

Girl Unafraid

By Gladys Johnson

Ardeth Carroll works in a shop and is being wooed by Neil Burke. Her home life is far from pleasant. She lives with an aunt and a snoring girl cousin. Riding with Neil, Ardeth is thrilled by the flattering gaze of handsome Ken Gleason, accompanying the wealthy Cecile Parker. He is Ardeth's idol. Jeanette Parker offers Ardeth a position in her new shop. Ardeth accepts, hoping to meet Ken.

CHAPTER V.
"Neil," Ardeth cried sharply. "You're hurting me!"
He relaxed his grip but did not free her. "What's this Neil's been telling me?" he got out between his teeth. "That you've quit the store—that you're going in with that society snob?"

"Of course Neil would talk about my business!" Ardeth answered coldly. "It's my own affair if I try to better my position."

"Better your position—hah!" his tone was bitter. "Getting in with the heavy rich! Letting them make a fool of you!"

The slender body in his clasp became convulsed.
"Let me go! You have no right to do this, Neil! You're jealous—that's what's the matter! If a man doesn't wear a flannel shirt and dirty overalls you think he's no good!"

"Jealous! Yes—I am! I'm jealous of you—you've got me crazy about you! And don't you suppose I see what's going on? You're changing—I'm not good enough for you any more. I'm not a rich-rat boy with sleek hair who goes horseback riding in the park!"

"Ah! I thought that was the trouble!" She had stopped struggling. She was very stiff and quiet.

He dropped his arms heavily to his sides and she felt his stretched eyes upon her through the thick light.

Such a slight young thing she was to get his pulses hammering like this. To fill him with this passion of desire.

"Neil," she wished I could hate you!" he said harshly. "I'd rather hate you than to be so crazy about you. I'm miserable when I'm away from you—and when I see you I'm worse!"

"Oh, Neil—" she put a gentle hand on his arm. "Can't we ever meet any more without quarreling? We never used to be like this!"

He caught at her hand. "It's because I'm wild about you, Ardeth. Sometimes at night I can't sleep thinking about you. You love me, don't you? Let's get married—now. This week. I got a raise last month and we can manage fine. We can take that flat above Bill Henderson. Honey—please!"

She shoved him away almost wildly. "No, Neil! Oh—can't you see? Get married and—and live like—like that!" In the dark her hand flung at the dark stairway.

"A flat... A roast every Sunday... so it will last until Tuesday. Wondering if we can manage it now and still pay the installments on the furniture. And after a while we'll be quarreling like Aunt Sted. They all do—"

"If you loved me you wouldn't stop to pick on those things," he said hoarsely. "You're just making them an excuse—" Then, warned by her quick motion toward the stairs, "Oh, all right—let's get it for now. We're both on edge I guess. Will you come on down after dinner? Granny misses you. Ardeth. She was asking about you just now."

She promised with secret reluctance. The atmosphere of the Burke flat was, if anything, more depressing than that of the Harrison. I upstairs Neil's spite—Neil and Neil's quarreling—Neil and Neil's sordid—these at least provided vitality, a sort of combative life.

But down here there was quiet—sullen quiet. Here was bitterness and defeat.

When she came down after dinner Mr. Burke had already left for one of his radical meetings. Neil sat with his grandmother in the kitchen.

The electric droplight had been turned off. Granny had taken a lid from the top of the coal stove and tongues of flame played about the opening, filling the room with alternate bursts of light and shadow. It was the nearest Granny could come to the heat of her youth.

In childhood Ardeth had run in here often after school, rather than go upstairs and face Aunt Sted's nagging. She and Neil had popped corn over the stove while they listened to the old woman's rambling tales—a weird mixture of folklore and superstitions which Granny more than half believed herself. But now, as though she viewed it for the first time, she was aware of the disorder, of the hopeless poverty of it all. The cluttered sink board; musty smell of cooking. The greasy floor of the oilcloth on the table.

She tried not to think of these things as she removed a pan and a cup from a chair and gingerly seated herself upon it.

Swathed in a gray shawl, Granny blinked up at her like a lizard in the sun.

"There, now, dearie, I know you'd be down. Don't you be grieving. I was telling the lad here, our pretty girl hasn't forgot us for all she's learning such fine ways and all wears such fine clothes. She knows where she belongs, that one!"

Sudden hot anger nearly suffocated Ardeth. So afraid she would get away—that she would rise above them! Wanting to hold her back there in the ugliness and the greyness—

She forced a little laugh. She tried to turn the conversation. "Don't get angry... Poor Neil—he couldn't help this ugly bare flat. Poor Granny, so old—how could she keep it tidy?"

But there was a sort of angry dismay in her heart. Why did Neil sit there eating her up with his sadder eyes? Why did Granny reach over and smooth her skirt with that possessive air? She wanted to cry that they took too much for granted. Why should they think she was going to marry Neil? She'd only been a youngster when she'd given him that absurd promise. She'd known no better—they shouldn't hold her to it.

Marry Neil, he stuck here forever in the gray poverty? Oh, surely life held more for her than this. Or else, why did the golden flame kindle within her at the glance of Ken Gleason's eyes?

Ken... Just the thought of him could send a tingling warmth through her heart.

And that was absurd, she told herself later, as she lay in her own dark room, beside the heavily breathing bed. Absurd that she should be thinking like this of a man to whom she had never spoken.

