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"I'M NOBODY'S SWEETHEART NOW"

LEW

This is a story of a woman who gave up her own song writing career to help make her talented husband one of the very top song writers of his time. A time that was known as "The Golden Age of Songs." She knew he needed help. She believed she could help him. Her own efforts were augmented by their two children.

The man is Gus Kahn; the woman, his wife, Grace Kahn; the children, Irene and Donald. They worked as a team. Their objective to help Daddy (Gus) to be the greatest in the music business. And they did it. Sure he had great talent - but they helped the world know it.

Because people were saying "Where would Gus be without Grace," his pride and his ego were hurt. Tired of his wife's bossing, he threatened several times to retire. He was rich enough to do so. After Gus made his first million, he did retire. He stopped writing songs. Soon he became bored with his leisure. He resented the fact that Grace no longer paid attention to him and that his children were no longer proud of him. Actually it wasn't so, but that's the way Gus felt. He got tough to get along with. He was no longer on top of the heap. Despite the fact that he had money he was no longer important. No one paid attention to him.

When the stock market crashed Gus lost everything. In a way he was happy about it because it meant he had to go

to work again. It was the excuse he wanted. He felt he could do what he did before and he was sure he could stage a comeback. Even if he would have to start from scratch. But this time he was going to do it alone. He was determined not to let his wife and family manage him any more. He would go to California. There was a new kind of music business out there -- the movies; and his plans did not include Grace or the children. Grace knew that Gus would fall apart without his family, but there was nothing she could do about it. She was worried - so were the kids.

Trying it alone, his new career was a bust. Understanding, encouragement, enthusiasm, which are so necessary to a song writer were missing. Added to that was a loneliness for his family that tore him to pieces, but he didn't dare admit it. Failures started to pile up and the troubles that followed caused a serious heart attack. He couldn't take it alone.

Grace was told that Gus should never write songs again. If he did it would kill him. She'd have to stop him. It was up to her to make a decision. She did. Gus, not writing songs would die quickly. If writing songs would kill him, Grace was sure that that would be the way he would want to die. However, she was sure that nothing was so wrong with Gus that she and his children couldn't cure.

So she came out in a hurry. She helped him write songs, and the family helped him write songs. And despite



the fact that she agreed never to boss him again, this time she was smart enough not to let him know what she was doing for him.

Gus did not resent it. He was grateful. He admitted it. He had to learn the hard way, which he didn't see before. He always said "You can't see the stars until it gets dark."

He never realized how true it was.