SERIAL STORY

JOAN OF ARKANSAS

BY JERRY BRONDFIELD

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

JOAN JOHNSON—a most modest, shrewd kid of the Tech campus.

KEITH RHODES—Tech's star halfback, headed for All-America honors.

BAX WEBSTER—the smooth-talking, who wears Keith's ring; a social climbing student.

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YESTERDAY: At the Gamma house dance, Bax, seeing the Keith-Joan vibes, took back his Tau Weather ring. Eileen Campbell, Keith's close pal, looks up, sees Joan Webster staring at her.

CHAPTER XV

Joan's hands slid from Keith's shoulders, suddenly felt curved up inside her.

"What's the matter?" Keith asked, relaxing to what she had seen.

"Nothing. It's too cool out here. Let's go in."

They danced just to three to dance to "Stardust."

"And it is inevitable heartache if anyone tries to cut in," Keith grinned ruefully. "Even if he's some Tech alumnus who's thinking of sending his sister his furniture, or something. Not a jury in the world would convict me."

"They don't," said the serving maids and women's committee in unison.

"Hi, Arkansas," cried Tommy Peters, turning up for a grateful minute.

"Hi, yourself," Joan replied as they swung out into the floor. "Nice job of [illegible] today. We Baylor you'd bring your back on that last touchdown but you didn't quite make it."

A [illegible] alumnus tapped Tommy on the shoulder. "Did you mean by that, that she was from Arkansas?"

"Sure. Johnson's her name. Joan Johnson. Why?"

"Oh, nothing. I just happened to have spent a few years ten miles down there a short while back. What's her father do?"

"He's a hardware dealer, or something like that, sir."

"Oh, hardware. Thought maybe he might be—"

"Now," Tommy interrupted, "I thought so, too, for awhile, but she doesn't have a single relative out there."

A few minutes later Joan bumped, smiling, into Bax.

"Oh, I'm too made," Joan blushed like fall in the face. "Hope you enjoyed it but you were looking so outside."

She was sorry immediately that she added the words to escape, she could see that wheeling red. The tense look started at his neck and crept upward. Joan's [illegible] Webster's [illegible] Keith's [illegible] Bax's [illegible] Keith's [illegible] Bax's [illegible] Keith's [illegible] Bax