



DEVIL-MAY-CARE

by ARTHUR SOMERS ROCHE
ILLUSTRATED BY DONALD RILEY

CHAPTER VII

Opposite the ruins of the Palm Beach hotel, the Minerva was moored. At the concrete dock of the Royal Danelli waited a motor boat.

"We was to take the lady aboard, ma'am," said Modane. "But I don't think we need to wait around to explain to her."

"Nor do I," said Lucy dryly. She stepped into the motor boat and five minutes later she was aboard the Minerva.

She heard a step upon the deck behind her. It was a feeble, somewhat uncertain step, but there was dominance in it just the same. As though some old Roman emperor, enfeebled, stalked his palace, stronger in his age than his subjects in their youth.

An exclamation sounded in the scented air:

"What the devil are you doing here? You got my message . . ."

She turned and looked at him. Lanterns on the deck illumined her face.

"Lucy!" he said. He sank heavily into a chair; she felt a swift pity as she saw his weakness. He would not be strong, really strong, for months.

"Tim," she said quietly.

He put his hand upon his heart. "You always were stimulating, Lucy, but now you've become exciting. May I ask what you are doing here?"

"Must a wife explain her presence upon her husband's property?" she retorted.

"A wife needn't," he said.

"Well," she hinted.

"Lucy!" There was something almost savage in the way he uttered her name.

He rose and moved awkwardly until he towered over her.

"I don't ever intend to let you play with me again," he threatened.

"Suppose I weren't playing," she replied.

He turned away from her, and sank into another chair, but closer to her.

"Lucy, I can not believe—"

"Why did you tell me that Modane saved my life, when it was you who did so?" she asked.

"Might win your gratitude," he evaded. "Might win your gratitude," he evaded.

"Isn't my gratitude worth taking?" she demanded.

"Who would take gratitude when he wanted love?"

"Oh you expect me to woo you, to make love to you, Tim?"

"Is it love that brought you here, Lucy?"

"What else could have done it? Tim, you're making me wonder . . . Tim, do you want me?"

There was a pathetic bewilderment in her voice, the hurt of a child who cannot comprehend why pain is dealt out to it.

"Want you? Is that a question? 'If it is not, what is?'"

"Do you want me? That's it," he stated.

"Must I say so? Is this a punishment, a humiliation for what I have done to you?"

"Your mind seemed to change before, Lucy. I want you to be sure. And before you answer—could you love a thief, Lucy?"

"I do," she made reply.

And with the words she felt a surging pride in her surrender. A thief, and she loved him. Ah, but her love should redeem him, should cleanse him, should ennoble him. And then, as he leaned above her, as his great arms swept her from her chair until she lay against his breast, she felt ashamed.

Who was she melodramatically to think of cleansing, of ennobling Tim? She put such thoughts away from her forever. They were not merely prideful, they were unworthy. For where she loved, she must love without reservation. It didn't matter what Tim had been. She knew what he was now. And she loved him now.

And then as her eyes met his, she knew something. Tim wasn't a thief, any more than he was a brute. She knew now why she had thought him a brute: because she, who wanted to be all sufficient to herself, had subconsciously realized that this man was her mate and her master, without whom she must remain uncompleted all her days. Maiden resentment, the defiance of the soul that is unwilling to blend its identity with another, had made her shrink from him, even as every fiber in her body called to him.

He was not a brute. Equally he was no thief, for a thief didn't have eyes like his, could not have eyes like his. Candor, decency, was in them for all the world to see. He might be overbearing, he might be vain,—God bless

him, why should he not have his vanity if he wanted?—but dishonest—never.

She placed her hands swiftly against his face and held her mouth from his.

"Tim, you did not steal?"

"Of course not, silly. But do you think I would have told you so? Darn it, Lucy, you have pride enough to be able to understand pride. But Leeson's client was certain that he'd been swindled. And I was so darned angry with him for doubting me that

—Well, it was my first business venture. Not really a business venture at that. He and I had bought a patent and I'd told him that I would guarantee it. I meant that I would guarantee the validity of the patent and he maintained I'd guarantee the practicability of the invention—a new motor valve. He had letters that supported his contention, although I had letters which proved my side. But I gambled, and lost. So, to pay him, I mortgaged everything I owned and then you believed Leeson—who damn well ought to be careful what he says—and I—well, I loved you, Lucy. I'd almost killed myself because of what your thought of me had led to, and I took your check and let you think the worst. An then I swore I'd pay you back not with my own money that I'd raised by selling stocks and mortgages, but with money that I had earned.

