WILD BEAUTY

by MATEEL HOWE FARNHAM

SYNOPSIS: Fanny Frost is unhappy. Forced by circumstances to live in the home of her husband's mother, she is constantly at swords' points with her mother-in-law, austere leader of the Frost-Brownbeck clan, aristocrats of Cloghburre, Pennsylvania. David, working in his uncle's bank, is too busy to help her with her troubles. Bob Daniels, unhappily married to Leila, David's wealthy cousin, is Fanny's closest friend. She likes Bob because she can tell him her troubles freely. Bob is in love with Fanny. David has no objection to their friendship, for he trusts Fanny absolutely. Bob, unhappy with Leila, plans to run away from her. Only Fanny knows of his plan.

Chapter 23

SEEDS OF DISCORD

DAVID had promised to take Fanny to Emily Bennett's Hallowe'en party on the night of October 31, the night Bob Daniels had told Fanny he planned to run away.

They were to go in costume, and David liked to dress up. Tonight would be the first time he had taken her anywhere in weeks. Fanny, driving home alone that afternoon from the Country Club, felt happy at the prospect.

Fanny had always loved the romantic old Bennett place, built and planted long before the Civil war. It seemed to her more French than American. The house was a miniature chateau, and the great park with its long avenues of poplars and cedars, its clipped hedges, marble seats, might easily be imagined as the retreat of a king's favorite. The place was made for lovers; tonight the moon was full. Oh to be young and in love and happy again! Even in the daylight the little sunken garden back of the house was so beautiful it brought a lump to Fanny's throat. What would it be in the enchanted light of the harvest moon?

David ought to be pleased. She not only hadn't seen Bob Daniels alone for several days—she hadn't seen him at all. It was silly and stupid of her to feel so piqued and hurt that Bob had not made an occasion to say good-by. It seemed decent at least to wish Bob luck, to tell him again how much good it had done her to rattle on to him to her heart's content. She wanted, too, to assure him that his understanding and sympathy (no matter how exaggerated) had brought her a new courage and hopefulness.

Why, with only a little courage, even a wavering backbone, she might easily seize the reins from Mrs. Frost. Fanny was suddenly very sure of herself. Bob or no Bob she meant to go on asserting her rights. She was smiling when she came in the front door.

As usual at that hour Mrs. Frost was sitting at the library table absorbed in the evening paper. The dull, dark, heavy-lidded eyes looked for a moment at Fanny—at her and through her.

"Good evening." She seemed to bite at the period—bite and hold onto it. Fanny, to her intense disappointment and chagrin, found herself trembling. Mrs. Frost was constantly on guard—always watching to see when she came in. One look—and it seemed to Fanny that a numbing horribly paralyzing *something* flowed from her mother-in-law to her—like an ectoplasm. It was as if any icy hand touched her heart, her will. In unreasoning panic Fanny turned and fled up the stairs two at a time.

David had returned early to get a much-needed nap, and been waylaid by his mother with sighs and complaints of her loneliness.

"It's been a gorgeous day—why didn't you get out?" he asked.

"Fanny has the car; I cannot afford to pay $5 every time I might like a drive."

"It's only 50 cents to go over to Cousin Emmeline's; she has a car; why didn't you ask her over here?"

"You know why. But you have requested me not very politely to hold my tongue on *that* subject."

She was referring of course to his cousin Emmeline's active resentment at Fanny for upholding Bob against Leila. Fanny had done nothing wrong, of course; but she was no child. Why couldn't she conduct herself so as not to be talked about? This afternoon he had learned that Fanny had overdrawn again at the bank—in spite of repeated promises to keep within her generous allowance.

David had barely composed himself to a half tense drowsiness when Fanny flounced into the room. David jerked himself instantly to a sitting position, lay down again quickly.

"What is the matter?" he growled.

"Nothing," said Fanny unsteadily, and laughed a trifle hysterically.

"If you don't mind going some place else—I *should* like a little sleep."

"Oh, I'm so sorry! Poor David." She tiptoed across the room, every board creaking. It was not until she had her hand on the nursery door that she remembered that Sheila was spending the night with her new love, little Margaret Philbrick. It was the first time Sheila had ever asked to sleep away from home.

