

**Bourne**  
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## Hilary

by Sue Thompson

Hilary was a member of the Salvation Army, she sang in the singing company and played in the tumbrels, marching along proclaiming her love of the good Lord. She could be heard humming 'Onward Christian Soldiers' as she prepared lunch for the homeless each week. An angel is what everyone called her, nothing was too much trouble. Not only was she a devoted soldier of the Lord she was also beautiful, flowing blonde hair that she tied up neatly under her bonnet, and the most stunning piercing green eyes. She was not conceited though far from it. With her quiet melodious voice she often sang solo at the Sunday services. A perfect person one might think but Hilary had one flaw, she chose the most inappropriate men.

Take Ernest for example; she met him when she was a teenager and thought that he was the one, she met him at a guide and scout camp in the Brecon Beacons, they hit it off immediately. A kindred spirit she thought especially after he sang with such enthusiasm when they sat round the campfire. Little did she know though that Ernest had a dark side, which she found out as they were about to leave the camp, several guides ran out and threw themselves at him declaring their undying love for him. It turned out he had been stringing them all along. Hilary however managed to save face and acted with extreme dignity, she did however manage to knee him in a most inappropriate way leaving him in no doubt about her feelings towards him. Luckily no one noticed.

Then there was Edward, the belcher as she called him, as much as she tried to be patient in the end even she could not tolerate his uncouthness.

After that came Sid the Psychopath, Henry the Martyr and Dom the Demon.

Just when she thought that love was going to pass her by and she was going to end up an old spinster, Gerry came on the scene and whisked her off her feet, he wooed her

and poured out his love for her in such a passionate way that when he got down on one knee to propose she shouted YES before he had even asked, what she hadn't realised at the time was he was actually looking for his contact lens, he couldn't really confess and so they had started planning the wedding.

Four years down the line Hilary realised that he wasn't really a very nice person at all and did not share the same values as her, it had all been a charade. The first sign was when he started to stop her seeing her friends, he was extremely jealous and so one by one they had stopped coming round. The next thing was telling her that she was always ill when you hear something often enough you begin to believe it, the doctor kept telling her though that there was nothing wrong with her and that it was all in her mind blow. She managed to hide the bruises not realising that everyone suspected that he was abusing her.

As the ambulance drove away from her house after one particularly bad attack, with the neighbours standing outside. Maud turned to Mildred and said, "you know Mildred, nice people don't necessarily fall in love with nice people."