

Buying Barbara

By Julia Claff-Adams & Author of "YOU CAN'T MARRY"

Chapter 1
A FIRM ON THE ROCKS
 The road to Kings Mallard held steadily west. When the most remote of cathedral cities had been left behind and the last big spread farm had ditched down into wasteland, there was still a sign-post to point due west "To Kings Mallard."
 Then, hard on the post, came an uprising of hills—heather-covered hills, lying in a plummy curve like the tips of a feather fan; open to the sea. And in the center of the fan, the bay. And in the most sheltered lip of the bay, the town, Kings Mallard; west of the world.
 And had been a king's port, once—and the still older Yarn Market, were hemmed in by what had once been merchants' homes and were now the offices of Kings Mallard's professional men.
 The bank was there, for instance—it straggled over the lower floors of two of the oldest buildings. Next to the bank was an inn and next to the inn a leaning, lath-and-plaster house of which the top part was still a private residence; while the ground-floor displayed wire blinds and gilt lettering: "Quentin, Lodeley & Cane, Solicitors, Commissioners for Oaths, etc."
 Two of the partners in this firm were, on a golden October afternoon, quarrelling in an upper room of the lath-and-plaster house. They had not chosen to meet in the offices below, because it was a Saturday and the rooms had been dusted and darkened for the week-end. They sat, instead, upstairs, in what was really Mrs. Cane's drawing-room; and their anger carried much of their speech to her as she sat trembling in her bedroom on the other side of the shabby wall.
 "I won't be spoke to like that."

SUNDOWN STORIES

TOP NOTCH'S LETTER
 By Mary Graham Bonner
 This was the letter Top Notch, the Rooster, had Willy Nilly write for him:
 "Dear Santa Claus:
 Merry Christmas, cock-a-doodle-do. When you're leaving this part of the world early Christmas morning to go back to your home up north I'll be growing as hard as ever I can.
 "It will be a special crowing for you, Santa, to wish you the merriest of Christmases from all the creatures of Puddle Muddle.
 "Dear Santa, I keep a store in Puddle Muddle, but I haven't been paying much attention to it lately. "Could you bring me a few things that I need for 17? I'm out of string and red paint and I need a paint brush and I wonder if I could also have a little brush to brush my comb—the comb on top of my head I mean.
 "It may mix you up to have me ask for a brush for my comb. Don't think I mean a brush and comb.
 "You know I've been made Mayor of Puddle Muddle this year, and I think a Mayor should look nice and neat, don't you, Santa Claus?
 "I've heard that there are little boxes with holes punched through them where things can be kept nice and fresh. Now, Santa, the things I have in mind that would be fine to have kept nice and fresh are some delicious waffles.
 "Mrs. Quacko Duck is making me a stocking out of some of the feathers I have left. So you will know that my stocking is made out of Rooster feathers and that the Ducks' Christmas stockings are the ones made with Duck feathers. That is how you will be able to tell the difference.
 "I have been a good Rooster, Santa, and I hope you'll remember me well.
 "Your loving Top Notch."

ACROSS

1. First even number
 7. Subsequently
 17. Climatic conditions
 18. Malicious speeches
 19. Put on
 20. Tropical American islands
 21. Metal
 22. Old oath
 23. Liberty
 24. Heavily colored
 25. Journey end
 26. Kowtow
 27. At home
 28. United
 29. Night before an event
 30. Passage out
 31. Cousin
 32. Vetchlike plant
 33. Small piece of pasteboard
 34. Parent's colloquial
 35. Have a care: poet
 36. Slander
 37. Catch sight of
 38. Unchecked metal
 39. Inclina
 40. Extinction
 41. Unions

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

OFF MADAM CAY
 NIL IRONE ODE
 ARA NET LENDS
 MESA MOAN
 TREAT PENSTIVE
 HE TESLA EVER
 ONE READS ELA
 LAND VISTA AS
 ENDURED INURE
 OP EN ENDS
 CURED ART UVA
 ASS ARISE ALL
 BEE NAMED LEE

11. Repose
 12. White caulk
 13. Opening
 14. Goddess of discord
 21. Old expression of disgust
 22. Throw lightly
 23. Layer
 24. Trowel sharply
 25. Acquire by labor
 26. Conical formula
 27. Suffering
 28. Hat for jury duty
 29. Period of light
 30. Yawning
 31. Whisker
 32. Small mound of earth
 33. Commercial quantity
 34. Prevalent
 35. Alloy
 36. Blind
 37. Merry
 38. AFD
 39. Babylonian
 40. Day's march

