

The MELODY GIRL

By RUTH DEWEY GROVES

CHAPTER XLIII

IRENE was not to learn that evening what it was that Derry Meade had told her that was so important. One reason for this was that she did not give him the opportunity. Another reason was that as soon as Irene and Derry disappeared from the store, she had been in the store.

"Which way did they go?" Gaylord asked. "Toward town?" He went toward Oakdale. The river park lay in that direction from Old town and was answered yes.

Then Gaylord began his search. In the meantime Irene and Derry had reached their destination, the well-sheltered parking space in the park, and a heated conversation had begun. Irene tried to lead gradually to the subject of breaking away from Derry's love. He looked at her thoughtfully. Then he said soberly, "You're through with me, aren't you?" Irene avoided his eyes.

"Yeah, it's final all right," Derry continued. "I can see that. Well, I suppose I might as well tell you what about what's happened to me. I'd rather like to see how you take it. First, there's just one question I want to ask you. Did you ever care anything at all for me while you were playing with me all the time?"

"Of course I cared for you," Irene insisted, "but caring isn't love, Derry. Maybe you'll find that out some day, too."

"I'll take your word for it," Derry assured her, "since you seem to know so much about love. I thought I loved you, but maybe I only cared for you."

Irene did not like to hear this and was not satisfied that the tone he used seemed to be the words. It was too much like losing something that belonged to her.

"Don't be mean to me, Derry," she pleaded, suddenly becoming gentle again. "I didn't mean to hurt you."

Derry laughed. "Just like a loaded gun, huh? If anyone plays with you and gets hurt it's not your fault. Oh, no, not at all."

"I didn't ask you to fall in love with me," Irene reminded him.

"No," he said bitterly, "you only did all you could to make me do it, that was all. You didn't need to ask me."

Irene hedged again. "Can't we come to an understanding?" she urged. "I'm getting cold."

"If of course we can," Derry agreed. "I'm not a man who just wants to know that you care a little for me. It will make it easier to believe that you wouldn't have thrown me over if I'd been able to offer you the things Gaylord can give you. I shouldn't blame you, I guess. It was asking an awful lot to expect you to be content with me after living in the French mansion. No, I shouldn't blame you."

Irene misunderstood. "I'm glad you see it that way at last, Derry. It would be awfully hard for you to try to suppose me in the manner I'm accustomed to. I have been thinking it over, as you said, and I realized it might spoil all your future to have an extravagant wife to take care of. You're so popular. You ought to marry someone with plenty of money."

Derry interrupted by seizing her savagely in his arms. "Just tell me that you'd rather have me than anyone else in the world if I could support you," he said. "Then I'll take you anywhere you say, and I'll never bother you again."

"Why, of course, I would," Irene said softly. "And I mean it, too, Derry."

He let her go, abruptly then, and Irene was shocked to see that he was laughing.

"What he said was even more surprising," she said. "That'll do," he said. "I guess I can laugh it all off now. And I'm glad I found out what a little parasite you are before I told you anything about—"

Irene was not listening to him, compelling as his words were. She was looking down the road over which they had crossed the park. Her face had suddenly whitened.

Derry followed her gaze when he saw that she was not listening. He recognized Gaylord's car just as Irene screamed her husband's name.

(To Be Continued)

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

The Best of the Nation's "Human-est" and Funniest Comics On This Page Daily

I JUST HEARD TO DAY THAT THE TRUCKING COMPANY I WAS WORKING FOR WHEN I GOT HURT HADNT PAID A CENT OF MY HOSPITAL BILL, OR EVEN SENT ANYONE AROUND - SO I'VE SENT FOR A LAWYER WHO DID SOME WORK FOR ME ONCE - HE ONLY SAW MY SECRETARY SO HE WONT KNOW WHO I AM - HOPE I CAN GET HIM TO HELP ME -

SIT DOWN, MR. FERHAM - I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU - I NEED A GOOD LAWYER - THAT'S WHY I SENT FOR MONEY - SO YOU MAY NOT TAKE MY CASE - I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU -

ER - TO TELL THE TRUTH, MR. OLIVER, I TALKED TO THE DOCTORS AND KNOW SOMETHING OF YOUR CASE -

FINE - WELL, I WAS INJURED WHILE IN THE EMPLOY OF THIS TRUCKING COMPANY - THEY TELL ME I'LL BE BLIND FOR LIFE - I FEEL I'M ENTITLED TO SOME COMPENSATION -

WHY, MR. OLIVER - YOU HAVE A GOOD CHANCE TO GET A JUDGMENT FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS -

WELL, LETS NOT GO TOO FAST - I WANT YOU TO LOOK INTO THE CASE FIRST - FIND OUT WHY THEY HAVEN'T TAKEN CARE OF MY HOSPITAL AND DOCTOR BILLS - WHEN WE KNOW ALL THE FACTS WE WILL DO WHAT SEEMS BEST -

RIGHT - I'LL GET ONTO THE CASE AT ONCE, MR. OLIVER -

TIM TYLER'S FLYING LUCK

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR YOU TO ESCAPE, MISS KOLLY, YOU MUST GET ME ONE OF-ER-YOUR KIMONOS, AND YOU MUST WEAR MY OUTFIT! -!

