

JACQUELINE ON HER OWN

by RICHARD STARR

Chapter 31
FORTUNE SMILES
It was a madcap adventure—risking all upon a horse—that had returned Teddy to a state of affluence.

As he unfolded it Jacqueline rejoiced for him but bravely sought to hide the pompanity of her own feelings. He was rich again and she was almost penniless.

"When Prinkipo lost the War-wichshire and dropped 17,000 pounds for me—he dropped his own reputation at the same time. When it came to selling him I could get only 200 pounds for him," Teddy related.

"When I found myself with 250 pounds after the card game with those three men I went and bought Prinkipo back for 250. Then on borrowed money I entered him in the Cambridgehire Plate. With more borrowed money I backed him to win. He was a 40-to-1 shot."

"You should have seen that horse run, my dear. He led them all from the starting-gate, and turned round and laughed at them. I told my jockey to get away from the beginning, and not to let any of them get around him afterwards, and he did just that. I made 1,000 pounds after paying all my debts."

"Gracious goodness, Teddy!" "And that's not all. Prinkipo is now a great horse. I have had an offer of 8,000 pounds for him. But I won't sell. I will tell you presently what I am going to do with him. And even that is not all."

"What else can there be, Teddy?" "I took that 11,000 to the Old Top. I took it in bank-notes of large denomination, and even then it looked quite a wad. There's something persuasive about bank-notes which there isn't about a check."

"And I said in my best manner: 'Look here, Old Top, sir, here is 11,000 pounds off that debt of 17,000 which you cleared up for me, like the topping old sport you are. And when I've got the other six thou. I'll bring it along. And what do you think the Old Top did?'"

"'Goodness knows,' said Jacqueline. 'He took me in his arms and wept salt tears on my neck. Then the water came in, and she wept salt tears on my other neck. I mean on the other side of my neck. I was shockedly wet. And they called me the prodigal son, and all that sort of thing, you know, and made no end of a fuss.'

"You see, when you gamble and lose all your money, you are a frightful example, and not worth burying. But when you gamble and win, you are rather a clever fellow, don't you know; and they kill the fatted calf."

"The Old Top didn't want to accept the 11,000, but I made him. He said if I could make 11,000 in three weeks out of nothing then I was not such a fool as I looked. And he begged my pardon. He did. Think of it. Begged my pardon. Are you pleased, Jacqueline?"

"Of course, Teddy. You are a wonderful man, and Prinkipo is a dear. Now tell me what you are going to do with Prinkipo. I feel that I shall always love him."

"That's right. I want you to love Prinkipo, because I am going to give him to you for a wedding present—when you marry me."

"Teddy!" "She went very white, and would have stood up. But Teddy had turned round now, and was on his knees holding both her hands so that she could not get away from him."

"Jacqueline—you are the sweetest, the most beautiful, the most generous, the most wonderful girl that ever was—"

"Teddy, I am not. You must not say those things. You don't know anything about me. You have only seen me a few times, and—and I am not even a nice girl—not very nice."

"Darlingest!" cried Teddy, becoming eloquent in his earnestness.

"You are the most enchanting and precious thing that has ever come into my life. I have never wanted anything as I want your love and you. I know I am all sorts of a fool, Jacqueline darling, and you are a dear, beautiful, quick-witted, clever little thing—and perhaps you find me pretty dull. But I believe there is something in me somewhere. It may be a long way down, and want a lot of digging up. I believe I could do something worth while some day if I had you to do it for. Darling, if only you will be my wife, I am sure I can—"

A job cut short his eager protestations. Jacqueline's head was bent and her shoulders shaking.

"Jacqueline, dear, what is it? I am a brute. I am hurting you somehow—"

"No, no, Teddy. You are not hurting me. It is very sweet to hear you say those things to me—to know that you think so much of me. Oh, if only I were worthy of it—"

"My dear, you are worthy of a much better man than I am—a thousand times better. Now that I am all right with the Old Top, I can give you all you want, thank goodness! That is all you may want in the material sense. But what am I apart from that? A pretty dull sort of fellow, with not much brains, if any—"

"You are a very sweet boy, Teddy. It is generous of you to say so, Jacqueline, and to think so. Now will you tell me something which I want to hear even more. Do you love me?"

