

A PATH TO PARADISE

by Coningsby DAWSON

SYNOPSIS: Santa just has returned to her philandering husband Dicky in Chicago when she leaves that he has given her sole custody to a girl whom he had known before their marriage. It is too much, and perhaps seeing Olive, the lover she had liked for Dicky, at her parents' house in New Jersey helped her to a decision. She goes to a lawyer friend.

Chapter 14 SANTA BARES HER HEART

"I NEED someone I can trust," Santa declared. She pulled herself together with an effort. "I'm here to learn what are the grounds for a divorce."

"You're thinking of divorcing Dicky?"

She hadn't shocked him. His expression was unperturbed as if she'd enquired how much his wife paid for butter.

"Before I can give an opinion I must hear the provocation."

Her sense of the inadequacy of exposing her tragedy faded. Garstead's attitude was as matter of fact as that of a doctor examining a patient. She forgot that they both were young and were discussing her dead passion. In an aloof way, imitating him, she viewed herself as a case. Her burden grew lighter. With a question here and an astute suggestion there, he coaxed from her her story.

"This Olive," he planned her, "your old suitor, couldn't be made the excuse for a counter-charge by your husband?"

"How could he? I've not written him a line. He's been out of the country since I married. It was only by pure luck—I mean accident—that I met him at my parents'."

"We lawyers are compelled to be intrusive."

Dicky was gathering. Windows in the ramparts opposite were beginning to shine. He switched on the lights.

"As I see things, Santa, you've got your husband cold. Habitual drunkenness. Non-support. If they don't constitute cruelty, I don't know what does."

She began pulling on her gloves. "If I decide to proceed against him, what should be my first step?"

"You must leave him and establish a separate domicile."

"Thanks tremendously." She rose almost gaily. "I felt I ought to know to be on the safe side."

As he accompanied her to the elevator he chaffed her.

"You'll have only one difficulty: to persuade any judge that a man who had been so fortunate as to marry you could be unfaithful."

"Dicky didn't have to struggle," she glanced up side-long.

"If he could only see you as other men see you."

"Men who aren't married to me," she retorted.

It was her parting shot. The sliding door of the elevator flew open. With a smile, unconsciously sirenish, she vanished.

Not till the chill air of the street had restored her did she realize that her afternoon had been enjoyable. It had put her in a good humor. Paul Garstead had proved to be a thoroughly nice person. She wondered vaguely whether he often held such intimate conversations. She ran over snatches of what they'd said. They sounded desperately like the prelude to flirtation.

She'd heard that divorce lawyers often married their clients. What more natural? They had to flatter a woman by pretending to believe she was always in the right. A husband who believed his wife always in the right was the kind for whom every woman was searching.

Scandalized, she discovered that she was light-hearted. She probed for the reason. Merely because a man had implied—not a syllable more—that she was desirable.

"Don't be a debutante," she upbraided herself.

Her lapse into frivolity inclined her to be charitable. There was the bare chance that she'd jumped to mistaken conclusions. To invite Dicky to an explanation was the only fair course. The prospect of having to provoke another scene sobered her.

Beyond the door as she approached, she could hear the phone ringing. Some seconds were lost in finding her key. The apartment was in darkness. Again she wasted time in groping for the switches. The phone continued to insist and command.

"Hello!" she exclaimed fretfully. "I should hope so." Dicky's voice. "Been trying to reach you

for the past two hours. Don't wait dinner. Got a business conference."

"It won't do, Dicky." She spoke firmly. "This is my first night back."

"Too bad, darling. The conference is about those mines. And it's too worse, too; I have to sleep on a train, for I'm due in St. Paul to-morrow."

"For another conference?"

"You're becoming quite a cute little guesser."

"I don't believe a word of it, Dicky. For some reason you're afraid of me."

"For heaven's sake!" He yawned so that she heard him. "This is your chance as much as mine. If the deal goes through, we'll be in clover."

"Then I wish you luck. If I don't see you again."

"But you will." His tone became anxious. "I have to fetch my suitcase. If you're a kind little wife, you'll have it packed."

She made her toilet with special care, choosing the high-waisted Victorian gown with the billowy skirt, which he'd loved when he was courting. Between tears and temper she flung his travelling kit into his suitcase. Dinnerless and wounded she sat down to wait for him.

Hours slipped by. Seven. Eight. Nine. There would be no time to deliver her ultimatum. To start a discussion with a husband in a hurry would be useless.

