

Masked Longing

BY HOWARD ROCKEY A ROMANCE OF RADIO

SYNOPSIS: When an accident happens, a girl becomes a "mystery" radio singer. Her identity is concealed by a porcelain mask designed for her by a brilliant designer. Because of her disfigurement, she tries to forget her love for Jimmy Crane, a press agent. A masked woman shows Alleen Kronberg, cinema producer, while he is making advances to Victoria, Alleen's sister. Victoria, however, is threatened to leave. Alleen's identity is revealed. A telegram to Alleen signed "Adriatic" hints its sender may be the woman who shot Kronberg and threatens to throw the blame on Alleen. Alleen goes to Philadelphia to help Victoria in her predicament.

Chapter 24
BAD NEWS COMES IN PAIRS

JIMMY sat in the living room of Alleen's suite as he read through the fan letters that had come pouring in. The mail gave him an excuse for spending his time with her. But in view of Alleen's aloofness he almost felt like an intruder. That was a new sensation and he did not like it, but this was no time to ask her what the trouble was.

"Here's one you want to answer." He was studying a letterhead she had just passed to him.

"That one about the cripples? Naturally, I mean to—and I want to do something for them."

"I'll say you'll do something for them!" Jimmy was almost excited. "Here's a ready-made chance for a story—and it'll be a peach."

Alleen looked at Crane accusingly. "Do you only think of stories? I couldn't refuse a note like that. I'd like to meet this doctor."

"You will!" Jimmy chuckled. "You'd better sing that song for him at his hospital."

"Go there, you mean?" asked Alleen.

"Certainly. Some afternoon—so the little ones can hear you. Eddie Gluck couldn't buy the space the papers will give to that. Pictures, too. It's a bear!"

"Jimmy—I can't. You know why?"

"Of course you can and you might as well get used to such ideas." Jimmy was impatient. "Who is going to know about what's making you hesitate?"

"I'll know," she answered pathetically. "Those crippled kids will remind me—even if I could forget."

"Now, look here! This sort of thing won't do. You've gotten off to a flying start, and you've been on the stage long enough to realize how essential it is to keep in the public eye. What's more, there's no sense in your sitting here all the time you're not rehearsing. You've got to get out and do things."

Alleen wanted to cry, but she knew he was right. "Very well," she agreed, reluctantly. "If you think I should—I'll do it."

It was not going to be easy for her to force any break with Jimmy. It only they could be just like this—but, of course, they wouldn't.

Alleen remembered one night when she had almost surrendered—when there had been less reason for restraint than there was now. To have to hurt Jimmy would be bad enough. But what if her studied indifference should drive him away from her? She knew that she ought to hope it would—only she just couldn't! Nevertheless, she must force herself to abide by her resolution.

"Now that's being sensible." Jimmy took up the telephone and put in the call.

"Doctor Saunders? My name is Crane, and I'm speaking for Madeleine Masque. She was delighted to get your letter and she has a suggestion she would like to make to you."

She hesitated. "Can't you make the arrangements?"

"Nix!" Jimmy covered the mouthpiece. "I'm not news. You are. Here! Give him a neat little earful."

There was something magnetic in Doctor Saunders' voice. Alleen felt the thrill of it as she listened to him. His tones were suggestive of character translated into sound—pleasant, reassuring. There was no hesitancy now as she made her offer. Saunders accepted eagerly. What she proposed was splendid—thoughtful and generous. He could never tell her what it would mean to his little patients.

Any date would be agreeable—but he was leaving the hospital within the next few minutes. He had a call in Park Avenue, and, perhaps, if it was agreeable, he might drop in and arrange the details with her personally. Since she could not very well decline,

Alleen made the appointment for five that afternoon.

"Fair enough!" said Jimmy. "Apparently old cardboard is harmful to the ladies."

"Don't be silly!" Alleen was already sorry she had agreed to receive the man. If being a mystery meant interest of the sort that Jimmy hinted, she would need to be more careful—since she was a mystery that must remain unsolved.

"I'm not silly—I'm optimistic. I'll tip off the hotel reporters on my way. Then I'll be back in time to be helpful when he comes."

Alleen tried to be glad when Jimmy had gone but she found the effort pathetically unsuccessful. She had a natural desire to crown their camaraderie with a greater reward than friendship. And yet how pitiful was the return she could make to Jimmy! How empty was all that she might expect when her soul was longing—to give—and give unstintingly.

In spite of his great consolation, she almost hated the porcelain smile which masked her unquenchable yearning. She would have liked to tear it off, but even though she was alone, Alleen did not dare. Nora Nolan had gone out and, at any moment, a hotel attendant might knock. She went to the piano and drifted into the hit number of her radio program.