sables and tailor-mades for shopping days in Toxeter, hand-spun tweeds for every day. Of course, there was poor little Mark, he was a great expense and one had never grudged him the best of everything. And what hope was there for his future now?
 Mr. Lodeley, down in the inn-yard, mounted and rode slowly out of her light; but the eyes of her mind remained upon him, much as her thin shoulder remained against the window-pane, because she herself was tired and unhappy. In her imagination she followed the rider's home-faring; she saw him come out from under the old archway of the inn and turn into the Yarn Market, and then up High Street; he would take his way out of the town by one of the many lanes that climb into the fields of Upper Mallard hill.
 She raised her head and gazed at Upper Mallard hill, that great, golden-brown curving between Kings Mallard and the world. "The gentry" lived up there; almost she could see the roofs of the house she called in her wet-country way "Lodeley's." And she could see that all the way up to that house, people touched their hats to the man on the horse. Bankrupt he might be, but they would always touch their hats to him. Wherever they would only stare at her and James.
 "Em! Here a minute!"
 She jumped and turned; James was motioning her into the drawing-room. But her thoughts were still vaguely with the man who had just left it and, as she mechanically straightened cushions and emptied an ash-tray, she asked—
 "You don't think he'll do any-

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

I WONDER WHAT MR. FUTILE CAN BE UP TO— HE ACTED ALL EXCITED AND SAID HE HAD SOME BUSINESS TO TEND TO— HE'S NEVER LEFT HIS STORE LIKE THIS BEFORE— HE'S BEEN GONE OVER AN HOUR—

LET'S SEE— I BELIEVE I HAVE JUST THE EXACT CHANGE— YES MAM— HERE IT IS—

I'M SURE YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE SOMEBODY VERY HAPPY, MR. FUTILE—

MOTHER ALWAYS WANTED A REAL SILK DRESS LIKE THIS— AND I HOPE LITTLE ANNIE LIKES WHAT I GOT FOR HER— HEH! HEH! THE EXACT CHANGE— NO NEED O' TELLIN' THAT YOUNG LADY IT WAS ALL THE MONEY I HAD TO 'THE LAST PENNY—

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE NICE THINGS AT CHRISTMAS— BUT I'VE NEVER SEEMED TO HAVE ANY MONEY, TILL THIS YEAR— BUT, WITH THE STORE GOING SO GOOD, AT LAST WE'RE 'GETTIN' AHEAD A MITE—

REG'LAR FELLERS

LOOK WHAT I GOT THE BABY FOR CRISMIS, AGGIE! AN IT ONEY COST A DIME!

THEY'RE REAL GENAWINE NORTH POLE EAR LAPS!

THAT'S VERY SWEET OF YOU TO SEE THAT THE BABY'S EARS ARE NICE AND WARM!

TAIN'T THAT! I GOT 'EM SO'S I CAN PRACTICE THE BASS DRUM WHILE HE'S ASLEEP!

THE GUMPS

WELL— GUMPS— PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A REAL TREAT— YOU HAVE BEEN EXPECTING BIM TO VISIT YOU FOR CHRISTMAS— "OLD MONEY BAGS" AS MILLIE MA CALLS HIM— WELL— HERE HE IS!

HE'S ON HIS WAY TO YOUR HOUSE IN HIS PALACE ON WHEELS— WAIT TILL YOU SEE HIM—

WHAT WILL THE GUMPS SAY? HOW WILL THEY TREAT BIM— WHEN HE MAKES THEM BELIEVE THAT HE HAS LOST ALL HIS WEALTH?

QUICK! GUMPS— TO THE WINDOW! CAN'T YOU HEAR THAT HORN? BIM IS THERE— ALL THE WAY FROM AUSTRALIA— YILDA— GET OUT THAT WELCOME MAT— HURRAH! THREE CHEERS—

HELLO, ANDY! HELLO, MIN! HEY!

HONK!

ANDY— MIN! FOLKS! AT LAST— I AM WITH YOU— GREETINGS—

THAT ISN'T UNCLE BIM—

MUTT AND JEFF

HELLO! THIS IS AUGUSTUS MUTT. I'M ANSWERING YOUR WANT-AD IN THE MORNING PAPER. I'M HONEST, SOBER AND AMBITIOUS! DO I GET THE JOB? ... OKAY, I'LL REPORT AT ONCE.

WELL, I'M GOING TO WORK, TA TA!

CHEERO, MUTTY DEAR.

THE IDEA OF MUTT REALLY GOING TO WORK. WHAT'S COME OVER HIM? DO YOU THINK HE'S REFORMED, MRS. MUTT?

COMING HITHER—

LOOK! THIS IS THE SHORTEST DAY IN THE YEAR. IT'S A DAY-LIGHT JOB HE GOT— AND THAT MEANS THEY QUIT AT FOUR O'CLOCK. ON JUNE 21ST THEY WORK TILL NINE O'CLOCK. BUT MUTT LOAFS IN JUNE.

WED. DEC. 21. SHORTEST DAY IN THE YEAR.

TAILSPIN TOMMY

UNABLE TO BLUFF TOMMY AND WILLY WAGON, THE GIRL WHO RESCUED HIM FROM THE DANGERS ON THE HIGHLANDS EAST OF LARGO, INTO SURRENDERING THE CROOKS ARE DESPERATE AS THE TWENTY THOUSAND-DOLLAR ROLL AS STILL TOMMY'S POSSESSION.