Her reading of his character became clear and yet more clear. From that third night of the honeymoon when he'd called her Lou-Lou she'd been continually stumbling on discoveries. Most of them she'd refused to admit till now. They had come to her in fragments. She pieced them together like a Chinese puzzle. At last she had no doubt that she knew all about him.

His key in the latch. She snatched a book. He entered briskly, humming.

From the hall he called to her, "Got my suitcase ready?"

"In the bedroom."

She heard him go in search of it—then his footsteps returning.

"Well, I'm off, darling."

"That's good."

"Not huffy, I hope."

"You're an optimist."

"Bless my soul, I hadn't noticed. You're all dolled up. Why the magnificence?"

"O, not along."

She turned a page. He approached and stood over her.

"Expecting someone?"

There was one name with which she could always annoy him.

"Joking aside," she glanced up, "to whom did you lend my coat? To Lou-Lou?"

"Been snoooping! So that's how you've spent the afternoon?"

"I'll hand it to you, Dicky, when you place your affections, you're tremendously loyal."

"You're right." He twiddled his mustache—a sure sign that he was confused. "I hate to quit on anybody. The poor kid was down and out. I used to be her pal. Of course when I married you—so in a sense I felt responsible. Surely you don't blame me!"

"Blame you, for playing the good Samaritan!" She opened her eyes charmingly wide.

"I wish I didn't have to go." He perched himself on the arm of her chair. "You strike me as queer, Santa—too darned polite. What are you planning about the twenty thousand?"

"Oh, that! You really must go, Dicky. Look at the time. I'll give you my answer later."

"That's not very satisfactory. These fellows in to meet will expect me to be definite."

He hovered uncertainly; then picked up his suitcase. She accompanied him to the hall and submitted to his embrace.

The moment he was gone, she slipped the chain in place. She might have forgiven him had the girl been anyone but Lou-Lou.

Next morning she removed all her belongings to storage. She was scrupulously honest, leaving him his share of the wedding presents and the bed, which had been his solitary contribution to the furnishings. To the pillow she placed a note referring him to her lawyer.

Her final act in the ritual of departure was to tiptoe through the empty rooms. She'd promised him his answer; here it was with no word spoken. She pictured the surprise of his homecoming.

(Copyright 1931-1932, Coningsby Dawson)

Tomorrow, Dicky Pak does just what nobody would have suspected.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—(AP)—Aside from general interest in the presidential and gubernatorial contests next Tuesday, political leaders are paying particular attention to senatorial races in a dozen or more states.

Chief interest of the party captains is centered on the senatorial races in California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin, along with several others.

In California, Tallant Tubbs, young Republican state senator; William G. McAdoo, former Democratic secretary of the treasury, and the Rev. Robert P. (Bob) Schuler, prohibition party candidate, are in a three-cornered contest for the junior senatorship left open by the primary defeat of Senator Samuel M. Shortridge, Republican.

Tubbs is for outright repeal of the 18th amendment. McAdoo stands on the Democratic repeal platform.

Medical Society Meeting Tonight

Jackson County Medical society will conduct a meeting at the Lilia Springs hotel in Ashland this evening, with Dr. Harvey Roberts of Ashland giving a dinner there at 7 o'clock. During the meeting to follow, Dr. G. C. Bellinger of the state tuberculosis hospital in Salem, will give a paper on tuberculosis.

Dr. Bellinger will conduct a clinic in Medford tomorrow.

Phone 842. We'll haul away your refuse. City Sanitary Service.

Dry slabs \$1.00 per tier. You haul 'em Medford Fuel Co.

Cars Crush Hand Gold Hill Worker

Arthur Braden of Gold Hill was rushed to the Sacred Heart hospital yesterday morning to receive treatment for his hand which was severely crushed between two railroad cars he was coupling at the Portland Beaver Cement plant. Braden underwent an operation on his hand.

Tax Collection Continuing Brisk

Tax collection continued "fairly brisk" yesterday in the sheriff's office, with slightly more than \$18,000 being paid. Largest amounts recorded yesterday were from the J. C. Penney Co. of this city, and the Pacific Telephone company. The former remitted \$1800, and the latter \$7500. The remainder was from small taxpayers.

The final day for paying the last half of the 1931 taxes is Nov. 5. After that date delinquent and interest payments are attached.

HOME LOAN BANK OF PORTLAND HAS FLOOD OF PLEAS

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 2.—(AP)—Walter Hadlock, former state bank commissioner of Utah, tentatively appointed treasurer of the federal home loan bank of Portland, 11th district, today undertook the duties of office manager of the institution and was in conference most of the day with J. T. S. Lyle of Tacoma, tentative manager of the bank.