Had she fancied she heard a tapping or was someone at the door? For a moment she feared Doctor Saunders had come. His visit would prove embarrassing if Jimmy was not there. But it would not be the doctor. It was barely half past four, and the hotel would announce him over the telephone. Making sure that her mask set perfectly, Alleen went to the door.

It was a page-boy with a silver tray on which were two envelopes. One had been mailed, and the other, which had not been stamped, bore the crest of the hotel. "Just a moment," Alleen said, meaning to tip the boy. She knew he was looking at her mask with the well-trained curiosity of a smart hotel attendant.

"If you please, madam," he stopped her, "a gentleman is waiting. Is there any answer?"

"To this?" Alleen asked, and ripped open the Ambassador envelope. On a single sheet was written a scrawl in a hand distinctly foreign.

... Please pardon if this seems impertinent, but may I have a few minutes if it is not inconvenient? My room is in the opposite wing from the window of your suite, and just now I heard you singing the new Victor Program. Making inquiries at the desk, I was told that I heard the voice of Miss Masque herself.

Perhaps my name is known to you, and if you will grant an interview, there is a matter of business I should like to propose. Since I am about to leave the hotel, may I see you now?

The note was signed Arnold Kronberg.

Alleen was nonplussed. She had never met the man, much less even suspected that he was at the Ambassador. It was entirely possible that his request was genuine, and without ulterior motive. On the other hand, she doubted it, and if Nora Nolan had not come in as she stood hesitating, Alleen would have made some excuse to say that she could not see him. As it was, it might prove an advantage if she heard what he had to say. So she told the boy to send him up and opened the other letter.

It was addressed to her pseudonym, and might be from anyone who had seen or read about her. There was nothing but a picture in the envelope—a conventional holiday greeting, with the usual holly wreath and a Santa Claus. But the Kris Kringle had been cleverly changed, so that it resembled a girl and not a man. Pasted across the features was a tiny domino cut from court-plaster.

Hand lettered in ink on the face of the card was a single sentence—"May the Christmas Season bring you even more publicity!" It was signed *Adriatic*.

As Alleen stood staring at the impudent card, there was another knock at the door and she called to Nora Nolan to go and open it. The visitor would be Kronberg, and it would be an absurd mistake to decline to receive him now. In the moment or so that remained to her, Alleen tried to determine whether his request to see her and the arrival of *Adriatic's* card, could have been timed deliberately, or whether their coming together was mere coincidence.

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The high-spirited *Vivienne* met her old friend against Christmas with tomorrow. Who will win?

he recently purchased from J. E. Smithpeter. Mr. Morris is busy seeding his place to spring grain.

Mr. and Mrs. Smithpeter have been erecting a garage on Mrs. Smithpeter's farm, formerly a part of the D. E. Nathamer place, where they will reside. Mr. Smithpeter will begin building a house and making other improvements in the near future.

Mr. Green and son of Hornbrook, Cal., were callers at the Jesse Neathamer place Wednesday.

John Newman and son, Sam Newman, were business visitors in Grants Pass Monday.

Mr. Stephens and son Earl are helping J. E. Neathamer with his spring farming.

Mrs. Purrier left last week for an extended visit with her mother, Mrs. Butterfield, in Los Angeles.

Mrs. El Baker visited at Jesse Neathamer's last Monday.

Classified advertising gets results.

RURAL AND SUBURBAN NEWS

WILLIAMS CREEK

WILLIAMS CREEK, Ore., Feb. 6.—(Special)—C. W. Roberts drove to Medford Friday to meet his daughter Grace, from Berkeley, Calif., who will spend the summer with her parents on Williams creek.

Sunday callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Roberts were Mrs. Rose and Ted Edinger of Grants Pass, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Lewman and Ambrose Pennington.

Miss Inez Lantzwart of Los Angeles, has been spending some time visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Messenger and other friends of Provoit. Miss Lantzwart lived at Provoit when a child. Her father, S. A. Lantzwart, having kept the store and postoffice at Provoit for several years. She left Sunday for Medford where she will spend two or three days with her friend, Arlita Messenger, then return to Los Angeles to take up her duties as nurse.

Mrs. Tom Lewman of Provoit who was taken to the Sacred Heart hospital at Medford two weeks ago, is improving slowly. Ladies of the Provoit club drove to Evans creek last week and met at the home of Mrs. Brooks, who recently moved from Provoit. There were twelve ladies present. An all day meeting with a covered dish luncheon at noon was greatly enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith and Mr. and Mrs. LaFlamme of Wildersville were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Deemer of Provoit. Mrs. Deemer and Mrs. Keith are sisters.

Mr. and Mrs. Keadel and Mr. and Mrs. Banks Newcomb were guests at a turkey dinner Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Smith of Murphy.

Mrs. Frank Fairweather and small son Donald, left Thursday for Santa Cruz, Calif., where she will join her husband. She drove down, accompanied by Mrs. Ted Edinger of Grants Pass, who will visit for two weeks with Mrs. J. N. Loyd of Berkeley.

