

The Wall Flower

By MARION RUBINCAM

EXPLORATIONS

Chapter 74

Gloria's sharp eyes searched and searched the crowd, and George kept looking from the mass of people to Gloria, and Pan, who wanted awfully to help, scanned the strange faces for one which would look like that of the miniature she knew was packed in Gloria's jewel box.

But none appeared, and when they had collected their bags and trunks and found a taxi, the crowd had melted away like snow before a hot sun. The people in the station now were those hurrying for suburban trains.

They all seemed blonde, they had amazingly clear high-colored complexions, the men all seemed well dressed and the women all badly so. That was Pan's first impression of Londoners.

There was no Santley. "He's out of town for the week-end," said Pan.

"Or didn't want to come — oh, there are lots of reasons. It was silly—I didn't mean to wire," Gloria said. Having told part, she was ready to tell Pan everything now.

George had gone to a club where he was a member. Frankie had his supper and was put to bed. Later, in their street suits, they met George for dinner at a quiet restaurant, and stroll around central London until bedtime.

"After the lights at home, it's dingy," Pan said once.

"That's almost always a first impression. But you'll like it as well or better in a few days," George told her.

"I feel as though I were walking with ghosts," Gloria said once, and

shivered a little. "He might have been standing on this very curb two weeks ago."

"And so might a few hundred other people you will never see again," George observed.

Gloria laughed.

"Nice George! You always pull me back to earth when I fly too high. Well, you're right and I'm morbid, and Pan's tired—look at her eyes, black rings under them. We'll go home, all of us."

Sunday she dutifully took Pan and the boy sightseeing. Monday she was restless.

Tuesday she went to an auction place where estates of international fame are often sold, and where priceless pieces of furniture and works of art go weekly under the hammer. She made a few purchases, arranged for packing and shipping, dutifully wired her New York client—and was restless again.

"There's nothing more to do here, we'll go to Paris," she announced. "George, you're staying in London a while, aren't you?"

George had to stay.

"Have you hunted up Santley?" he asked.

Gloria hadn't and wouldn't. Gloria was looking utterly miserable.

"I hate it here," she said over and over again—and stayed on.

Once she even begged.

"George, come with us to Paris. That's full of ghosts too, and you drive them away."

"Your treatment of an old friend is ridiculous," she got for an answer. "It doesn't matter what I feel about this thing, there's one thing that's fair, look him up. He may not have received your wire, you were so excited you probably mis-addressed it anyway."

"Nonsense, wires are always delivered and I know his address very well. I can quite understand—"

"I've been leaving it to you, sure you were going to let me know and that I would see him when I saw you. He's my friend too—this is all utter rot."

And George stalked across the hotel lobby into a telephone booth. He came back and reported.

"His club says he's left town, they don't know where, it was sudden and he gave them no forwarding address. But he had left before we arrived, so he didn't get your wire."

"Well!" said Gloria, in the tone of voice all women use when they want to appear triumphant and aren't quite sure of their ground.

"Well!" said George.

And with those two vague words, the talk ended.

"It's as I thought," Gloria said to Pan that evening. "He may have had to go away, though his work usually keeps him to his office. That girl I spoke of—well, that's as it was a few years ago. I had tea today with a friend of mine who knows her slightly. They're always together."

"Gossip," Pan commented. She wouldn't believe it. "He didn't know you were coming."

Gloria refused to make any efforts to find out where Santley was.

"He sent me no message after his first cable, that's proof enough," she said. And she clung to George for society and comfort, trying always not to show her worry.

George said once to Pan:

"Child, what would you do if Gloria married? She's apt to, you know."

Then Pan was sure of one thing—and her heart sank at the thought.

Tomorrow—Idling.

Cottage For Teacher Plan Is Voted Down

MILLICAN, June 24.—The annual school meeting was held June 15. The plan to build a cottage for a teacher's residence was voted down. The \$250 saved on last year's budget

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towards this plan is to be added to this year's general budget. Those present at the election were Ed Moore, Carl Harst, Willard E. Grinstead, Frank Lee and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Graffenburger.

Mr. and Mrs. Valley Dykstra are the parents of a 12 pound boy baby, born in Bend June 18. The proud parents have named the boy Theodore Dale.

A heavy rain Sunday has greatly helped the wheat, rye and oats fields here.

Clarence Sloan was a Sunday dinner guest at the home of Mrs. Mary L. Roain.

Valley Dykstra and his two daughters, Marie and Margaret, were Sunday visitors at the Roain ranch.

Ike Loomis and Billy camped at Cliff Evans' place Sunday evening, on route to Bend with about 25 head of steers. Frank Percival sent a few head along with them.

On Monday Lee Hill helped Valley Dykstra to fence the addition to his ranch.

Many Millican people are planning to take in the Prineville rodeo June 27.



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When this had been done, we were able also—thanks to increased capacity and improved methods—to reduce the price a full \$200!

Please keep this price in mind when considering this car.

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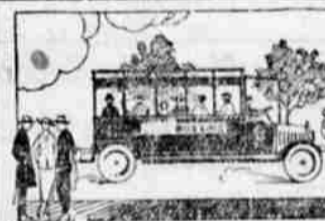
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NOTICE

All Stores Closed Friday Afternoon

To allow the people and the merchants to attend the American Legion Convention at Prineville all stores in Bend will be closed Friday afternoon.

This is Bend Day and we urge all those who can to go to Prineville and help make this convention a success to Central Oregon and thus bring Central Oregon and Bend more in the eyes of the rest of the state.

Let's All Go!

Bend Merchants Association

PARENTS—

Children, or other unauthorized persons, are not allowed on the log booms or logs in the mill pond. We will appreciate your cooperation in preventing accidents.

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