BURNED FINGERS

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

CHAPTER 14

"Don't want me to fool about it," Montgomery Smith said quietly. "You gave me a hint once that a man had hurt you—killed himself because you couldn't be nice to him—was that it?"

"No, not quite," she answered hurriedly, distressedly. "We think he killed himself, his father and I—no one else knows. They all think it was an accident."

"And you couldn't love him?"

"No, that wasn't it. I did like him terribly. He would have waited longer; he would have hoped that I . . . I'm not even sure that he was in love with me," Jennifer said confusedly. "It was all mixed up. Eugene—the one who died, you know—was so good; he wanted everyone to be perfect. He said that all the troubles of the world would be cured if we were all just perfect."

"He was a born reporter," Monty said dryly as she paused.

"And he—he said he wasn't in love with me," Jennifer stumbled on, "but he said that he ought to marry me to protect me, that the world was so wicked . . . and then . . . then . . ." Suddenly she began to sob violently; she tried to talk above the emotion that was gaining on her. "Then when he found out that I wasn't so perfect," she said quickly, "he was stunned. He was disappointed in me . . ."

It was no use. She could go no further. She put her face down on her knees and cried. After a moment she rose blindly to her feet.

"I think, if you don't mind, I'll go home. I don't know what's the matter with me . . ."

Monty had left his easel and come over to her. He pushed her gently into a chair.

"Don't go home and cry all night," he said dispassionately, going back to his work. "Cry it out here. I rather suspected something like this. What'd you do, Jinny, fall in love with the office boss, who was unhappily married?"

"No," she answered, gulping, getting control of herself with an effort. "He—he wasn't married. He liked me; we liked each other so much! I was so happy! And then—he just stopped. He had never meant . . . I thought he meant . . ."

"That was a mistake," he said presently in a reflective voice.

"I know," Jennifer answered in a small tired voice. "I always knew. But I was in love; I guess it's sort of craziness. But afterward . . . and all this time . . . If I could only forget it, had it not have happened!"

"Oh well, we all feel that," Monty said consolingly. "Lord, the things you'd like not to have done! I knew one feller who graduated from college with honors because he found out where the blue books for the finals were stored and had a couple of weeks to work on them. A year afterward he went to the dean and told him; he had to. The dean said, 'It didn't do me any harm to graduate you; you're the one that'll have to pay for it.'"

"And what did they do to him?"

"Nothing, of course. He's quite a well-known man today, is asked to speak at fraternity dinners. I had flunked out two years earlier; I didn't know for years how he managed to graduate. I'll tell you something," Monty went on suddenly, "I'll tell you the thing I wish I could blot out. I had a mighty good father. I didn't think so much of him because he was a quiet old fellow in an alpaca coat, browsing about his little shop. His dream was to have a secondhand bookstore.

"Well, I inherited a little money, and I was all for travel, for painting in Paris—rive gauche—all that. I could have set the old man up in his little bookshop; it never occurred to me. I could have been enthusiastic about it, helped him arrange the windows. He came down to the boat with me when I started my trip around the world, went over the ship with me. 'I surely congratulate you, Monty,' he said. 'I've always had an idea I'd like to be on a freighter when she went out the Golden Gate. You'll see strange things!' I hung over the rail; he went back to his stationery store. I dawdled around in Manila and Tokyo and Singapore; we reached Trieste when I got a cable from him: 'Mama anxious, please write. Papa.' I hadn't written; I wrote a letter then. I found it in some papers after he was dead. He was a dear old fellow—not exciting, you know, but—well, I guess having a son was the great adventure of his life. Nothing was too good for me. I wish now—well, there you are!"

"But, Monty, boys are like that," Jennifer argued eagerly; "you didn't do anything wrong. You were just careless and busy with your own plans, the way kids are. He understood that!"

"I hope he did, Jinny. Maybe none of it was wrong, like forging somebody's name or putting poison in somebody's tea. But you don't forget."