"I—have told you so already, Teddy."

"Tell me again, sweetheart, because if I live to be very old I shall never hear it often enough."

But Jacqueline, instead of telling him, burst into tears.

Teddy sprang to his feet, full of dismay and contrition. "Jacqueline, my darling, what have I done? What a brute I am to worry you so! My darling, please don't cry. Good Lord, I would not have said a word if I had dreamed it would upset you."

"No, no, Teddy, you have not upset me. I—I want to tell you something, but I don't think I can. Now day. You must give me a little more time. You have taken me rather by surprise."

All the joy seemed to have gone out of her, and Teddy looked at her with concern.

"But you love me, Jacqueline?" "Yes, I love you, Teddy, dear. And there is nobody else?" "Nobody else, Teddy."

"Then that's all I want. That is quite enough to make me happy, and all the rest can wait. Of course, I have been a bit of a brute. That's the worst of me; I always go at things like a bull at a gate. So I am going away now, but I shall come again tomorrow, and ask you to marry me. I am sure the come you; and as for me, I shall Old Top and the mater will worship you all my life, Jacqueline. Are you sure it is not this fellow Carew who is upsetting you?"

"No! I am not upset over him." "Has he been asking you to marry him, or anything absurd like that?"

"Yes, he did ask me." "The boulder," cried Teddy. "The conceited puppy. I thought as much. What does he think he is?" "But I refused him, Teddy."

"You angel!" "And if ever you happen to meet Mr. Carew, Teddy, you can, if you like, give him a piece of your mind. Because he annoyed me very much."

"Did he!" returned Teddy grimly, with a red light in his eyes. "Leave him to me."

"But you are not to do anything violent, like you did to those men in the flat. You might kill him, and then you would be hanged. And what would I do then?" "I promise you," replied Teddy solemnly, "that I will not kill him."

(To be Continued)

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE Her Services In Demand

By Harold Gray



REG'LAR FELLERS

Almost A Wreck

By Gene Byrnes



TAILSPIN TOMMY

The Boss Speaks

By Glenn Chaffin and Hal Forrest



DUMB DORA

Paul Fung



ACROSS

1. Units of work

2. Arabian camel's hair cloth

3. Salt of a wickstead

12. Small stream

13. Number of the commandments

14. City in Ohio

15. On the one

16. Understood by the initiated alone

18. Places to all

19. Mountain in Asia Minor

21. The hitter wench

23. Wanders aimlessly

25. Biblical high priest

27. Gratitude

28. Expression of regret

29. Substance used in cordle milk

31. Painter

32. European fish

33. Negative

34. Stigmatizing

35. The container

44. Metric land measure

47. Four

Solution of Saturday's Puzzle

1. RAA

2. WAS

3. EPHEMERAL

4. CREW

5. LANE

6. RNS

7. VENER

8. AMEER

9. RREK

10. IN

11. ADORE

12. NEVER

13. TRADE

14. HAS

15. ANISE

16. ENTER

17. LEFT

18. ETNA

19. PAIR

20. LEIS

21. CRAP

22. GRID

23. LAD

24. MADE

25. DRAY

26. ROSES

27. IN

28. SEEM

29. PUTS

30. AMORPHOUS

31. TAMOR

32. ERODE

33. DEW

DOWN

1. Ages

2. Up

3. Sailing

4. Gray rock

5. Deavored

6. Near by

7. Positive elec- tric pole

8. Beverage

9. Telegraphic code

10. Arabian chet- tale

11. Membranous pouch

12. Sulfur

13. Not to danger

14. Clear growth

15. Held a session

16. Make a mistake

17. Pasture

18. Underthings

19. A king of Israel

20. Fox

21. King's bunk

22. Say further

23. Control a horse

24. Wilbur

25. Steam

26. Malicious burning

27. Tompkins

28. Scotch

29. Railroad

30. Indian plant

31. Bark of the oak

32. Senior member

33. Three feet

34. Flayed the first card

35. Stitch

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
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67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
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89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110

BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



MUTT AND JEFF

Gliding On The Atchison, Topeka And Sante Fe

By Bud Fisher