YOU KNOW THAT FLYER MAY BE ALONE WHO EVER PICKED HIM UP MIGHT HAVE DROPPED HIM OFF HERE AND BEAT IT!

THERE'S TWO OF 'EM IN THAT HOUSE! NO ONE FELLER COULD DO ALL THAT SHOOTIN'!

HEY!

—HOW ABOUT SMOKIN' 'EM OUT? WE COULD POT 'EM AS THEY WERE COMIN' OUT OF TH' DOORS ARE NAILED SHUT.

GUESS THAT REPAIRY SHOWS THAT YOU'RE WITH US, ALL RIGHT, BUT TH' IDEA BINT NO GOOD.

WHY NOT?

HOW YOU GOIN' TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO THAT HOUSE TO PUT IT ON FIRE WITHOUT BEIN' POTTED WITH A BULLET?

ANSWERS TO A QUESTIONS

By Frederic J. Haskin

Ask any questions of fact and it will be answered, free, by mail direct to you. Enclose three cents in coin or stamps for reply postage. Do not use postcard. Address the Capital Journal Information— Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D. C.

Q. What are the cobwebs made of which are used in old houses in the morning? W.D.
 A. They are made of finely shredded asbestos.

Q. Is more electric power for public use generated by fuel or water power? E.N.H.
 A. Power for public use in the United States is generated in approximately 3741 central stations. About 60 per cent of the total output is generated from fuel and the remainder from water.

Q. What power has the president in changing the tariff? J.W.L.
 A. As the tariff law was finally asked—"Where's Lella?"
 Mrs. Cane went to the door and called. Down the upper staircase came sipping a child of eight or nine, whose eyes lit from one parent to the other with a shy, attentive brightness.

Two women are introduced, tomorrow, who have much to do with future events.

Q. Is there an easy way to remove the outside husks of black walnuts? A.H.
 A. The department of agriculture says that the ordinary corn sheller is effective.

Q. Exactly what is a penthouse? H.W.
 A. It is a shed-like structure, usually clinging to the side of a building, having a sloping roof and corbelled floor. It sometimes is used immediately over a doorway. Also a small shed built as a temporary shelter in an open field is classed as a penthouse. The term is now applied to living quarters built on the roof of a tall building.

Q. Which has a larger population—Moscow or Leningrad? C.M.
 A. According to the latest census, Moscow, Russia, has a population of 2,025,947 and Leningrad has a population of 1,614,008.

Q. When were reindeer imported into Alaska? H.A.
 A. Through the efforts of Dr. Sheldon Jackson, a missionary, 18 Siberian reindeer were brought into the Bering sea region in 1891 and 171 reindeer in 1892. By 1902, 1280 had been imported, when the Russian government forbade further exportations. The number increased to over 400,000, of which about 100,000 have been used for food and clothing.

Q. Why are refreshments sometimes called a collation? F.W.
 A. The term was originally confined to the light evening repast of monks, and is supposed to have been named from the Collationes of Cassianus, a Benedictine monk, who lived in the 4th century.

Q. Whose statue stands in Uniontown, Pennsylvania? It is a short man holding a beaver hat. H.W.J.
 A. The statue is of the Marquis de Lafayette for whom that county was named. He made several visits to that county during and after the war of the Revolution. The statue was made by a wood carver and placed on a dome of a court house erected about 1840. When the present court house was built, the statue was resurrected from the basement of the old court house and placed on a pedestal on the present court house lawn.

Q. Will putting a cotton dress away for the winter without taking the starch out of it cause the material to deteriorate? H.K.M.
 A. There appears no reason to expect starched cotton goods to deteriorate more rapidly than unstarched on storage.

Q. Where is the Cloud peak primitive area? N.P.
 A. It is an expanse of 94,000 acres on the high core of the Bighorn mountains in Wyoming. This area lies in the Bighorn national forest midway between the continental divide and the Black Hills, at 8500 to 13,165 feet elevation. There are about 200 attractive lakes, many of glacial origin. There are no automobile roads. Wild life is abundant, and the southern half of the area is in game preserves. Pioneer conditions of travel will be maintained by the forest service.

Q. What is fire? L.S.
 A. Fire may be described as the visible light and heat that are evolved by the action of high temperature on certain bodies. Burning or combustion results from the chemical reaction between the elements composing the fuel and the oxygen in the air.

COME EASY—GO EASY

PUFFY

"Now all we need," Puffy exclaims, "is some snow."
 To fill out his picture of Yuletide.
 And so
 The weather man comes to his rescue posthaste
 And piles up the drifts till they reach Puffy's waist.

A MUSICAL BENEFIT

HURRAY!

MUTT WORKS ONE DAY A YEAR

EASIER SAID THAN DONE!

WHY NOT?

WHY NOT?