"It will be nice having me home again, won't it, Mother?" she had inquired anxiously when Fanny stopped at the gate.

"The very nicest thing in the whole world, sweetest sweetheart," Fanny had assured her.

Fanny was so determinedly good-natured, so sweetly patient, that David, in a mood to quarrel, quite naturally was more irritated and irritable than ever. He had made up his mind on the way home not to speak that evening of Fanny's overdraft at the bank. But now he brought the matter up.

"You know how embarrassing it is to me."

"Oh, did I overdraw?" faltered Fanny. "I figured and figured—I was sure I had money to meet all my checks. I'll make it good out of my next month's allowance. Let's not talk about it any more tonight. We have to get dressed for the party."

David immediately smelled a rat.

"You're keeping something back," he accused. "If there's anything that exasperates me it's that—and you know it."

"Very well," sighed Fanny. "I didn't want to tell you tonight, but I've been fearfully silly. I got in a poker game at the club and I didn't know much about the game or the difference between the chips—and th first thing I knew I had lost $500."

"You mean to say you were fool enough to let that bunch of sharpers fleece you out of $500?"

"Yes."

"Then you haven't paid for your clothes—your last month's bills?"

"Not yet. But I'll pay them off month by month."

"Do you suppose I want the news going round that my wife can't pay her bills? How much do you owe exactly?"

"About—about $500 more."

"A thousand dollars in one month! Do you know how hard I have to work for $1,000?"

"Yes," said Fanny and began to cry. Bob had pleaded with her to let him pay those I.O.U.s. It was all his fault, he said, and no one need ever know but themselves. Bob was human and understanding, because he was a sinner like herself—made mistakes as she did. Bob was the only one, the only one in the world who understood and was kind to her. And he was going away . . .

David now regretted his harshness, but he told himself stubbornly that Fanny had played the fool and that it was fair and right that she should learn to pay for her mistakes, as he had learned to pay for his. Not that she really would pay—it was he who would have to advance the money she had thrown away, and dollars to doughnuts that Fanny would never get around to paying him back.

As he shaved he went over his wrongs, marshaling up forgotten grievances to stiffen his righteous anger, for a nasty little voice, kept insisting that he had been an unconscionable brute; Fanny had been so happy this morning, so sweet about his going to the party.

"Every nice thing is twice as nice if you share it," she had said. Fanny had counted on this party for days—counted on going with him—had made herself a gypsy dress at his suggestion. But it was a forlorn and drooping gypsy he found waiting in their sitting room, in spite of the bright dress and make-up.

"I'm sorry, Fan." David said gruffly. "I've been in a brute of a humor all day. I'll pay for the clothes—let's forget it."

"I prefer to pay for them myself," flared Fanny.

They went downstairs, got into the car, made the five-mile drive without further word.

Fanny's tears had left their natural aftermath. She felt bruised and sore, enveloped in a black and unreasoning despair. Everything she did was wrong; no matter how hard she tried she only upset David and added to his troubles; even Sheila was happy away from her.

David tortured himself for years asking himself what would have happened if he had let the matter of the overdraft go till morning. But we are getting ahead of our chronicle.

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Stung by David's outburst, Fanny is ripe for the misadventure that tempts her in tomorrow's chapter.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING GETS RESULTS

"Her Man" Opens at Holly Tuesday

Franklin Pangborn, Helen Twelvetrees and James Gleason in "Her Man", Pathé Picture

Although the game of bridge has absolutely nothing to do with the Pathe production of "Her Man," a dramatic picture in which Jimmy Gleason is feautred with Marjorie Rambeau, Helen Twelvetrees, Phillips Holmes and Ricardo Cortez, Gleason offered valuable suggestions on the game during an interval between shots that are well worth repeating.