"No, she agreed sadly, looking into space with young, tragic eyes. "You don't forget."

"I've thought a thousand times in the last few years," Monty said, "of that afternoon when I first sailed. I saw my father after that; I was home again, of course. He was immensely proud when I won a scholarship and a painting of mine was published in the paper. He had that. But he knew I didn't belong to him any more. It was that first afternoon when I missed my chance. My chance to say, 'Here's where you get fooled, Pop. You and I are buying that little bookshop on Sutter Street and we've got to get busy classifying and cleaning up ten thousand books.' He had all the bookstores seized up; so many thousand at fifty cents flat, and so many other thousand at fifteen cents flat."

Painting away busily, he began to whistle softly.

"We have to wash that sort of thing out, Jinny, except, for being stronger for it. We have to start over. Wiser."

A great breath of strength and courage seemed to be blown into her.

"Oh, if we could!"

"But that's the history of the strongest people in the world, you poor little idiot. Not the ones who have nothing to regret. The ones who are strung by shame and remorse and general self-depisingness into rising above the past. 'Men may rise on stepping-stones of their dead selves.' That's St. Augustine. You can't fool him."

Jennifer laughed suddenly, smiled at him with her eyelashes stuck into dark points and her face flushed like that of a tearful baby.

"You still love this man, eh?" Monty asked, not looking at her.

"Oh no. I hate him. I don't know. When he came to see me I suddenly seemed to hate him," Jennifer said, beginning in a rush, quieting down to doubt the puzzlement. "I told him to go away, not to talk to me. I don't know how I did it. I—seemed—on fire all of a sudden, though I'd been waiting, longing to see him."

"That was how long ago? And you've not seen him since?"

"That was oh, more than three months ago. No, I've not seen him since."

"And would you like to see him, Jinny?"

"I keep thinking about it," she said simply. "I keep thinking that I would like to see him just once. Not ever be friends again, I don's mean that. But to have him see me . . ."

"Rich and happy and with lots of admirers about you," he supplied as she hesitated.

"Yes, I think that's what I mean," she admitted, still hesitant speaking much more to her own thoughths than to him. Monty's tone had been so sensible, so matter-of-fact, that she could answer him almost without self-consciousness. "To let him see that if he can be happy—not remembering anything, nor sorry for anything—why, so can I be too. But no," Jennifer ended with a change of tone, "I never want to see him again. I am sure of it."

"I hope you never do. I would like to meet him," Monty said quietly, and have a little talk with him. I would like to let him know what I think of him. But let that pass. It's nine o'clock and you are supposed to be on your way over the rooftops. Want my flashlight?"

"Oh no. It's bright moonlight. And I'll be here at half past six on Saturday, Monty, to help you set the table."

"I'll count on you."

He came to the roof-terrace door with her; there was an awning there now, and two or three old garden chairs. Jennifer stepped up to the adjoining roof, waved at him, was on her way across the dark levels. There was indeed a moon, but the sky was strewn with fluffy, soft tufts of cloud. The air was cold and soft and pure; the man stood breathing deeply, looking up at the dark vault overhead. Once or twice he turned to follow with his eyes Jennifer's figure as it slipped into deeper and deeper darkness. When she reached the trap door that admitted her to her own apartment she whistled seven notes from Louise, and Monty completed the phrase. He was especially fond of the opera, and Jennifer, fussing about the studio with dishwashing or straightening, had grown familar with it. It had come to be their signal of her coming or going.

"Someday when you're in a great opera house," he had once said to her, "in Milan or Berlin or New York, you'll hear that and it'll thrill you to your bones."