SH - USTEN! GET BEHIND THE SCREEN - QUICK -!!

PUT THE TRAY DOWN, TOY SAN, AND YOU NEEDNT STAY - I'LL SERVE MYSELF

MUST EAT PLUNTY AND WITH MUCH HASTE - - - "MAN OF THE MOON" LEDDY TO FLY WAY FAR, VELY SOON!

GEE, I'LL NEVER FINISH THIS RICE IF IVE GOT TO EAT IT WITH DARNING NEEDLES!

THIS IS NO TIME TO LEARN EATING WITH CHOP STICKS, MR. TIM - USE YOUR FINGERS! HURRY!!

AS TIM UNFOLDS HIS PLAN OF ESCAPE, WE SHUT OVER TO SPUD WHO SEEMS TO BE ENTIRELY SURROUNDED BY TROUBLE, BUT DOESNT APPEAR TO BE WORRYING MUCH ABOUT IT

THESE GUYS ARE ALL GIVING ME TH BIG EYE, LIKE THEY'RE GETTIN' READY TO START SOMETHIN'! GUESS, I'D BETTER BE MOVIN' ALONG -

POLLY AND HER PALS

I LOVE LITTLE PUSSY -

-HER FUR IS SO WARM-

DON'T YOU ADORE IT, ANGEL? MOTHER KNEW YOU WOULD!

PAPA'S VERY PLEASED THAT YOU APPRECIATE HIS PET POEM!

AND IF I DON'T HURT HER -

SHE'LL DO ME NO HARM!

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

MISTER X - WOT ON EARTH ARE YA DOWN HERE?

LOOKING FOR YOU

HENRI DE

I READ IN THE PAPERS THAT YOU WERE HERE - I CAME AS FAST AS I COULD

GEE, I'M GLAD - I-I MEAN -

ARE YOU, BOOTS?

WHY - WHY - OF COURSE, SILLY

I'M NOT SURE - WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT - BUT I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU IF YOU NEVER WANTED TO SEE ME AGAIN

BRINGING UP FATHER

MAGGIE INSISTSON ME CALLIN' ON THE DUKE DE CADGE - I MIGHT AS WELL DO IT AN' GIT IT OVER WITH-

YES SIR, BEGIN' YOUR PARDON, SIR - WHOM DO YOU WISH TO SEE SIR?

I'LL BE OBLIGED TO KNOW IF THE DUKE IS IN AN' MUCH OBLIGED TO KNOW IF HE IS OUT.

THE DUKE, SIR, IS IN THE CELLAR, SIR - SHALL I CALL HIM, SIR?

IN THE CELLAR?

DON'T DISTURB HIM - I'LL GO DOWN.

Question on Dreiser

HORIZONTAL

1 Great and luxurious city of ancient days.

7 Indistinct.

14 Thick or swollen.

16 Sol.

17 To split.

19 Member of a Celtic religious order.

20 Confined.

21 To put on.

22 Encountered.

23 Sable.

25 Negative.

27 2,000 pounds.

29 To tire.

30 Either.

31 Antelope.

34 Reduced to a lower grade.

36 Reverence.

37 Tree.

39 Laver.

40 Swimming organ of a fish.

42 To take food.

44 To fish.

45 Distant.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

22 To bow.

24 Fashion.

26 Unit.

28 Point.

30 Bogus land.

32 To possess.

33 Rubber tree.

34 Crazy.

35 Point.

36 Melody.

38 Chart.

40 Obese.

41 Theodore Dreiser is an -?

43 Small cask.

45 Because.

46 To impede.

48 Opposite of war.

50 Anything steeped.

51 To soak flux.

52 More uncommon.

54 Pleased out.

56 Exclamation.

57 Energy in style.

58 Molten rock.

60 Organ of hearing.

62 Pin.

64 Northeast.

66 No good.

VERTICAL

1 Channel separating Asia and Alaska.

2 Verb.

3 Company.

4 Pound.

5 Ancient.

6 Pattern.

7 Death notice.

8 Cot.

9 Senior.

10 Consumer.

11 To hie.

12 Whole.

13 Capital of Argentina.

18 Period.

20 Similar to a dwarf bull.

47 Above.

49 Yellow matter.

51 To decay.

52 Second note in a scale.

53 Tiny golf mound.

55 Roomer.

58 Upright shaft.

59 Fishes.

61 To lay in folds.

62 Rubber city.

63 Sea.

65 Onager.

66 At no time.

67 Repatriation.

68 Giant.

MICKEY MICE

ALL RIGHT, CHARLIE, WE'LL GO FOR A RUN AROUND THE CIRCUS GROUNDS AND LIMBER YOU UP A BIT

MY GOSH! ANOTHER RUNAWAY!

I'LL SAVE YOU!

I DON'T MIND YOU HITCHING ON, BUT I WISH YOU WOULDN'T DRAG YOUR FEET!

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