"You won't be a howling hit at any card table," warned Gleason, "but you'll have a great time." Here are his suggestion:

1. Pick up your cards as dealt. You'll be ready to bid ahead of the others.
2. If you have a bum hand be sure to mention it. This will guide your partner in his bid and play.
3. If your partner bids first, don't hesitate to raise. He has to play it.
4. Never hurry. Try several cards on a trick before deciding which you prefer.
5. Occasionally ask what are trumps. It will show you are interested.
6. When you are dummy, help your partner with suggestions.
7. Remember that it makes for good fellowship to discuss other subjects during the game.
8. Do not hesitate to criticize your partner. It will put him on his mettle and improve his game.
9. Always trump your partner's tricks. Never take a chance.
10. It's too confusing to know all the rules. Don't try.
11. If it's a money game stop playing when you are ahead. You will make an impression on people.
12. Always explain every play, particularly when set. It shows your card knowledge.
13. Disagree with established rules and conventions. People will recognize you as an independent thinker.
14. Eat chocolate creams while playing. It prevents the cards from skidding.

The scenes of "Her Man," which will be on view at the Holly theater Tuesday and Wednesday, are said to be highly dramatic and thrilling. The picture was directed by Tay Garnett. Besides those named, the cast includes Harry Sweet, Stanley Fields, Mathew Betz, Thelma Todd and Franklyn Pangborn.

With the showing of this feature the Holly will show a special Christmas added attraction in keeping with the season. Old-fashioned carols will be sung by a large chorus. Rehearsals are being held every day for the dance presentation to be staged by the Eve Benson Dancing academy. There will be three dance specialties. The first "The Dance of the Wooden Soldiers"; second, "The Magic Clock," and the closing dance will be the feature of the stage show, "The Hymn of Joy," in which 28 dancers take part. The Holly offers a beautiful stage presentation as an added attraction Tuesday and Wednesday evenings only at 9:15.

"Song of the West," the all-color romance, with John Boles and Joe Brown, closes at the Holly tonight.

Stars in Romance

CHARLES ROGERS
in the Paramount Picture
"Along Came Youth"

Charles Rogers, that handsome young favorite of film fandom, whose sparkling zest made his name a household word in such comedies as "Safety in Numbers," "Follow Thru" and "Heads Up," renewed acquaintances with audiences at the Fox Craterian theatre yesterday when he appeared in "Along Came Youth," a refreshing romance comedy of sporting (and kitchen) life in jolly old England.

In "Along Came Youth" Rogers pleased the Craterian theatre patrons eminently. He is seen as a young American sportsman stranded in London after a series of reverses with his string of blooded horses at the race-tracks. Forced to take a job as a chef in the baronial mansion of a visiting South American millionaire, he bluffs his way thru the culinary duties, abetted by the comical blunderings of his trainer, Stuart Erwin.

There's a girl at a neighboring mansion with whom he falls in love; and there are any number of mirth-provoking events built round the bizarre situations of the play.

The finale is a thrilling steeplechase in which Rogers rides his favorite hunter to fame and fortune.

Rialto Serial to Open Here Thursday

Action is recognized as the life of a good chapter play, and Henry MacRae, who directed Universal's thrilling serial, "Indians Are Coming," has packed this production with a multitude of thrilling incidents and events. Recognized as the foremost serial director, MacRae does not spare man or animal in putting the "big punch" into a film that he directs. The first chapter of "Indians Are Coming," titled "Pals in Buckskin," will be shown at the Fox Rialto theatre Thursday. Tim McCoy and Allene Ray are featured.

America's folk songs are being collected and preserved at the Library of Congress.

Jeanette Coming

Jeannette MacDonald featured player in the Fox Movietone production "Oh, For a Man," which opens at the Fox Rialto theatre tomorrow.

Reginald Denny has played many roles on stage and screen but his first role as a burglar came in the role of "Barney McGann," a burglar with an ambition to be a great singer in Fox Movietone production, "Oh, For a Man!" in which he is co-featured with Jeannette MacDonald coming to the Rialto theatre. Inasmuch as this particular burglar breaks into the apartment of a famous prima donna in the dead of night to steal her jewels and remains to steal her heart, Denny claims it was not an unpleasant role to play.