No, she had never spoken with her lips... but that long meeting of their eyes—that strange hot leap of her own heart, had said he was no stranger.

Lying there, the lids pressed hard over her pounding heart, she had the strange conviction once more that she was in the grasp of fate. That she was being hurried along at a breathless pace.

Jeanette's shop was most appropriately named "The Caprice."

It was probably the city's smallest store—a narrow silver of space sandwiched in between a fashionable millinery on one side and a smart fur store on the other.

The window could be dressed exaggerated fan of flame colored

MOTOR VEHICLE TRAGEDIES SHOW INCREASE IN U. S.

Figures of 1929 Exceeded 2 Pct. First 9 Months of 1930; Heavy Toll of Children.

Carbon Monoxide Doubles Record of Fatalities; Fewer Deaths at Road Crossings.

CHICAGO, Nov. 18.—Motor vehicle fatalities in the United States for the first nine months of this year were two per cent above the same period in 1929, which was by far the worst year since the automobile became a factor in our national accident record, according to the national safety council.

The report is based on figures representing areas containing about 50 per cent of the nation's population.

While the rate of increase this year does not compare with that of a year ago, it is discouraging in view of the fact that 1929 ended with an unprecedented rise of 13 per cent to a total of more than 31,000 deaths. It is impossible to estimate what the final total for this year will be, but it is believed the increase will not reach the proportions of that of a year ago.

Toll of Children
In cities, school days brought the usual increase in September child accidents. Pedestrian deaths constituted 54 per cent of the total in September as compared with but 51 per cent in August. Exactly 100 more children were involved in street accidents in September than in August.

There were approximately two-thirds as many fatal fatalities as motor vehicle deaths in the 25 cities which reported both. Falls continue to bear as the cause of these domestic tragedies.

Fewer Crossing Deaths
Following a steady increase over a period of five years, highway grade crossing fatalities dropped off abruptly at least 11 per cent during the first half of 1930.

The total for the six months, as tabulated by the Interstate Commerce commission, is 562 deaths.

patric feathers—or an exquisite cloisonne vase. Once it was a with but one exhibit at a time—an golden-yellow mandarin coat, flung with elegant carelessness over a teakwood chair—Jeanette had brought that back on her last trip to the Orient. And now there was nothing in the window save a train of ivory elephants, diminishing in size as they marched solemnly along a strip of black satin.

Ardeth loved the place—loved it with perhaps more of possessive tenderness than did Jeanette.

The shop proved the sensation Jeanette had desired. It was discussed over the tea tables of Pacific avenue. "Have you seen the place Jeanette Parker has opened? My dear, they say it's actually good! You must go—"

Jeanette was able to pose to her heart's content.

"Really one should get more out of life than bridge and golf, don't you think?" she would ask brightly. "So many of the titled Englishwomen are going in for trade, you know—"

(To Be Continued Tomorrow)

EXPOSURE THREAT HALTS ESCHEATED ESTATE GRAFTING

State Treasurer Kay Says Oregon's School Fund Again Receiving Fair Share.

SALEM, Ore., Nov. 18.—A fair share in escheated estates is again coming into the state's irreducible school fund, according to Tom Kay, state treasurer.

Since Kay's recent declaration that the school fund was being cheated out of its rightful share by generosity of county courts in approving claims against the state, there has been a decided decline in such practices of unscrupulous attorneys and undertakers.

Kay threatened exposure of administrators unless the practice came to an end.

As a member of the land board it is within Kay's power to demand an accounting of estates escheated in county courts.

"Where doubt in settlement of court claims is concerned, the state now is consulted before approval is given in many instances," Kay said. "Since the recent campaign against the practice of robbing estates at expense of the school fund, estates turned over to the state after court liquidation have been more substantial than formerly."

The practice of draining escheated estates to the limit has not been entirely eliminated, however, it was shown. One claim recently filed contained an accounting for two two-cent stamps, the treasurer reported.

"The greatest incentive for such methods among attorneys," Kay said, "is that since there are no contestants for the estate in the form of heirs, they avail themselves of the opportunity to gather fat fees at expense of state."

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EAGLES NOTICE
Eagles Thanksgiving dinner will be held in the Macabee hall Monday, Nov. 24th, from 4:30 to 12 P. M. Members in good standing and their family welcome. This is strictly for Eagles only—Committee—Adv.

THY'S WRISTLOCK CONQUERS WIRTH
PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 20.—Ted Thy's wristlock proved the undoing of Eddie Wirth, Detroit, in their scheduled two hour bout last night. Twenty-seven minutes after the start of the match, Thy pinned Wirth.

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ned Wirth for the first fall after tossing him all over the ring with a series of flying wristlocks. Wirth was so badly shaken up he had to be carried from the ring. He came back gamely but Thy only took three minutes to gain the final fall.

Howard Cantonwine and Stanley Pinto wrestled to a draw in the one hour preliminary, each taking a fall. It was a free for all featured with kicking, punching and hair pulling.

NOTICE
Come to the revival at the Free Methodist church, Hear Rev. Sims preach the Word of Divine Truth. Service each night at 7:30. Come. —Adv.

—Rev. Christmas Seal—
Turkey shoot Sunday, Nov. 23rd, 10 o'clock at Gun club grounds on John Marks ranch, Garden valley road. Everybody welcome. Douglas County Sportsmen & Game Protective association.—Adv.

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