"Oh, Monty, do you know, they had it on a radio program the other night and I recognized it right away! Talk about culture! But I'm afraid," Jennifer had said sadly, "that I'll never be in a big opera house. I'll never get that far! It's too great—a gap—a chasm. From our twenty-two-dollar flat to grand opera, it's too far! The clothes, Monty and—and the sort of people—"

"As for the sort of people, all sorts go. Shabby people, to climb up all the stairs and get more out of the music than all the others put together. Real music lovers with scores, who get a downstairs seat by saving all year for it, and follow every note—though they're more for the symphonies than the opera. And the Social Register of course. The God-given chance to wear new clothes and furs and orchids. Of course you'll go to the opera! If it comes and they play Louise I'll take you," Monty had said; we'll sit in the second balcony."

"I can't believe I ever could go to the opera," she had murmured. But he had known she was not speaking to him but to her own thoughts.

(To Be Continued)

FARMERS KILL REDS

Hong Kong (AP) — The pro-Nationalist newspaper Sing Tao Jih Pao said Wednesday angry farmers killed or wounded more than 100 Communist soldiers last week in an uprising over an order to plant rubber trees in rice fields on Hainan, Red China's largest island off Indochina.

Natural gas produced in the United States furnishes about half as much available heat energy as the petroleum production.

FEEL RELAXED!

Ease that tension

Chew Wrigley's Spearmint Gum.

Pleasant chewing reduces strain.

Helps you feel relaxed.

Enjoy it anytime, anywhere.

good to chew... and good for you

WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT CHEWING GUM

Refreshing • Delicious

AQ-401

STEVE ROPER

POGO

ORPHAN ANNIE

LIL ABNER

HOPALONG CASSIDY

MUTT & JEFF

REX MORGAN, M. D.

DONALD DUCK

MARY WORTH

RADIO PROGRAMS

THURSDAY—P. M.

	KGW 620 NBC	KOIN 970 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1290 MBC	KGAE 1430 Ks.	KOCO 1400 LBS.
12:00	Noon News	News	Paul Harvey	Top Tradio	Record Room	News
12:15	Road Life	Get It	Noon Edit.	News	Record Room	Major
12:30	Pop. Young	Bus. Party	Sam Hayes	Gay 90's	Record Room	League
12:45	Happiness	Bus. Party	Art & Dottie	Music	Record Room	Maj. League
1:00	R.S. Wife	Hilltop Hse.	Kay West	Jack	Record Room	Major
1:15	Stella Dallas	Godfrey	Kay West	Kirkwood	Record Room	League
1:30	W. Brown	Godfrey	Kay West	Lucky U	Record Room	Major
1:45	Wmn in Hse	Godfrey	Kay West	Ranch	Record Room	League
2:00	Pinin Bill	Godfrey	Turn to a	News	Record Room	Major
2:15	Farrell	Godfrey	Friend	Music	Record Room	League
2:30	L. Jones	Godfrey	Summer	Music	Record Room	Music
2:45	Doc's Wife	Curt Massey	Bandwagon	Bet's Shopper	Record Room	Melody
3:00	Welcome	Wiz. of Odds	Know News	Music	Jim Dandy	Music
3:15	Traveler	Ruth Ashton	FM Edition	Music	Show	Melody
3:30	Dr. Paul	Ralph's Story	For the Girls	News	Jim Dandy	Music
3:45	D. Garroway	Tunefully	For the Girls	Paula Stone	Show	Melody
4:00	Life Beautif.	Kirkham	This Is Ore.	Felt. Lewis	Kids Korner	Music You
4:15	Star Time	Music Time	Sgrl Cars	Hemingway	Music Mart	Want
4:30	Music Box	Kirkham	Sgrl Cars	Curt Massey	Music Mart	Music You
4:45	Hits of Day	Kirkham	Happy Time	Sam Hayes	Music Mart	Want
5:00	Bill Stern	E. R. Murrow	Merrie Circle	Songs of B	Traffic	Tune Time
5:15	News	News	Virg. Pinkley	Bar B	Jamboree	Guest Star
5:30	L. McCall	World Today	C. Huntley	Wonderful	Supper Club	Music
5:45	E. Peterson	Frank Gass	Bob Garred	City	Supper Club	Songs
6:00	Relax with	American	Weatherman	G. Hesler	Supper Club	Candle Light
6:15	Music	War	Home Edition	N. W. News	Supper Club	and Silver
6:30	Eddie Cantor	Electric	Good	Serenade	Supper Club	News
6:45	Eddie Cantor	Playhouse	Listening	Sam Hayes	Supper Club	of Keys
7:00	Ralph	Meet Millie	Star of Space	Cisco Kid	Music —	Rosary
7:15	Edwards	Meet Millie	Star of Space	Cisco Kid	Music	Stars Emg
7:30	First Nighter	L. Thomas	Heritage	Music	Sign Off	Bandstand
7:45	First Nighter	Family Skelt.	Heritage	Music		Bandstand
8:00	Man's Family	Johnny	Summer	Crime Fig		Dugout Dope
8:15	World News	Mercer	Symphonette	Crime Fiters		Baseball
8:30	Roy Rogers	Geo. Fisher	Mike	Harmonies		Baseball
8:45	Roy Rogers	Orchestra	Malloy	Music		Baseball
9:00	Father	Orchestra	Coconut	Glen Hardy		Baseball
9:15	Knows	Orchestra	Grove Or	Felt Lewis		Baseball
9:30	Communist	On Stage	Mail Call	What Cooks		Baseball
9:45	Is. FBI	On Stage	For Music	Music		Baseball
10:00	Reporter	5-Star Final	Final Edition	Behind stry		Baseball
10:15	Sports Final	You & Work	Dance Time	Newsreel		Night News
10:30	Bob & Ray	Record Shop	Dance Time	News		Night Song
10:45	Bob & Ray	Record Shop	Dance Time	Deadline		Night Song
11:00	News	Nat'l. Guard	Dance Time	Deadline		Night Song
11:15	Lwsn McCall	Music	Dance Time	Music		Night Song
11:30	City Council	Music	Dance Time	Music		Night Song
11:45	City Council	Music	Dance Time	Music		Night Song
12:00	Sign Off	Sign Off	Dance Time	Mac Melody		Sign Off