Mrs. Badden, a teacher in the Wildersville school, spent the week-end on Williams creek, most of her friend Miss Bonnie Polard. Mrs. Badden taught in the Williams school two years ago.

Juniors and seniors of the Williams high school entertained the freshmen and sophomores with a party at the Grange hall last week.

Junior high school basketball teams of Grants Pass played the Junior team of Williams school last week at the Williams community hall. The Junior Midgets of Grants Pass played the girls' team of Williams, Grants Pass winning by a small score.

Mrs. Baines' hospital spent the week-end at the home of her parents at Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cougle were business visitors in Grants Pass Wednesday and called on friends.

Mrs. Anna Smith, Mrs. May Martin and Mrs. Roberta Evans, all of Phoenix, spent Tuesday of last week with Mrs. C. W. Roberts.

Boy Scouts basketball team of Grants Pass played the Williams high school Tuesday evening at the Williams community hall. The score was 8 to 4 in favor of Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Sid King and small son Ray, were Sunday visitors at the home of Mrs. King's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cougle, of Williams.

Joe Varner has the contract for moving the county tool house from near the county home to the fairgrounds.

Mrs. Orrin Ellis of Williams visited her sister, Mrs. Heed, at the Grants Pass hospital Tuesday and found her improving.

BUTTE FALLS

BUTTE FALLS, Ore., Feb. 6.—(Special) Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hildreth spent Saturday evening with Mr. and Mrs. R. Butte on Lozier Lane in Medford.

Mrs. Virgil Gillette and son of Ashland are visiting Mrs. Everett Olds.

Miss Corryell had company from Ashland Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carson are spending several days in California. Mrs. Carson visiting friends in Shasta while Mr. Carson is making an extensive tour over California.

Mr. and Mrs. Webber have moved to Klamath and Irene Webber is with her uncle and aunt in Glendale.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart spent Saturday shopping in Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Lockhard of Lincoln, Neb., Mr. and Mrs. Will Lockard of Medford, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Wymore and Ralph Wymore were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Marion, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Lockard visited Mr. Lockard's brother in Medford.

Iona Mae Edmondson had a birthday party Jan. 31, her fourth anniversary. Guests were: Delbert Geppert, Virginia Hickey, Wesley Hickey, Leonard Hickey, Peggy Stewart, Jessie Netherland and Lowell Patton. They played games and had birthday cake and ice cream.

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Moore spent four days in Medford and returned Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Weber came over from Klamath Falls to move over some of their household goods. They returned Wednesday morning. Mr. Weber is employed by the Keeterson Lumber company as engineer.

Mrs. N. B. Stoddard is confined in her home with a miscarriage. The mail goes out of 11 a. m. now.

APPLEGATE

APPLEGATE, Ore., Feb. 6.—(Special)—Mrs. Cora Crump spent a few days this week visiting relatives in Medford.

Archie West accompanied his uncle, S. C. Godlove of Medford, and his grandmother, Mrs. Henshaw of Idaho, who is spending the winter here, to Crescent City, Cal., Saturday. They returned this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dalley and two children of Central Point spent several days last week here, visiting at the home of Walter Zeilinger.

Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Bates of Talent motored to the Applegate Sunday afternoon, where they visited friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack O'Brien spent Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Riley Norris. Cards were played till a late hour, with refreshments served at midnight.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Young and daughter Marilyn of Ashland were Sunday guests here at the home of Mrs. Yanna's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Kleinhammer.

Although it is only the first of February, we are having some real springtime weather on the Applegate. The farmers are all busy getting the plowing and planting done, while the farmers' wives are busy planting early garden and fixing flower beds. Even the rattlesnakes are crawling about, looking for the warm sunshine, as Henry Kuhl killed a large one this week that had seven rattles and a button.

One Arnold of upper Applegate is in a very serious condition at the Community hospital at Medford. Ode had an abscessed tooth which caused blood poisoning. It was lanced from the outside and a drain inserted. The latest report was that she is some better.

Mrs. Victor Anderson and Mrs. C. W. Only called on Mrs. Raymond Phillips one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Dawson were called to Roseburg last week by the death of Mr. Dawson's mother, who had been an invalid for a long time. They returned home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Pennington of the Oak Grove district and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Groves of Medford were Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Taylor.

Mrs. Lee Port, as chairman of the home extension unit, held the first meeting at the Applegate hall last Tuesday since the organization of the club, January 13. Mrs. Port appointed four committees to serve under the following headings: Social committee, membership, publicity and refreshment.

