

# THE LUXURY HUSBAND

Chapter 41  
BEHIND THE SCENES  
Opening night for "The Knave of Jax!"

The state of tension in the audience was as nothing compared with that which had prevailed behind the scenes since early afternoon. Hopes and emotions ran riot. Chorus girls fluttered and giggled over their make-up; and producer hustled hither and thither; all and sundry dead sure the show would flop.

Ray moved about like an automaton, his face white, his eyes glassy, not hearing even the encouragement of Peter Anheim.

Rita had been apportioned a little cupboard of a dressing room all to herself. Red and white American Beauty roses stood in a long pitcher on the floor. Across one corner of the room was a faded Japanese screen.

Behind this at Barbara—Barbara in such a high state of nervous tension that she kept locking and unlocking her fingers incessantly. Rita, powdering her long slim arms before the mirror, alone seemed calm.

Now, bending near the mirror, she threw out over her shoulder: "Do you think you've got the steps down pat?"

"Yes... But really, Rita, I don't think we had better go through with it. Don't you think the whole idea is rather crazy?"

"Sure it's crazy. But if it weren't for the crazy things of life we'd all commit suicide, Ray, while you're dancing don't forget to keep your hands going at the same time as your feet. You've simply got to put the New Yorker across, Barbara."

Barbara swallowed twice, chewing the paint from her underlip.

"Know. You're all sorts of a sport to have given me this chance, Rita. But do you honestly think it will do me any good?"

"You mean with Ray?"

Barbara nodded.

"Sure! Do you think I would have gone to the bother of coaching you if I hadn't? I tell you, you've got to do something drastic to show him that you are now one of us."

Barbara's rueful smile was by way of confirmation. Rita, as she turned her attention to her hair, mentally reviewed the scheme she had put into motion for the reconciliation of Ray and his wife.

As to marrying Ray herself—that dream had faded. The moment she had identified Barbara as the sad-eyed, wistful little girl she had so often seen sitting alone in the booth at the club. That proved without question that the girl was still in love with Ray. Also, that she regretted the impending divorce. Rita, that moment to this had never occurred in Rita to take her own happiness at Barbara's expense.

The very fact that she should be the means of bringing them together was comic in itself. Regarding the scheme she had devised for furthering this end Barbara had been right in conceiving it as crazy. Too, it was theatrical in the extreme. But Rita, trained to the stage, saw everything in terms of the theatrical.

Ray had always made a point of stressing the unsympathetic attitude his wife had adopted towards his work.

Chiefly with the idea of overcoming this had Rita planned the whole thing. Towards the end of the last act she was to introduce a new dance, the New Yorker. During this number Ray was to step onto the stage playing his saxophone. Rita's idea was that Barbara, instead of herself should take her place on the opening night and go through the dance. This should give Ray sufficient proof that Barbara's snobbish ideas had changed.

At the same time her appearance in this revue the score of which

## LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

It Pays To Save

By Harold Gray



## REG'LAR FELLERS

Snappy Luggage

By Gene Byrnes



## TAILSPIN TOMMY

Betty Endeavors To Save Tommy

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORBES



## DUMB DORA

The Janitor's Assistant

By Chick Young



## BRINGING UP FATHER

Two Simon-Pures Compare Salaries

By George McManis



## MUTT AND JEFF

Two Simon-Pures Compare Salaries

By Bud Fisher



**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS**

**ACROSS**

- Expenses incurred in a hill
- Alloys
- Small car in a name
- Mature
- Penmanship
- Site up on top
- Fairly thin
- Strive for
- Illustrious
- Chess pieces
- Brandy
- Likeness
- British vessel
- Leave out
- Niece on box
- Constraining force
- Part of a baseball field
- Shower
- Mind
- Desire wrong
- Swiss beer
- Milk beverage
- Wine drinking
- Domestic
- Stayed
- Fish
- Extremists
- Musical entertainment
- Iron

**DOWN**

- Medieval plant
- Medals
- Animal doctor
- Fail to hit
- Three-out
- Ray window
- Barfaced a street
- Employee
- Stage char.
- Widow
- Netherlands
- Comptent
- Appear
- Room
- Make more compact
- Soft mineral
- Harries
- Falls to follow
- Ascended
- Interrimable
- Anxieties
- Eaten away
- Black bird
- The things reported
- Plot of ground
- Battle
- One who takes seriously
- Known facts
- Organ of hearing
- Ingredient of curries

**Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle**

A	B	E	L	R	A	I	N	S	H	E
A	B	E	L	R	A	I	N	S	H	E
E	D	A	M	A	R	K	S	A	R	D
S	P	A	R	E	H	A	N	D	S	
P	P	S	I	R	R	B				
E	E	N	T	E	N	E	M	E	N	T
E	R	I	S	E	T	R	A	R	E	
P	U	L	M	O	T	O	R	S	P	A
S	T	O	L	E	R	S	A	E	S	M
S	T	O	L	E	R	S	C	E	N	T
P	U	R	L	D	O	T	A	R	I	D
A	N	A	P	O	M	E	P	A	N	E
S	A	L	A	G	E	D	S	Y	N	E