitcases. Then they saw a light in the sky that was rapidly approaching them. It was a helicopter verifying the location of the downed plane, and the distance the passengers were from Hawaii; it was also verifying that the airplane had sunk, but all the passengers had gotten out of it before it settled below the ocean surface.

The copilot on the helicopter took a bull horn and said to the passengers floating below, "Please don't give up hope, there is a speed boat coming to rescue all of you. And it is coming at seventy miles per hour; so it should soon be here." That message uplifted the moral and hope of the passengers.

The speedy rescue boat finally arrived and picked up all of the floating passengers. The passengers were counted, and all of the one hundred passengers had been saved, thanks to the survival suits. Then the rescue boat, loaded with all of the airplane passengers, turned toward Hawaii, and ran toward it at full throttle.

CHAPTER 7

The Bilbros were very happy to see the island of Hawaii come into view, and thanked the Lord for saving them and the other passengers. In a short time the ship docked and Jim and Helen walked to the shore on a steel walkway, carrying their suitcases; they had left their swimming clothing in the boat.

Then they hailed a taxi and rode to a nearby hotel. They went inside and paid for a room on the third floor from which they could see the ocean.

After a night of rest and lovemaking, they got dressed and went down stairs for breakfast at the hotel's café. The food was very good and the Bilbros ate it very leisurely.

When they had finished eating, they went to a nearby store and bought a little pamphlet that contained information about the various sites. They read through the pamphlet and chose the sites they wanted to see.

Then they rented a little car and started making a tour of the sites they had selected. Their camera had not been damaged by the in-the-water episode, so Helen took a lot of pictures of Jim at the various sites. Then Jim took the camera and shot pictures of Helen at the places that were particularly beautiful.

One of the sites they visited was the top of a smoking volcano. Jim said, "I wonder if these people live in constant fear that one of these volcanos might erupt. I have seen a movie where they had an earthquake and an eruption. It was sort of scary, and the kind of movie that you could almost visualize yourself as being where it was happening. It was particularly vivid where the people were trying to outrun the lava being spewed out by the volcano."

With a little fright in her voice, Helen said, "Jim darling, I have seen enough of this volcano. So why don't we go back down, make up a good lunch, and then go down to the shade of the palm trees to eat it?" Jim thought that was a good idea; so they made a lunch and walked down to the trees near the ocean.

The area there was evidently a favorite place because it was well populated by visitors. Many of them were eating lunches out of woven baskets; some of them were surf boarding, swimming, or playing in the ocean.

Soon a small band of Hawaiian men appeared and walked down close to the ocean. They turned, facing the crowd, and began playing music that was obviously written by a native of the island. And while they were playing three lovely young girls dressed in grass skirts and skimpy red brassieres appeared.

As soon as the girls got into a line facing the people, the band began playing appropriate music. The girls began singing in their native language, swaying their bodies, and waving their arms in rhythm with the music.

Jim said, "I have seen this kind of performance in the movies, but I never expected to see it in real life."

Helen laughed and said, “I wonder how long it takes those girls to learn how to sway their hips like they do, and I would think they would have a lot of back trouble.”

Jim also laughed and said, “Sweetie, I believe we will stick to the old two-step dance movements. I don’t like the thought of visiting the chiropractor every time we go dancing.”

The love birds finished their lunch and continued watching the dancers until they bowed and swiftly departed. Then the couple slowly walked back to their room.

As soon as they reached their room, Jim slowly waltzed Helen to the bedside and began unbuttoning her dress. She smiled at Jim and said, “Honey, are you trying to tell me something?”

Jim squeezed her tightly, and said with a smile, “Yes.” The afternoon was filled with the loving behavior expected of newly weds.

Some time later, Jim rolled over, took Helen in his arms, and said, “Sweetheart, I am a bit hungry, and I think maybe we should get dressed and go to the restaurant for some supper. What do you think?”

Helen smiled an impish smile, and said, “Party pooper!” Then she climbed out of bed, went to the closet, and got out a lovely new dress and a slip. Jim in the meantime was looking through the dresser drawers and getting out the under things Helen was going to need.