"Silly boy! But I like your pride. And you had the money all the time, you child?"

"Of course I had. I was writing a check for Leeson when you came with your bundle of money and your bundle of nerves and your bundle of emotions, and I swore I did not care whether you thought me a crook or not. I'd make you love the thief, and then, if you loved the thief, what might you not think of the honest man?"

She shook her head.

"No more than I thought of the thief, Tim. I could not love you any more than I did ten minutes ago, when I didn't know that you were as silly—"

"As Devil May Care sometimes is?" he suggested, smiling.

"As she was," she corrected. "For she isn't—not any more."

"I'm a married woman," she reminded him, "and no married woman has a right to be silly."

"No? And why not?"

"Because men are always silly, and some one has to be the balance wheel to keep the machine on its course, to keep it from tipping over."

"Devil May Care in a new role, the sober matron," he jeered.

"I can be that, Tim. The night that you—the night of Mrs. Clary's party I was talking to someone—was it Mr. Leeson?—and I said that I was really an old-fashioned girl. Well, old man, I am exactly that."

"You can hardly make me believe that, Lucy," he mocked.

"Oh, yes, I am. and I can prove it. I'm so old-fashioned that, having my husband's arms around me, I want to kiss him. I don't want to say another word. I want to be kissed. New-fashioned girls want to talk, but I want to be kissed."

"Well, that's one little thing I can do for you, Lucy."

His lips crushed against hers. Ah, who wanted freedom, when she could have this? Blessed old fate! Dear old Fate, who had guided Lucy Harkness Stevens straight to where she belonged—to her husband's arms.

THE END.

EUGENE YOUTH WINNER IN LONG BICYCLE RACE

Earl Cady, of Eugene, won the 80-mile bicycle race from Eugene to Corvallis and return which was sponsored by the Amateur Bicycle Association of America, under the direction of J. E. Moore, State representative in Eugene, last Saturday. Cady won a pair of bicycle tires and a gold wrist watch as first prizes. It took him just four hours, 34 minutes and 23 seconds to make the round trip.

Edward Cobb, of Eugene, won the second place in five hours and 13 minutes. Third place went to Dale Harvey, who took five hours and 15 minutes to make the trip. A Corvallis boy, Robert McLaughlin, came in fourth. His time was five hours 16 minutes.

More of these distance races are expected to be held at various times during the summer, according to Mr. Moore.

Albany Man Here—Fred Pohl, of the Albany office of the Mountain States Power company, is spending a few days in Springfield assisting at the local office.

LINCOLN SCHOOL PUPILS FORM CITIZENSHIP CLUB

Three Citizenship Leagues were organized at the Lincoln school on Friday by Mrs. Ella Lombard, civic instructor at the school. The object of these clubs is to assist and cooperate with the faculty in all school affairs and to promote a more honest relationship between all members of the school, also to study and use parliamentary law at all meetings.

The president of each group will conduct the current event study each Friday. A playground supervisor from each league will work on the school ground problems and report to Professor Moffitt.

The first section of the eighth grade selected Lama Brattain as president; Elvert Chetwood, vice-president; and Evelyn Bacus, secretary and treasurer. The second section of the same class chose Vivian Runte, president; Rena Boyd, vice-president; and Edna Hapner, secretary and treasurer. The eight B group elected Pearl Wills, president; Chester Gerber, vice-president; and Mary Smitson, secretary and treasurer.

SPRINGFIELD MAN GETS BOUNTY FOR BOBCAT

Martin Wiederholt, of route 2, Springfield, was paid a \$20.00 bounty at the office of the county clerk this week for one bobcat pelt. This is the first bounty to be paid to a Springfield man in March.

The cougar record set in January was not endangered during the month of February, according to a report from the state game commission. Only 26 cougars were killed during February and more than double that number met their deaths during the month of January. The heavy killing in January was attributed to the cold weather and snow which made it possible to track them in the woods.

CORVALLIS TEAM WINS LAST BASKETBALL GAME

Corvallis high school defeated the Springfield high school basketball team at Corvallis last Friday in the final game of the season for the home team by a score of 29 to 25. Springfield finished the season in fourth place, giving second position to Corvallis.