Meanwhile, requests for direct loans on real estate throughout the six states and Alaska, comprising the 11th district, were pouring into the Portland office.

Hadlock's appointment as treasurer has been sent to Washington, D. C., but as yet has not been confirmed. In addition to having temporary possession of the treasurership, Hadlock has been employed as office manager and will continue in this capacity whether or not his treasurership appointment is approved, Lyle said.

Lyle's appointment as manager of the bank likewise has not yet been confirmed by the Federal Home Loan bank board.

Hadlock said he has not yet moved

his family to Portland, but expects to do so soon.

KLAMATH BUILDER SUICIDES IN AUTO

KLAMATH FALLS, Nov. 2.—(AP)—The body of Algot Westman, 42, building contractor, was found slumped in the seat of his automobile in a monoxide gas filled garage at his home this morning.

Police said it was a plain case of suicide. Westman had placed a garden hose in such a position as to carry the gas from the exhaust of the automobile to the interior of the car. Officers said he had quarreled with Mrs. Westman.

TRADE ON COAST HOLDING GROUND

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 2.—(AP)—Optimism held its ground in Pacific coast trade centers the last week. The Bradstreet coast survey indicated, though changes were minor.

San Francisco—Canned fruits and vegetables moving freely.

Los Angeles—Employment continues upward slightly.

Seattle—No important change in business generally.

Spokane—Building remains very slow.

Portland—Lumber orders increase; Home Loan bank opens.

Real Estate or Insurance—Leave it to Jones. Phone 798.

ONE-POUND BABY EXPECTED TO LIVE

CLEVELAND, Nov. 2.—(AP)—A new claimant to the championship of featherweight babies was discovered today.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sens of Brockville, and at six days of age tips the scales at exactly one pound and six ounces. She'll have to stay in the incubator for a while, but hospital attendants said she is normal and healthy, and has every chance of outgrowing her title.

Hate remodeled, blocked and cleaned. Adel Lee Millinery, M. M. Dept. Store.

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TAILSPIN TOMMY—He Couldn't Afford To Miss!

I WISH I HAD A LITTLE MORE EXPERIENCE AT THIS HITCH-HIKING BUSINESS.

HEY! STRAW!

WHAT IS THIS A HOLD-UP? NOPE—JUST A HITCH-HIKER IN A HURRY TO LEAVE THIS NECK OF THE WOODS! WILL YOU GIVE ME A LIFT?

WELL, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE LONG AND GO FAR AS A HITCH-HIKER YOU BETTER TAKE A COURSE IN CAR RAILING. NO EXPERIENCED RIDE MOOCHER STANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HIGHWAY.

BORRY—THIS IS MY FIRST OFFENSE, AND IT'LL BE MY LAST IF YOU DON'T LET ME RIDE WITH YOU—AND THEN STEP ON THAT GAS!

BOUND TO WIN—The Departure

ALL SET FOLKS? MEL RYDER IS GOING TO WAIT HERE UNTIL I RETURN.

RECKON YOU CAN GET ALPHEUS DANA YOUR PARROT, TO STOP BELLERIN ABOUT BANKS AND STOCK MARKETS LONG ENOUGH TO GET YOUR GUY TO US, BILL?

WELL, I'LL SAY SO LONG NOW TO YOU BOTH—

OH, MR. HASSETT! DON'T FORGET THE BANK! DON'T FORGET THE STOCK MARKET!

IT'S NO USE, FOLKS! THAT FOOL PARROT'S JUST LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE—HE CAN'T FORGET THE PANIC!

I BROUGHT YOU IN ANOTHER WAY BECAUSE THE TIDE IS IN—ALL RIGHT, BOYS, WE'LL LOAD UP NOW AND GET GOING—HERE, JONATHAN, ARE THE CLEARANCE PAPERS FOR YOUR EMERALDS SO YOU CAN GET THEM OUT OF CUBA?

GEE, BILL, YOU NEVER FORGET ANYTHING!

WELL, I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU FOLKS, AND I'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO YOU—YOU BROUGHT ME MEL RYDER, AND HE'S A MAN WHO SEES EYE TO EYE WITH ME ON EVERYTHING—YES SIR, MEL'S STAYING ON—HERE FOR KEEPS AND IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU AND JONATHAN I'D NEVER HAVE KNOWN HIM!

S'MATTER POP—Stretching Pleasure

MAW, ARE YA ONLY GONNA GIMME ONE PEETH OF BREAD WITH BUTTAH AN' APPLE THAUTHE?

