

# **THE BACHELOR AND THE BABY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649309573

The Bachelor and the Baby by Margaret Cameron

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**MARGARET CAMERON**

**THE BACHELOR  
AND THE BABY**



The Bachelor  
AND  
The Baby

BY  
MARGARET CAMERON  
AUTHOR OF  
"THE CAT AND THE CANARY"  
ETC. ETC.

ILLUSTRATED



HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS  
NEW YORK AND LONDON  
MCMVIII

## Illustrations

"WHOSE BABY IS IT?" . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece</i>
"I'M EXPECTED THERE TO DINE" . . . . .	<i>Facing p. 16</i>
"OREN," SHE EXCLAIMED. "LISTEN! THAT SOUNDS LIKE BRUDDER!" . . . . .	" 24
"WHERE IS MY SISTER?" . . . . .	" 34

**The Bachelor and the Baby**

## The Bachelor and the Baby

THE circumstances which led to Franklin Keene's being on that particular train were peculiar enough in themselves to warrant a word of explanation. He lived in San Francisco, and had intended to spend Christmas there, but the business which had brought him across the continent had been unexpectedly complicated, detaining him in New York. His one close friend in town, Dr. James Burleigh, the noted alienist, had vainly urged him to make his presence known to some of his many acquaintances in or near the city, but Keene maintained



---

## The Bachelor and the Baby

---

that Christmas was a day sacred to intimate gatherings, and that he should be much more comfortable with a book and an easy-chair at the club than he could possibly be in a company where he must feel himself in but not of the circle.

Therefore the doctor, after putting his friend up at the club, had gone his appointed way, not without misgivings, and Keene was prepared to spend a solitary Christmas, when, on the morning of the 24th, he was called to the telephone and required to assure the possessor of a pleasantly modulated feminine voice that he really was Franklin Keene—the Franklin Keene, “from the beloved West.” Knowing something of the clannishness of Californians in the East, and never having heard of B. Franklin Keene, of Chicago—it is doubtful whether in any event it would have occurred to the

---

## **The Bachelor and the Baby**

---

Californian that Chicago could properly be classified as belonging to "the West"—he admitted his identity, and was warmly urged to dine on the following day with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Logan, in Macalac, a small New Jersey suburb. Mrs. Logan explained that she had just learned, from a man who had seen him at the club, of his presence in town, and, while they had never actually met, she hoped he would share her feeling that the possession of so many friends in common constituted acquaintance, at least.

When he still seemed a little puzzled, she added: "Oh, perhaps you don't remember me as Mrs. Logan? Before my marriage I was Grace Bennett."

Keene had friends in San Francisco who spoke often of a Miss Bennett. He had been under the impression that her name was Laura, and had not heard that

---

## The Bachelor and the Baby

she had married, but reflected that certainly she was the best authority as to her name and state. In the mean time she was rapidly explaining that as neither she nor Mr. Logan had any relatives in the East, they had asked two or three equally detached friends to spend Christmas with them, and assured him that his presence would give the feast quite a family aspect to her, as it was so long since she had seen any one from "home." When he had accepted, she said that Mr. Logan would look him up during the day with a more formal invitation—she had 'phoned on the mere chance of catching him—but lest they should miss connections she gave him directions concerning the train he was to take, and said that her husband would meet him at their station.

Keene's business kept him down-town