FRIDAY—6 A.M. TO 11:45 A.M.

6:00	Dave West	2FJ Oregon	Farm Hr.	News	Breakfast	Western
6:15	Dave West	KOIN Klock	Farm Hr.	Timekeeper	Nook	Melody
6:30	Dave West	KOIN Klock	Farm Hr.	News	Breakfast	Farm News
6:45	Farm Time	KOIN Klock	Farm Hour	March Time	Nook	News
7:00	Entry Editor	KOIN Klock	News	Hemingway	Breakfast	KOCO Klock
7:15	Johnny Wills	News	M. Agronsky	Breakfast	Nook	KOCO Klock
7:30	News	News	Bob Garred	Breakfast	Breakfast	KOCO Klock
7:45	E. Manning	H. Babbitt	Bob Hasern	News	Nook	KOCO Klock
8:00	Old Songs	News	Breakfast	Cecil Brown	Jim Dandy	KOCO Klock
8:15	Old Songs	News	Club	Family Altar	Jim Dandy	KOCO Klock
8:30	Music Box	Helen Trent	Breakfast	Bible Hour	Jim Dandy	KOCO Klock
8:45	Music Box	Gal Sunday	Club	Bible Hour	Jim Dandy	News
9:00	News	Road Life	News	Dr. Sword	Back Fence	Ray's
9:15	News	Ma Perkins	Today's Star	Commentary	Matinee	Records
9:30	Music Box	Dr. Malone	Double or	Pastor Call	Back Fence	Ray's
9:45	Music Box	Guid. Light	Nothing	Bar. Counter	Matinee	Records
10:00	Hostess Hse	Mrs. Burton	C. Huntley	Glen Hardy	Matinee	Rays
10:15	Party	F. Mason	Music	Tells Test	Matinee	Records
10:30	Strike Rich	Norah Drake	My True	Coca Cola	Matinee	Rays
10:45	Strike Rich	Brighter Day	Story	Music	Matinee	Records
11:00	Bob Hope	Grand Slam	Whispering	Ladies Fair	Matinee	Rays
11:15	Ladies Choice	Music Spark.	Girl Marries	Ladies Fair	Matinee	Records
11:30	Phrase Pays	House	News	Qn. for Day	Matinee	Rays
11:45	Network Fea	Party	Keep Korner	Qn. for Day	Matinee	Records