IS IT IMPORTANT THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW?

YETH'M, KINDA!

WHY?

IN CATHE YOU DON'T GIMME ANY MORE I CAN EAT THITH PEETH KINDA THLOW!

THE NEBBS—The Low-Down

LISTEN, HEIT, I TOLD YOU I WANTED THIS MAN NEBB, THIS RELATIVE OF YOURS, DEFEATED AND NOW MY CONFIDENTIAL MAN PETE GEMNER TELLS ME HE'S GOT A GOOD CHANCE TO WIN!

THIS FELLOW NEBB IS A GREAT CAMPAIGNER—IT'S ALMOST A SHAME TO BEAT HIM—I'M TRYING MY BEST BUT IT'S ON MY OWN ACCOUNT BECAUSE I CAN'T HANDLE HIM—AND I WANT YOU TO PUT THIS IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT UNTIL THE ASHES COME THROUGH THAT FOR THAT LITTLE TURN YOU DID FOR ME, I'M NO MONKEY-ON-A-STICK FOR YOU!

I'VE PAID YOU BACK A HUNDRED TIMES IN CHANCES TO MAKE DOUGH—WHAT DO YOU WANT, A MAN'S RIGHT TO LIVE?

I WANT THIS FELLOW NEBB DEFEATED AND WHEN I WANT ANYTHING, I WANT IT—I'VE GOT A MEMORY THAT LIVES LONG AND A MIND THAT NEVER FORGETS OR FORGIVES.

BRINGING UP FATHER

LISTEN—ARE YOU POSITIVE THAT I'M NOT ELECTED?

I'M SORRY—BUT YOU HOLD THE RECORD FOR THE WORST DEFEAT IN THIS TOWN.

TA-TA—TE—TUM—TA—?

I'M GLAD YOU'RE PHONIN' FOR A DOCTOR—I WUZ JUST GONNA PHONE FOR ONE FOR YOU.

I AINT PHONIN' FER NO DOCTOR—I NEVER FELT BETTER AN' I AINT DIPPY.

HELLO—DINTY, I'M JUST ONE OF THE BOYS AGIN—COOK UP ABOUT SIXTY DOLLARS WORTH OF CORNED BEEF AN' CABBAGE—I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN—

ALL-DAY AUCTION ON BALFOUR FARM IN ASHLAND AREA

P. G. Miller of San Jose, who recently purchased the entire Balfour-Guthrie ranches at Ashland, intends to operate his holdings as a stock ranch and therefore will dispose of all machinery, tools and dairy equipments at public auction November 14. It was announced today. With the purchase of this property he secured \$6000 of new machinery and a new \$20,000 modern dairy barn fully furnished with the latest Loudon equipment.

The property is being sold to make Mr. Miller's holdings conform to his purposes of operation. Catalogue of articles will include over 300 items making an all-day sale necessary. There will be a lunch stand to serve hot coffee, sandwiches, etc., during the noon hour.

It is expected that this sale will draw a large number of dairymen and ranch owners from the Coos Bay district, as well as from northern California and the Klamath basin. Walter H. Jones of the Land Auction company, said today.

CENTRAL POINT C. E. DEMAND ENFORCING PROHIBITION LAWS

As the result of carefully studying the effects of alcohol on the mind, body, individual, society, and government, during the month of October, the young people of the Federated Churches of Central Point, 64 in number passed a resolution putting themselves on record as demanding the protection, the enforcement of laws and the observance of the constitution in full, and stated their intentions as follows:

"Believing that the use of intoxicating beverages is destructive of physical fitness, mental alertness, and moral power, we solemnly covenant that we will abstain from such use, and in the interests of a sober, intelligent citizenry, will do all in our power to prevent the sale and use of such, and demand that for our future safety the dry laws be left as they are and enforced.

"For the sake of these and thousands of others in our great nation let the voters perform their duty before God on Nov. 8, as never before and keep our country dry!"

WORLD OF FLAVOR WRIGLEY'S KEPT RIGHT IN CELLOPHANE

A bulletin posted in the Federal building here today calls for "sealed bids in duplicate" for the repair of a broken chair leg, which will be opened here and forwarded to the treasury department for approval and award. Should there be no bids, Postmaster J. P. Smith explained, he is authorized to have the work done at his own discretion. He said these regulations must be followed.

For Sale—Dry slawwood at unbelievably low prices, \$3.50 per load, 12 or 16-in. Valley Fuel Co., Tel. 76.

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By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST

By EDWIN ALGER

By C. M. PAYNE

By SOL HESS

By George McManus