Then he did what any new husband would do, he helped her put them on, each and every article of clothing.

When Jim had finished dressing her, Helen said, “Thank you lover boy, now I will help you get dressed.” So she got all of Jim's clothing articles out and laid them on the bed. Then she started putting them on him, laughing as she put on each article; Jim was enjoying every minute of it.

Once they completed dressing each other, they strolled over to the café and sat down at a secluded table. They were looking at each other with love shining in their eyes when the cute little waitress walked up, set a glass of water before each of them, and said, “Good evening folks, here are the menus for you; and I will be back in a few minutes to get your orders.”

Jim studied the menu for a few minutes and then said, “Sweetie, I’m going to order the fish, a salad, scalloped potatoes, and vanilla ice cream for dessert.”

Helen said, “Jim dear, you have good tastes, I want exactly the same things.”

The little waitress returned and took their orders, and it was obvious that she knew they were newlyweds.

With a smile, she said, “We have a special dessert for newlyweds. So if it is okay with you two, I will bring it instead of the ice cream.” They both agreed that would be okay with them.

The special dessert was rather large, and it contained all sorts of fruits, cheesecake, and various kinds of ice cream. Jim and Helen were aghast.

“How in the world are we going to eat all of this stuff? If I had known what we were going to get, I would not have ordered anything from the menu!”

Helen agreed and suggested that they take what they couldn't eat now back to their room, and put it in the refrigerator.

Jim agreed with her suggestion and added, “And perhaps we might eat some, or all of it, for an afternoon snack tomorrow. And by the way sweetie, according to our tickets we leave for the USA the day after tomorrow, at six o'clock in the morning.”

Helen impishly said, “Quite frankly, I am ready to go back to good ole Texas. Then we will have time to get our minds a little more on school teaching, and less on lovemaking.”

Jim smiled and said, “Speak for yourself, dear.”

Helen laughed and said, “Jim, for a man nearly thirty years old, you are as horny as a newly wed on his honeymoon!”

CHAPTER 8

The day to leave came and the newly weds boarded a plane for good ole Texas.

Helen asked Jim if he was having any regrets for not taking a ship instead of the plane.

Jim answered with a smile. "No, my darling, I have made up my mind that I was not going to fear airplane rides anymore. If we have no trouble, great; and if we go down, we'll just spend some time floating in the water;" Helen was very proud of him.

They had no problems of any kind and were back in Amarillo about sundown; so they decided to spend the night there, and drive to Beaver the next day.

After they had supper, they went to their room at the Amarillo Hotel. As soon as they got into their room, Jim began to smile from ear to ear; that was a signal to Helen.

She said, "Jim, do you have something on your mind again? If you do, I'm sorry, but I have some distressing news for you: my period has started.

She watched the look on Jim's face change from one of great anticipation to one that was downright pitiful. She let him suffer for a few minutes, and then she took him in her arms and said very lovingly, "Dearest, I'm sorry, but I just had to tease you a little; my period is not due to start for three more days."

Jim's face brightened immediately, and he pushed Helen out to arms length. Then he said, "You are one big teaser, and I don't know whether to spank you or to take you to bed, but I guess I'll take you to bed;" and he did.

The next morning they ate breakfast, packed up, and departed for Beaver.

The ride was uneventful, and they arrived in Beaver just in time for lunch. So they dropped by their favorite café and had a very tasty meal. Then they drove home, carried in their suitcases, and deposited them in their bedroom.

Jim got that loving look in his eyes again, but he could tell by the look on Helen's face that she wasn't ready for another honeymoon event; so he just unpacked his clothes.

Then he went to the living room and called the newspaper's number, and asked them to deliver the papers they had stored for them. About fifteen minutes later they delivered the papers, and Jim and Helen sat down on the sofa and began to leaf through them. They read a few articles and the funny papers in all the issues, and then they proceeded to dump them all into the trash can.

CHAPTER 9

School started the following week, so Jim and Helen had to re-program their brains from honeymooning to books and youths.