FM Mag.: KOIN 10 1.1; 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. KEX 97.3, 5 to 9 p.m.

DIAL LISTING KOAC, 550

KOAC Thursday P.M.: 5:00, Children's Theater; 5:30, Europe Report; 6:30, News, Weather; 7:15, Evening Farm Hour; 8:00, BBC Theater; 9:00, Music; 9:45, Meditation; 10:00, Sign Off.

KOAC Friday A.M.: 10:00, News, Weather; 11:00, Concert Hall; 12:00, News and Weather; 1:00, French Music; 3:30, Off Shelf; 7:00, For Women.

SPANISH CLAIMS REJECTED

London (AP) — Britain stood as firm as the Rock of Gibraltar Wednesday in opposing talk by Generalissimo Franco of Spain ought to get the Mediterranean gateway fortress back. A British foreign office spokesman reiterated that his government flatly refuses to consider Spanish claims to Gibraltar.

Nearly two-thirds of American farms keep dairy cows.

ROOM & BOARD — By Ahern

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

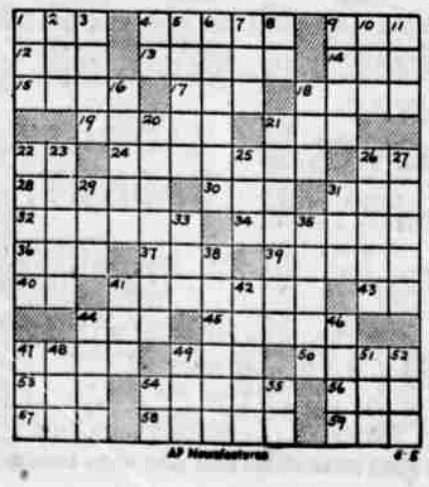
1. Chance
4. Malicious burning
9. Opening
12. Pronoun
13. Land elevations
14. River: Spanish
15. Heat
17. Nourished
18. Feathered friend
19. Article of furniture
21. Become
22. Jumbled type
24. Make ready
26. Broad street: abbr.
28. Old-womanish
30. Snow runner
31. Exist
32. Begins again
34. Newspaper official
36. Health resort
37. Electrified particle
39. Fear greatly
40. And: Latin
41. Dignify
43. New England state: abbr.
44. Poultry product
45. Youthful years
47. Composition for one
49. Evergreen tree
50. Long narrative poem
53. Take up weapons
54. Horse of a certain gait
56. Age
57. Affirmative
58. Sharp mountain spur
59. Animal's home

DOWN

1. By what means
2. Literary fragments
3. Saucy
4. Exclamation
5. Firearm
6. Slumbers
7. Antique
8. Nova Scotia: abbr.
9. Sand
10. Melody
11. Seed container
16. Tree of the genus Acer
18. Insect
20. Gathering
21. Cooking plate
22. Analyze grammatically
23. Not suitable
25. New Zealand tree
26. Roaring
27. Italian operatic composer
29. Feminine name
31. Partook of a meal
33. Male offspring
35. Goddess of peace
38. Pay attention to
41. Self
42. Flat cap
44. Trees
46. Hastened
47. Utter
48. Seaweed
49. Distant
51. Wrath
52. Is able
54. Parent: colloq.
55. Note of the scale

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

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle



AP Newsfeatures