

SOPHIE KERR'S GREAT NOVEL "STAY OUT OF MY LIFE!"

By Sophie Kerr

CHAPTER XXVIII

She was tall for her age, but Jane did not know that. She seemed very small. Her hair was dark blue. Jane light, her eyes dark blue. Jane light, her eyes dark blue. Jane light, her eyes dark blue.

to give Nancy sufficient education, and anyway that's a long time ahead."

Jane still spoke to Howard: "You don't want her to have anything from me? That isn't kind, that isn't fair. You don't need to let her know where it comes from. I want to do this for my own peace of mind, it'll make me feel a little better about her. You're cruel."

AMY and Howard exchanged glances of discomfort, but not of indecision. "We don't mean to be cruel," said Howard. "Of course a professor's salary is no great shakes, but I have a small personal income. We even have some savings, and Nancy isn't likely to suffer any privations. You gave the child to Amy, Jane. You're not concerned yourself about her since then. And we can't let you concern yourself about her now. It would only mean a renewal of interest—which doesn't seem advisable."

Jane smiled, her sudden winning brilliant smile. She saw her chance. "You certainly talk like a professor, Howard. You make me feel as small as Nancy. Now look here, you don't want any money from me. That's been made clear enough. But would you mind if I put you in the way of making some money yourself, on your own capital I mean, so that you'd not have to pinch or scrimp yourselves for the child? It happens that I can do it right away. I'll tell you, it's one of those queer unexpected things that come along once in a blue moon. A man named Sears drifted into my office one day and said he wanted to sell a house, a big-up-town house, and he wanted to do it quietly, no publicity, and if he could he'd let it go for about a third of what it was worth. I saw he'd been drinking and at first I was just going to ease him out—and then, I decided to look into it."

She was, she thought, regaining her rightful importance. Howard was listening absently. She went on more dramatically: "I dug up the truth a scrap at a time. It was a spite sale. He and his sister are the last of a family that was once quite solidly rich and they lived in the house. She's a widow with several children and she's older than he and has been trying to manage him and keep hold of what money and property that's left. He's never done any work. All he wants in life is excitement. He's crazy to go over and get in the war, but his income is all tied up with his debts and he wants a bunch of money for a special reason before he goes. So he made up his mind to sell his equity in the house before his sister could stop him and get away."

"What was the special reason he wanted the money?" asked Howard. "Oh that!" Jane tossed it off lightly. "Nothing creditable. The man's rotten, really. It's for some girl he's interested in. He wants to set her up in a dress shop, or beauty parlor, before he leaves, you see. I don't know the details of that. They didn't matter. The point was that he could actually make a legal sale and it's a choice piece of property and after I'd got my facts I made up my mind to buy it myself. It's against the law for a broker to do that unless the buyer knows it, but I explained all that to Mr. Sears and pointed out that it meant one less person to be let in on the deal, and was therefore just that more private. I'm making a very long story, but it comes down to this: Sears has signed the contract of sale and has accepted a small payment, so that binds him. I'm having the regulation title search now, and we'll close in a couple of weeks."

"And in the meantime I'm arranging for the money. He wants cash, if you please, the whole thing in his hand, and he's going to get it. And I know, positively, that the day after take title I can sell that equity for three, or maybe four times what I paid for it. Now, do you see? If you want to put even a few thousand dollars into it, I can treble it within six weeks. I'll treat it as part of the investment, not as a loan, and you'll make exactly the same profit, proportionately, that I will. It will be absolutely your own."

She looked at Howard expectantly. (To Be Continued)

North Dakota's production of corn for 1933 has been estimated at 20,048,000 bushels, about 6,500,000 bushels below the 1930 crop.

Back in the living-room again with Howard, Jane pulled herself together, but she felt constrained and did not know how to begin what she wanted to say, but she certainly wasn't going to leave without making Howard really look at her and think of her. "You've been wonderful to her," she began tentatively. "I wish—I wish you'd let me do something for her, give her something, too."

"It would be better all around if you didn't do that," said Howard. "We'd rather not."

Ah, now he must at least argue with her. "But why? And we might as well look at the practical side of things. As she grows older there'll be a good bit of expense, schools and college and so on. Why shouldn't I establish a fund—to help with all that? I'd—I'd love to—"

"No," said Amy. "We'll manage

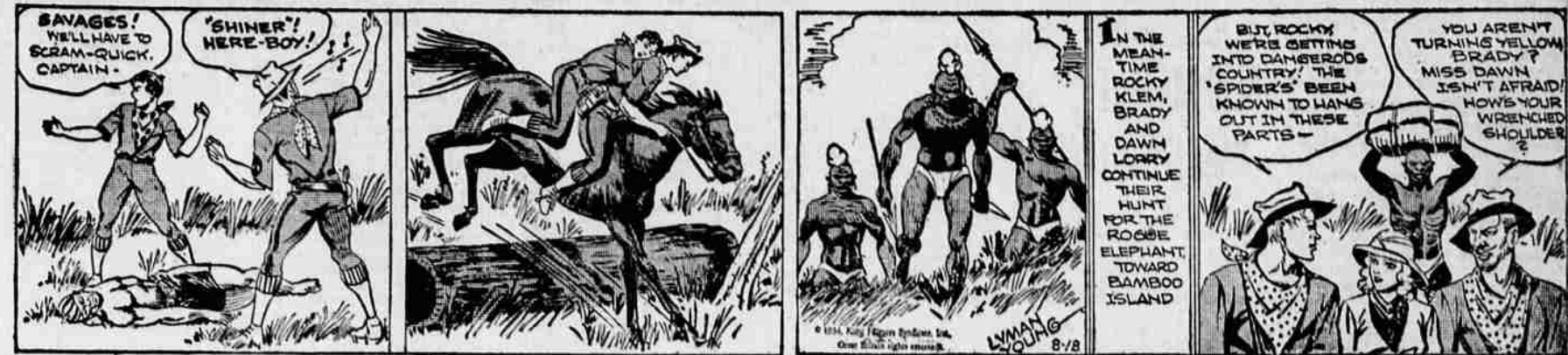
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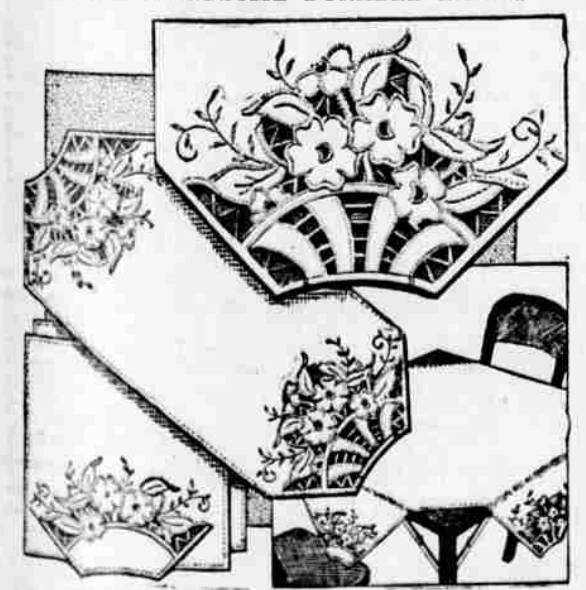
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