The club members are taking up a six lesson course of the study of "Behavior Problems of Children," which comes to them through the office of the Oregon

State college extension unit. Four members will study each lesson and make a report at the following meeting. Those studying the first lesson are Mrs. Harlan Conrath, Mrs. Jack O'Brien, Mrs. Tom Mee and Mrs. Lee Port. Mrs. Port also talked of the conference which is to be held at Medford next Friday and Saturday, February 6 and 7, and urged all club members to attend.

Jim Smith, who underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Community hospital recently, is back at his home on Sterling creek.

Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mrs. Cora Crump included Mr. and Mrs. Jack Crump and two sons from Medford and Mr. and Mrs. George Dewey of Agate.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Straub entertained last Sunday for the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dusenberry of Medford, Mrs. Marion Young and family and Dolmer and Harold Smith of Willow Springs.

Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anril Gilson included Mrs. Hattie Logan, Sam Randall of Jacksonville and Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Kleinhammer.

The Little Applegate Mining company has at last got everything in preparation and has started mining the Luncheon place. Since the installation of the electric lights they are running a night crew as well as day crew, and have plenty of water.

Mrs. Corinne Ginei motored to Medford Thursday to visit her daughter Olive, who has been ill for the past few days with a cold.

Mr. and Mrs. Conner of Wagner creek have moved to this section and will reside on the Wilbur Cameron ranch with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hanscom and family.

The Neighborhood Embroidery club met last Wednesday with Mrs. Jim Buckley. The afternoon was

well spent with visiting and sewing. Refreshments of tea and cake were served. Applegate people were very much surprised to hear of the death of Harold Kuhl last Tuesday. A host of friends and acquaintances day morning at the hospital in Medford. Mr. Kuhl was born and raised in this community and to the bereaved family.

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"We'll have to go out for dinner tonight!"

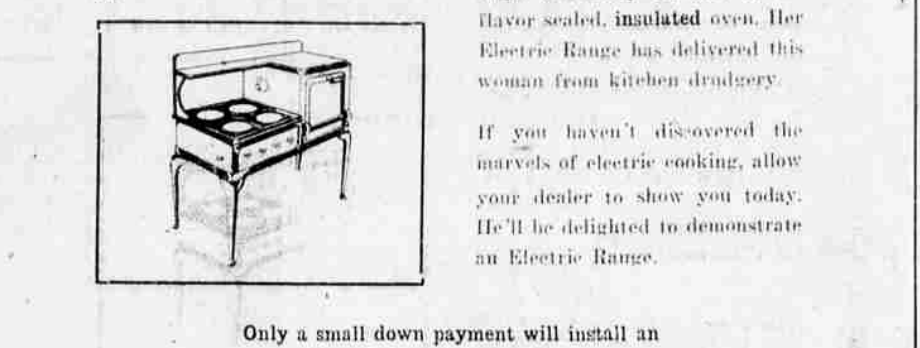
SHE'S been playing bridge to-day, and didn't get home to start dinner in time. Now she wants him to take her to "Ye Olde Tea Shoppe" for dinner. And gosh, how he hates it all. All the way home he's been thinking of lowering his aching bones into his favorite chair.

The woman with an Electric Range never has to make that unwelcome suggestion. She always has dinner ready on time... and she can spend as many afternoons out as she wishes. Before she leaves, she slips the dinner in the oven, adjusts the dials and forgets it.

For she knows that at the right time the heat will turn on automatically... sustained, uniform electric heat... and stay on till the dinner's cooked. Then the heat turns off... but the dinner stays deliciously warmed in the flavor sealed, insulated oven. Her Electric Range has delivered this woman from kitchen drudgery.

If you haven't discovered the marvels of electric cooking, allow your dealer to show you today. He'll be delighted to demonstrate an Electric Range.

Only a small down payment will install an Electric Range in your home.



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CITY DIRECTORY

FOR 1930 AND 1931

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- 2 All business firms, their street numbers and nature of business
- 3 Number of children under 18 years of age.
- 4 Classified Buyers' Guide.
- 5 Classified Business Directory.
- 6 Street and Avenue Directory with householder and property owners' guide.
- 7 Numerical Telephone Directory and information.
- 8 Statistics concerning Medford and the Rogue River Valley.

All of these features are offered to you in a neatly printed, compact directory which is available to you for—

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PHONE 75 -- ORDER YOUR DIRECTORY NOW

UPPER EVANS VALLEY

UPPER EVANS VALLEY, Ore., Feb. 6.—(Special)—Mr. Morris of Medford is moving to the ranch

Headache

An IR-NATURE'S REMEDY Tablet will promptly start the needed bowel action, clear waste and poison from your system, and bring welcome relief at once. The mild, safe, all-vegetable laxative. Mrs. T. T. H. Co.

TO-NIGHT TO-NIGHT

The All-Vegetable Laxative

New

Use for the stomach, quick relief for sour stomach, acid indigestion and for sour stomach. Tons are saturated. Only one heartbeat. Tons are saturated. Only one heartbeat.