Will Rogers Coming to Fox Craterian

Will Rogers may be the best known personality in America and internationally famous as a wit and philosopher, but on a motion picture set he is just a boy, a play boy.

Will Rogers

During the making of "Lightnin'," Fox Movietone comedy drama adapted from John Golden's tremendously successful stage play, on locations near Lake Tahoe, California, Rogers spent a great deal of his spare time playing with his well remembered rope and teaching twenty or more youngsters some of the tricks of casting a lariat.

"In Lightnin'," coming Wednesday to the Fox Craterian theater, Rogers portrays the role of "Bill Jones," who hates work as much as he likes his little nip. He is, as a rule, about half "lit up" and on such occasions tells the most outrageous and fanciful lies imaginable, including his boast that he "once drove a swarm of bees across the plains in the dead of winter and never lost a bee."

He is called "Lightnin'," on account of his methodical ways and because he is never in a hurry. He is a whimsical old character, kind and lovable.

In the end, he outwits a scheming lawyer, rights a great wrong and brings romance to his daughter, Millie, a character portrayed by Helen Cohan, youngest daughter of George M. Cohan of stage fame.

The role of Mrs. Jones, "Lightnin's" wife, is enacted by Louise Dresser, popular actress of both the stage and screen.

FORMER RESIDENT NOW IN RIO GIVES REVOLT SIDELIGHT

An issue of the Brzalian American, a weekly magazine published in Rio de Janeiro, South America, has been received by local friends of L. F. Ivanhoe, formerly of Medford, and now of Rio de Janeiro. This issue contains a detailed account of the recent revolution there, which resulted in a change of government.

The article, written by Harold A. Church, is accompanied by an editorial note stating that only "the more sensational and picturesque episodes are inevitably stressed in an account of a movement of this kind." In reports that many of the newspaper offices were destroyed, the editor continues, only three that had "supported the toppling government" were molested.

An amusing incident recorded in connection with the newspapers follows:

"When the office staff finally had to abandon their rooms, it was due to the smoke and heat, and to the water which was flooding all floors from smashed water faucets. A wild-eyed 'a noite' doorman, with his regulation uniform on, raced up the spiral stairs—elevators were out of business—hotly pursued by three rowdies armed with spiked clubs.

"They collared him on the 19th floor and told him politely but firmly that he would have to join their ranks or — a speculative glance toward the window—they would be obliged to take measures. The porter acceded to their request and rushed off with them shouting 'viva a revolucao!'"

At the outbreak of the revolution citizens of Rio de Janeiro tried to obtain information as to the state of affairs from the foreign press, as only "official news" was available in the capital. However, the Brazilian authorities seized all outside newspapers before they reached shore.

This was the first time in Brazil's history that revolutionists were supported by both the army and the navy. Washington Luis, the president, was surrounded by revolutionists in his own palace, but he was unmolested. He was given full guarantees by his opponents.

Although the president refused to resign, the revolutionists were victorious in Rio, and Getulio Vargas, "youthful northern revolutionist general" was placed at the head of the government upon his arrival in the capital.

Toledo. — Toledo Creamery installed new ice cream machine and enlarged cold storage department.

HOLD CAR OWNER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTS OF OTHERS

Because of a decision by the state supreme court last week Medford owners of cars, when they learn the full effect of the ruling, will be very careful to whom they lend their cars or let drive them for, according to this decision, the owner is liable for any member of his family, or any of his employes, for an accident with the car, and the owner is also responsible for the acts of a person to whom his automobile has been rented or let.

The decision is regarded as having a very important bearing on the motr car liability laws of Oregon, as well as liability concerning other forms of property.

One effect of the decision is that it may put an end to parents allowing their minor boys or girls driving the family car, a practice which some Medford and other Jackson county parents wink at, according to officers, although it is against the law for a youth under 16 to drive a car, trusting that no state traffic officer or policeman will discover it.

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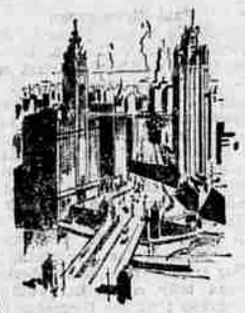

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