

JANUARY 14, 1935.

Lovable

CHAPTER XII

He stared at her for a long moment, though seeing her for the first time. "If you wanted to show your faith, I'd go ahead and furnish the house for you."

"Val, you don't mean it—" Peter interrupted. "I do mean it," she interrupted. "The house is a symbol of something, isn't it? If you give it up, you're saying you don't believe in me. If you go ahead with your faith, I believe in you. It seems to me I feel that way."

"I've tried to believe, she will come. I've felt maybe my thoughts are reaching her somehow—that she will reach her somehow—I—He broke off, embarrassed."

"It's like radio," Valeria said. "The contact will be made somehow, Ann receiving. You send, Ann receives."

"That wonderful new decorator, Al Vincent. He's the best in town. He's been here only a few months, but he's done some of the most beautiful homes around here. The Speeds, the Douglas Maxwells, the David Wilsons. I could name a dozen."

"Never heard of him?" Valeria said. "That's because he's so new. He has an idea of painting pictures in the place and seeing them on canvas before he begins to work."

"I wouldn't want a sensational decorator," Peter said. "Ann wouldn't like it."

"You'll carry out your ideas," Valeria said eagerly. "She was thinking of carrying out mine."

"You'll see him and talk it over with him?"

"I'll think it over."

"I suppose I could sell the house as well as furnish it."

"That's a negative thought. You will believe she's coming back."

"I'll believe she's coming back by the time she comes back."

"You're all kinds of a brick. I've been hearing and reading about the things you are doing. I'm proud of you."

"It's really been fun—given me a chance to help out. Particularly with the children."

"You've helped me, too," Peter said. "I'd love to go out sometimes with you and see what this decorator does in the place. May I?"

"I'm glad," said Valeria. She drove a glow of happiness. How pleasant men were, how pliable and easy to be molded into any shape under a woman's clever handling.

"Following into Peter's mood was the best. Pretending to believe Ann would come to him, making him feel comforted and confident. Naturally, he

would come back for more of the same medicine. She had given him a plausible reason for her desire to be with him. Imagine doing a house for Ann. She laughed aloud suddenly. For Ann! It would be a terrible day for her if Ann returned. But then Ann wouldn't. The girl had her silly pride. She would stay away until it was too late, until Peter had begun divorce proceedings. The chances were that she wouldn't appear on the scene at all. Not until it was all over and Valeria was married to Peter—safely established in a beautiful home, furnished according to her own ideas. Because, of course, she could manage this decorator with subtle suggestions, conveying the impression that she was the one to be pleased.

This had been a splendid day's effort. One of the best in her life.

Peter had noticed her "good works." The last six weeks had been trying. She had worked herself to death, denied herself all fun. It had been boring being a Little Pollyanna, playing Lady Bountiful. It really wasn't her role. But it had been a great idea to adopt it. She must keep it up through the summer anyway.

There would be compensations. She would be driving with Peter through the fragrant countryside to the home. They would dine at little, out-of-the-way places. Day by day, with her sympathy and understanding, she would be becoming more essential to Peter.

Milliecent said, when Peter broke the news to her, "It's the silliest thing I have ever heard of—furnishing the house for Ann when she may never come back to you."

Peter's face whitened. "Don't."

"Well, it's true. And if she does, what then? Women like to select their own things. It's part of the fun of getting into their own place. I'm sure I wouldn't want another woman selecting the patterns for my china and silver. It would be like living in a house a first wife had furnished."

"Valeria won't have a thing to do with the decorating and furnishing. If that's what you object to. I saw the decorator this afternoon and he wouldn't take the job unless he can do it his own way."

"Well, that's something to be thankful for," Milliecent said. "I hope he does have a mind of his own. If he doesn't the place will be terrible. I can't imagine Ann living in a house Valeria had furnished."

"She won't furnish it," Peter insisted.

Milliecent smiled, but wisely decided to say nothing more. She was treading thin ice, she knew, and was smart enough to know when to stop.

The next moment she forgot her resolution because Peter said, "You haven't noticed how changed Valeria is, have you?"

"No, I haven't. I've seen some gestures. Peter, be careful. Don't forget the leopard's spots."

"You never have seen any good in Valeria."

Milliecent stared. So Peter was taking up arms in defense of Valeria. This was something new!

ANN and the children had received an invitation: "You're invited today to a studio tea. It's for Sonny and Sis, you and me. There'll be cakes for the kiddies, candy too. And a special program, arranged for you. When tea is over, the youngsters can play. While you and I talk to the end of the day."

(To Be Continued)

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

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



TIM TYLER'S FLYING LUCK

BY LYMAN YOUNG

NOTICE!

Due to Airmail Fog Troubles in East, Releases of "Tim Tyler" are Delayed. All Tardy Releases will be Printed at Once, as soon as They Arrive.—EDITORS

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

For and Against!

BY MARTIN



BRINGING UP FATHER

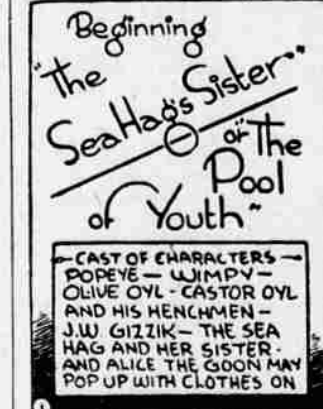
BY GEORGE McMANUS



THIMBLE THEATRE

Starring POPEYE NOW SHOWING—"HIS BAG OF TRICKS"

TOMORROW—"GET YOUR BATHING SUIT READY!" BY E. C. SEGAR



OUT OUR WAY

BY WILLIAMS

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

BY AHERN



THESE GAY LAURA WHEELER TOWELS ARE FUN TO DO



Do you like your kitchen gay? These Mammy towels give you the chance to have it that way and at the same time are an entertaining work of needlework. They're mostly cross stitch and running stitch. You know how quickly you can do these! Embroider the towels in variety of gay colors or all in one color, as you prefer. They will be a really different contribution for a shower and one that, being practical, is really distinctive.

Pattern 845 comes to you with a transfer pattern of seven motifs measuring 5 1/2 x 7 1/2 inches in size; illustration of all stitches used; serial requirements; color suggestions.

Send 10 cents in stamps or coin (coin preferred) for this pattern Register-Guard, Needlecraft Dept.

