

SYNOPSIS

Colonel Ogden family moved to Leaside for the colonel's health. He was a very stern husband and father. This family had two daughters, Joan and Milly. Joan was her mother's favorite, while Milly is her father's. They were very different in appearance and character. Joan was a silent and patient child. She always pitied her mother for her father often bullied her. Mrs. Ogden always looked so weak and fragile that Joan always showed her love and care to amuse her mother.

Worrying about the children's education, Mrs. Ogden hired a governess to teach the children privately. They had close relationship, especially Joan. She was much cleverer than her younger sister, and Elizabeth, the governess, saw potentials in Joan and she was willing to help Joan to have brighter future.

The closeness between Joan and Elizabeth started to irritate Mrs. Ogden. She thought that Joan loved Elizabeth more than her. She was afraid that she would have to share Joan with anyone else. She disliked Elizabeth more, when she found out that Elizabeth even encouraged Joan to start to think of her future. One day, Elizabeth decided to talk directly to Mrs. Ogden about Joan. She thought the potentials that Joan had would be wasted if she was not given a chance to study higher, which meant she had to move from Seabourne, the small city where they lived.

A new family moved there and became their good neighbor. They were the Bensons. Mrs. Benson and her two sons, Richard and Lawrence were always nice to this family. Richard gave more attention on Joan. He thought Joan was clever and he also encouraged her to get further study.

Colonel Ogden's sister, Henrietta Peabody, died. She left the three-hundred-pound-a year allowance for Joan and Milly which was meant for their study. Colonel felt upset about this. He thought that her sister underestimated him by giving a help on taking care of his children. But actually his deeper anger was because he was not given any penny. For the knowledge of receiving allowance from her aunt, Joan had the hope that she could go to London as she wished. Besides, she had passed her exam with honour.

In one afternoon there was an accident when Joan and Milly took a walk with Elizabeth. There was a woman who gets burnt in fire. Elizabeth helped her but she also got her hands burnt. The wound left permanent scars on her hands. Joan was very sad, she stated to her parents that she wanted to be a doctor. Her mother suspected her having the idea related to Elizabeth's accident, which was not entirely wrong. Her father harshly refused the idea. He thought a woman should marry and stayed home. To him being a doctor was indecent for women and it was only allowed for men. The heart attack of the colonel stopped the argument.

One day Richard Benson proposed Joan. Being concentrated on her future, Joan refused his proposal. At the same time, Elizabeth was also proposed by Lawrence Benson, Richard's brother. She refused, and told him that she concentrated on Joan's future. She told Joan, who was really surprised by this confession. Elizabeth asked her for not letting her down, and from this Joan knew that she meant a lot to Elizabeth.

Milly told her wish to go to London to study music. The colonel said that there was no money which upset her very much. To his wife he admitted that he used the money to speculate on a gold mine that he was sure would give them fortune.

The colonel was terribly sick that he must be brought to London for medication. The result was nothing until he finally died. The family was in great financial problem for the money that the colonel had speculated brought no result. They automatically lost the money. Joan's spirit faded away. She could no longer counts on the allowance. Joan persuaded her mother to allow Milly taking her scholarship and go to London. Her mother gave the permission so that Milly could go.

On the other hand Elizabeth offered Joan a help by sharing her apartment so she would not cost much in London. Joan loved the idea but she could not leave her mother alone so she had to cancel the plan. It took some time for Elizabeth to forgive her and give her another chance. But later she decided to comeback and wait until Joan was ready to go.

In London, Milly got a serious illness that she must be sent home. She got tuberculosis and finally she died because of it. The tragedy that happened in the family really broke Joan's heart. She felt that she no longer could stay in the house where all the memories she had with Milly still remained. Once more she made plan with Elizabeth to move to London. This time Elizabeth went on carefully for she did not want Joan to cancel it again. At the right moment Joan told her mother about the plan to move to London. Her mother was shocked and became very sad. Joan offered to go with her, but Mrs. Ogden refused. She said that she permitted Joan to do what

she really wanted. During the time before the departure, her mother showed to Joan that she would be helpless without her. For worrying her mother so much, at the last minutes before her departure, Joan decided not to go. This second cancellation really broke Elizabeth's heart. She was so disappointed that she refused to make any contact with Joan again. She accepted Lawrence's proposal and moves far away.

Joan continued her life with her mother. She accompanied her every time and everywhere. One day, accidentally Joan met Richard again. They were old now, and Richard still loved her. But when he proposed her once again, her answer still remained the same. So Richard decided to walk out of her life.

For being old, Mrs. Ogden died. She left Joan alone. Her pension also died with her. Joan suffered financial difficulties for she did not have any money or occupation. Finally her aunt Ann came to offer her a job of nursing her invalid old cousin, Ralph. For having no choice, Joan decided to take the offering.