The kids were chattering about what they had done during their vacation. The topics ranged from trips to Yellowstone National Park to going to Disney World in Florida. Also there were many proud stories about new boyfriends and new girlfriends.

Jim and Helen had a little trouble keeping the kids from talking and whispering during class; but after a couple of weeks the kids were pretty much back to being serious about getting an education.

Jim was having trouble again with the girls who had a puppy love for him; but all of them but one was very careful about expressing how they were feeling.

But Margie, who had a real “love” going with Jim last year, had an even stronger yearn for him this year. So she would continually ask him for help with her homework. She had just turned eighteen and was feeling very grown up.

Jim got tired of her continual asking him for help with her various classes. So he decided if he got her off to herself and pretended he was going to make love to her, she would become frightened and quit bothering him.

So he devised a plan to accomplish his goal. He ordered her to remain after school and come to his room. She came in very excited, and Jim figured she was anxious about being all alone with him.

He was right about her excitement, but it was a positive feeling for her, and a negative feeling for him. So he closed the door and locked it so no one could catch them while he was executing his original plan.

He stood silently near the center of the room, and motioned her to come to him. Margie was more than happy to do so and literally ran across the room and into Jim's arms. He closed his arms around her, pulled her tightly against his chest, and gave her a kiss, thinking that would cause her to cease her longing for him. Much to his surprise it didn't; so he decided to try another action.

He unlocked his classroom door and led Margie into the adjoining exercise room where they had cushioned tables for some of the exercises. He picked her up and laid her on one of the tables. She was gasping for breath, and trying to pull Jim onto the table with her. He saw that his trick was not going to work, so he apologized to her and pulled her off the table.

Margie was very disappointed that Jim had not completed what she wanted him to do. So she asked, “Jim, why did you back down when you were so far along with your lovemaking?”

Jim answered her, “Margie, I'm a married man, and my wife is such a devoted lady and excellent lover that I would never be able to face her if I had completed what you wanted me to do.”

Margie was disappointed, very angry, and said, “Mr. Bilbro unlock this damned door immediately, and let me out of this room! And if I were only seventeen I would get me a lawyer and sue the pants off of you for all you have;” so Jim unlocked the door. She quickly stormed out the front door and rushed to her car.

Jim was relieved to be rid of her, and was very glad she was eighteen and not seventeen.—But there was an unforeseen disaster in his future.

CHAPTER 10

Helen was a very attractive young lady, and rather soft spoken. But then one day the high school senior boys pushed her over the line. They were continually being disrespectful to her, so she finally blew her stack.

She picked up a piece of chalk and wrote on the blackboard in large letters: NOW YOU BOYS HAVE DONE IT! That message got the full attention of the boys.

Then she said, “You boys have been being very disrespectful, and you are going to pay the penalty for it. And I want you to know that the superintendent has told me he would back me anytime I needed to punish you.

“Your punishment is going to be to write a letter to me, apologizing for your disrespectful behavior. And in that same letter I want a one-thousand word theme explaining why you behaved like you did, and what you are going to do to prevent any such behavior in the future.

“Starting today you have one week to do your writing. Also you will attend class as usual, and be prepared to discuss the lessons.”

The boys did as commanded and some of them got an F on their paper, and all the others got a D. They knew their low grades were the result of their poorly written themes—themes they had to write because of their irrelative behavior.

Helen was a bit sorry that she had been so hard on the boys. But she said to herself, “What’s done is done, and the past can’t be changed; but I can do something about the future.” So she decided she would teach the boys why they should not be irrelative to their teacher or anyone else.

“Boys, if I don’t teach you anything else in this class, I hope to teach you why you should not be irrelative to anyone.

“How would you like it if some high school boy was being irrelative to your girl friend, or your bride-to-be, or to your mother?”

The boys just hung their heads, and did not say anything in reply to Helen's question. But her teaching did sink in, and there was no more irrelative behavior (“hitting on”) toward anyone.

CHAPTER 11

The end of the first semester came and plans were made for the usual party and dance. The committee members in charge were experienced and made plans for a good time for all. However, they had some hard and fast rules, which if broken, would mean you would be escorted to the door and told to go home.

