

She Was Starting Him Right

By J. A. WALDRON

(Copyright)

"YOU'RE the only girl for me. I knew that the first time we met. I played better always when I thought you were among the bunch looking on, and I imagined I could hear your encouraging voice above all the din. I just love you, Pansy, and what's the use of bending about the bush?"

"This declaration had come out glibly, after an amazing lack of what may be called preliminary sparring. Confidence is early developed in a successful football player. Confidence and masculine beauty have limits as a combination, but it takes something better to beat them. This was happening on the evening of the day after the deciding game of the season, won by the eleven of which he was the quarterback."

"You still have a term at college?" she remarked.

"Yes."

"Have you settled on any object—after college?"

"I've settled on you!" He thought football methods applicable and caught her in his arms. She couldn't play football, but she practiced jiu jitsu. In a twinkling he was subdued. He was also amazed.

"You're not a good tacker," said she, her eyes twinkling. "And you haven't answered me. What's your idea of a vocation, Billy?"

The "Billy" reassured him a bit.

"Why worry about that? We—my folks—have plenty of money."

"So have we—my folks. But it's foolish to rely on that. Riches develop wings. What would you do without money?"

"I'm not going to worry about what I'd do if the world should suddenly come to an end. What I want to know is, will you marry me after I graduate?"

"You haven't even asked me if I care for you."

"Oh, I guess you care for me a bit. Haven't we been about to theaters and cabarets and all that and had a bully time?"

"But if you should marry a girl and after a while should find you were mistaken in her, would you feel like keeping her for better or for worse, as the old saying is?"

"Of course."

"Well, if I should marry a young man and he should turn out unsatisfactory, I should want a divorce."

"Pansy!"

"See? You are old-fashioned and a little crude. And what do you think about sex equality?"

"You mean woman suffrage? Are you a suffragette, Pansy?" He held his breath for her answer.

"Yes. At least in theory."

"But you wouldn't go about beating a drum or marching or kicking up a fuss or anything like that?"

"I certainly should if I thought it necessary."

He looked at her, took a turn about the room and whistled his astonishment. Then he looked at her again. In spite of these things, she was good to look at.

"Then you don't believe in a happy home, domestic bliss and all that?"

"I surely do. If the bliss doesn't cost the wife too much—more than it is worth."

"I don't just get you, Pansy."

"Well, I don't care for that domesticity where the husband is a little tin god and the wife a subject creature, slavishly anticipating all his whims and surging his weaknesses."

"Oh! I guess you're what they call a modern woman, eh, Pansy?" He moved nearer and cried emotionally.

"But I love you just the same!"

"Do you? I haven't developed half of my beliefs."

"Then you've got other ideas?"

"Lots."

He hesitated. "You've been so candid, Pansy, you'll forgive another question. If you should some time marry, would you—ah—like kiddies?"

Billy blushed, but Pansy didn't.

"Of course, in certain circumstances I believe in eugenics."

He looked bewildered. "I've heard something of it. That means a union of persons physically perfect?"

"That's one idea of it."

"Well, we'd pass on that, I hope!" He threw out his chest proudly.

"But there's another side to it—a mental side. None physical fitness might mean children who would be great football players and nothing else, or phenomenal human specimens of the sort they exhibit in side shows—large, fleshy and brainless giants and giantsesses, you know?"

Billy was bewildered. She had turned her back to him and was standing in a strange attitude, chin in hand.

"But can't we be just friends," he pleaded, "until?"

"Yes," said she, turning; "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."

And she gave him a tiny kiss that had electricity in it. There also was a suggestion of jiu jitsu behind it. He was chastened and he wondered; but he was not without hope.

"I'll be right back," he said, "until you finish your education."