The lineup for the Friday game was Prochnow and Wright, forwards; Ernsting, center; and Squires and Morrison, guards. According to W. E. Buell, Morrison played a stellar game for his team, scoring most of the points made by his team.

FOREIGN MISSION WORK SUNDAY SERMON TOPIC

The service at the Methodist church next Sunday morning will be devoted entirely to the work of the Women's Foreign Missionary society of the congregation. It has become an annual custom at the church to set aside on day for observance of the work being done on the foreign mission fields. Rev. C. J. Pike will speak on the topic "Somewhere Else" at the service and the choir, under the direction of Arah Hoyt, will sing a special number.

Regular services will be held in the evening.

LOCAL PEOPLE ENJOY CAMPFIRE MEAL SUNDAY

Several local people took advantage of the warm dry weather Sunday and enjoyed a no-host dinner prepared over the open fire at Hendricks bridge. Those in the party were Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Rehban, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Seavey, Mr. and Mrs. Frank DePue, and Mr. and Mrs. Willard Cochran.

METHODIST LADIES AID MEETS ON WEDNESDAY

The Ladies Aid of the Methodist church met at the church parlors yesterday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. This was the regular monthly business session for the group and various matters pertaining to the organization were discussed.

Demonstrate Vacuum Cleaner Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Risher, of Albany, are spending the week in Springfield demonstrating the Premier Duplex vacuum cleaner for the Mountain States Power company. They are visiting all the towns served by the power company and demonstrating the cleaner in the homes of the company's customers.

CHAS. HALL ANNOUNCES GOVERNOR'S PLATFORM

Charles Hall, of Marshfield, state senator from Coos and Curry counties, formally announced his candidacy throughout Oregon today for the republican nomination for governor at the primaries, May 16. Mr. Hall said he would file with Secretary of State Hoss within the next few days. At the same time Mr. Hall announced that he would support very definite statewide politics, including high-way program completion, reorganization of state government, economy in state government and a readjustment of tax assessments. The senator pledged himself to support conservation of fish and game resources. He said that if elected he would favor state-wide enforcement of the prohibition laws, which he characterized



as "executive problem requiring eternal vigilance."

Oregon's Development Stressed Mr. Hall's platform calls for a uniting of all forces in the State looking toward Oregon's develop-

ment. "If elected I should feel the chief executive has a specific mandate from Oregon citizens to urge increased energy, greater vision and enhanced courage on the part of all citizens looking toward Oregon's progress. I ask that Oregon discard its 'inferiority complex,' and tell the entire world the truth about the state. In such a program the governor can take an effective part with entire propriety."

Starting without resources at 21, when he came here from western Pennsylvania, Mr. Hall in 28 years has successfully engaged in the drug, orchard, telephone and banking businesses. In the latter fields he has operated large enterprises from which he only recently sold his control.

For three terms he has been state senator. In community and state-wide chamber of commerce work he has been very active. As chairman of the roads and highways committee in the senate when major construction was begun, he has had a vital part in road development.

Hall Held Well Qualified Hall's supporters indicated that his extensive business experience well qualified him for the many executive duties of the governor.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall, who make their home at Marshfield, have two girls and two boys, all of whom are now in public school or university.

LOAD LIMITS ARE RAISED ON STATE HIGHWAYS

Restricted load limits on three Oregon highways were raised from 300 to 400 pounds per inch of tire width on Tuesday by the state highway commission. This now places the load limit on the Willamette, McKenzie and Siuslaw highways at just two-thirds of the regular summer load limit. Nothing was said in the instructions received here in this county as to how long the limit would remain at 400 pounds, but it is expected that no further changes will be made until the rainy weather is over, either in the latter part of May or in June.

The sections of the highways affected by the order includes the Thurston-Millican corners section of the McKenzie, the Lowell-Coahen section of the Willamette, and the Low Pass Summit-Cheshire division of the Siuslaw.

MAN 80 YEARS OF AGE TALKS SUNDAY NIGHT

W. H. Meyers, retired, of Eugene, was the speaker at the evening services at the Methodist church last Sunday evening. Rev. Pike was called to Coburg for the evening and Mr. Meyers, who is 80 years old, consented to come and address the local congregation.

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