The rules were: no smoking, no drinking of any kind of alcohol, no hugging or kissing, no leaving the building without the permission of the sponsors, and no cutting up or bad behavior.

Some of the students thought the rules were too strict, and talked about not attending the party. However, they all swallowed their pride and attended it anyway.

Jim and Helen were one of the two couples who were responsible for the behavior of the pupils. They just mingled with the students, and occasionally danced with each other.

Helen got a little tired and sat down with Jim on one of the benches. After a few moments, Jim said he would go get her a soft drink while she rested.

He got to the iced tub of soft drinks, and was selecting a bottle when Margie came up beside him; there were no others at the soft drink tub at that time.

Margie did not appear to be angry, so Jim greeted her politely, "Hello Margie, how are you doing these days?"

She said, "Well, someone saw me leave the school house in an angry mood the other day, and then they saw you following me. They put two and two together and thought I had just been raped by you, and the story spread quickly among the students. And I'm sure if I had told the superintendent the story that was going around about your behavior, you would have been immediately discharged."

Jim asked, "And what makes you think the superintendent would have believed your story?"

Margie replied, "Oh Jim, you remember how I trapped you into almost seducing me? Well, I have played up to the superintendent without him being aware of my romp with you; and I am very close to having him in bed with me. So if I told him you raped me, you would be without a job before nightfall.

"But the real reason I didn't tell anybody about your "raping" me is that I just thought it might be worth a bit of your salary for me to keep my mouth shut about your supposed behavior."

Jim's mind began working furiously. "If she tells the superintendent her made-up story and he believes it, he is sure to fire me; and then where would I be? I would be without a job and without a wife, and have nothing but a bad reference."

So he said to Margie, "How much money are you thinking about getting from me?"

"Well, how does 20% of your salary each month sound to you, Jim?"

Jim angrily said, “It sounds like highway robbery. After a few months my wife would discover by our monthly bank account that something was wrong, and what could I tell her?”

“Sorry, Jim, but that’s your problem. And I will be expecting my money to be put in Account 143 for Margie Brooks at the Beaver National Bank every month, starting with this month. And if any questions arise, I will say the money is being paid for my helping you in writing your book on ‘An Easy Way to Understand Algebra’; and Jim, you WILL write the book!

“And when the book is published, I want twenty percent of the dividends earned. If you do not do exactly what I have told you to do, or if you harm me in any way, I will go to the police and swear you have raped me, and I have many friends who would back up my story;” then she turned and walked away.

Jim took the soft drink back to Helen and sat down beside her. A few moments later, her favorite student came over and asked her for a dance. She looked at Jim for his approval, and he nodded his head. So she gave her hand to the young man, and he led her to the dance floor.

Immediately Jim began to think of ways to get out of the jam he was in. He thought, “Maybe the best thing to do is to get the police to arrest her for bribery. But I would have to tell them why she is bribing me, and then the “truth” would come out for sure—and that would really fix me.”

Then he thought, “Or maybe I could kidnap her and make her go without food and water until she would swear that she would drop the whole thing. But as determined as she is, she would most likely ignore her swearing to drop the matter and go to the police and swear I had raped her; and some of her buddies would come forth and swear she was telling the truth. They would also swear they had seen her fleeing from me in anger and fear, and that I was chasing her to prevent her from telling anybody that I had just tried to rape her.”

Jim was getting so desperate that thoughts of her having an “accidental” death crossed his mind. But he quickly discarded that idea because someone might see him causing her “accidental” death, and consequently he would get put in the electric chair, or sentenced to life imprisonment.

Jim did not sleep much that night, but he did eat a little breakfast and go to school.

CHAPTER 12

That afternoon when he was cleaning off his desk getting ready to go home, the janitor appeared. He knew Jim quite well and had become a good friend.

Jim looked up as he entered the door, and said, "Hello Sid, why are you still here? I know you get off work at four thirty."

"Jim, I have been hearing stories among the kids that you had raped Margie, but I know you didn't. I was sweeping out the exercise room when I heard you and Margie approaching the room; so I hid behind the door. Then I carefully peered around the door to see who had just come in.

"I saw you and Margie going into the exercise room. So I sneaked up to the door and carefully peered into the room, and I saw you put her on the exercise table, and I thought you were going to do some heavy petting. But then I saw you back away from the table you had just put her on, and your pants were not unzipped. Then you turned and walked away; so I know you did not rape her. And I will be willing to stand up before the judge and swear to that."

"Thank you very much, Sid. You have just saved my hide. Now I'm going to Margie tomorrow and tell her I have a witness who will swear I didn't rape her."

Jim did exactly what he said he would do. After school was out the next day, Jim hurried out of the school building and walked out to Margie's car. He stood beside it and waited for Margie to come out to where he was standing.

She walked up to him with a smirk on her face, and said, "Hello, Jim, how does it feel to have me as a receiver of a chunk of your income?"

Jim smiled sarcastically and said, "You little bitch, smirk all you want to, but I have a reliable witness who will swear in court that I did not rape you. So I'm going to sue you for every dime you have. And I'm going to take you to court for trying to bribe me, and for the defamation of my reputation. Now how does that grab you, you pretty little slut?"

Margie was stunned by what she heard from Jim. Her face turned pale and she tried to talk, but she could only stutter. Finally she said, "Oh, Jim, you wouldn't do that to me, would you?"

Jim studied for a moment, and then said, "Come to my classroom after school is over tomorrow, and I will have an answer for you."

Jim did not sleep much the early part of that night for thinking about what to tell Margie. Finally, he lost his anger toward her, and was actually beginning to have a little sympathy for her. He then decided what he was going to say to her, and he was able to go to sleep.

The next day after school was out, Margie went to Jim's office. As she walked in, Jim noticed her face was pale and with remorse and repentance written all over it. Jim was glad he had decided to go a little easier on her.

“Margie, I really don’t want to make you suffer too much. So I’m not at this time going to take you to court. Instead I’m going to put you on probation for six months. If you have behaved and learned your lesson by the end of the probation period, then I will wipe your slate clean.”

Margie looked at Jim with tears in her eyes; and then she hugged him and whispered through her tears, “Jim, I am very grateful that you are being so generous in putting such a soft penalty on me. And I promise you that I will do everything in my power to keep from violating my parole.”

She behaved herself properly throughout the following six months, so Jim released her from her parole just as he said he would; and she went to Jim, hugged him, and thanked him for his mercy.

CHAPTER 13

For the six months after Jim had made his big mistake with Margie, he hadn't been able to get the nerve to tell Helen about the whole mess. Helen had suspected something was wrong, but she never confronted Jim with any questions.

But Jim finally got up the nerve to tell her the whole story and to ask her to forgive him; and when he did, she almost went into shock.

She said, "Jim, how can you expect me to forgive you after you have done such an immoral thing?" She was silent for a few moments, and then she said, "I'll have to think about this for a while before I can decide what to do."

She thought seriously about the problem for two days. Then she remembered what Jesus had said about unforgiveness: "If you do not forgive others, my heavenly Father will not forgive you." She thought a moment and then said, "Father, if I cannot forgive Jim for what he did, I cannot expect you to forgive me for my unforgiveness, and that would mean I would spend eternity in Hell."

So when Jim came home from school that evening, she greeted him at the door with tears in her eyes, "Jim, by the grace of God, I forgive you."

Then Jim gave her a hug and said, "My darling, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your forgiveness. And as God is my witness, I will never do anything like that again."

Jim kept his word and was never even close to being unfaithful to her. And she finally got rid of all her anger, and the Lord helped her heal her broken heart; then her total love for Jim returned.

Twenty five years later they both retired from teaching and went on a second honeymoon, this time to Ruidoso. They stayed there for two weeks and rode around the town and surrounding countryside, enjoying the climate and the beautiful scenery; then after two weeks of enjoying their second honeymoon, they returned to Beaver. There they enjoyed life to the full and lived happily ever after.

Thus ends the story of a genuine successful man and his loving and forgiving wife.