

Buying Barbara

By Julia Cleff-Addams • Author of "YOU CAN'T MARRY"

SYNOPSIS: The arrogant Mrs. Lodely has sent his humble Barbara Quentin, two curt leigrams to join him in London. Barbara returns, with a third, more conciliatory, arrives. She dashes for her train, and would have missed it but for the life given her by Sir James Cane. Sir James appears at the door, and Barbara, who has been waiting for him as an artist and trying to cure his jealousy so that Barbara, whom Farrell loves, can choose between painter and benefactor on an equal basis.

Chapter 26
UNWANTED GUEST

"HERB y'are, miss," said the taxi-driver.

Barbara got reluctantly out, dismissed the cab and stood at a loss in front of Farrell Armitage's house.

It was evident that there was merry-making within. The house was brilliantly lighted. Barbara gripped her suitcase firmly and attacked the front door.

"Mr. Armitage?"

"Mr. Armitage is not at home, madam."

She had put down the suitcase and now suddenly wished that she could sit down on it.

"Then I should like to see Mrs. Lodely."

A woman in a wonderful evening coat was talking to someone at the back of the hall, someone who gleamed and glittered and who seemed faintly familiar to Barbara. How wonderfully these two were dressed! Her own grey tweeds and the pretty scarf that had looked so charming on a railway journey now seemed merely dowdy. The footman was eyeing her doubtfully.

"Mrs. Lodely has retired, madam."

"Then please tell Mr. Lodely that Miss Quentin is here."

Barbara, growing irritated, had given her name with intense clearness—and one of the gorgeous figures in the background turned.

"Barbara. What in the world—?"

It was Lella who came darting towards her, a very magnificent Lella in a filmy green gown powdered with gold.

"I came because Mark wired for me," explained Barbara, feeling more than ever out of place as the sound of music came throbbing down from the upper part of the house. "He said he wanted me to come at once. Your father was awfully kind; he sent me by road to Taunton."

"Mark said he wanted you? What the devil for?"

"It is not unusual for a man to want to see his fiancée," Barbara reminded her coldly. Why was Lella so hostile?

Barbara followed Lella's straight bare back into a room full of beautiful things, shabby things, piles of books and two dogs, all in a comfortable, interesting muddle. She knew at once that these surroundings could never in this world belong to anyone but Armitage. She dropped into an enormous wicker chair by the fire and the two terriers came up to inspect her.

"You look tired out," commented Lella, very nonchalant on the opposite side of the hearth. "I imagine you'd like to rest here till the party has gone home—if you insist on seeing Mark tonight. You know it's midnight already?"

Barbara's annoyance grew.

"If it is Mark's party, I don't see why I shouldn't go to it. He probably expects me."

"Have you brought a gladder rag than that with you?" Lella's glance at the tweeds and the scarf was quizzical.

"No, I haven't."

"Then I advise you to stay down here, my dear. Mark has no use for the stains of travel at the moment. Let me tell him you've arrived."

"Very well!" Barbara knew she was being ungracious, but she did not care. "I'll wait here till he comes. Judy's in bed, I hear? Is she ill?"

"Not in the slightest. She was huffy because Mark wouldn't introduce her to his friends. I'll go and tell Mark."

She lounged off and the terriers simultaneously leapt on to Barbara's lap, turned round three times and settled themselves to sleep.

She must have dozed, too, under the warm burden of the sleeping dogs. For when she struggled up, right in the creaking old chair the clock on the mantelpiece told her that it was nearly two.

The fire had gone out. She shivered and pulled on her coat again. She felt angry, furiously humiliated, and decided that travel-stained

RAILROADS MUST HAVE HELP SOON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A warning that many railroads face reorganization or receivership was contained in the report on the McClellan-LaGuardia bankruptcy bill placed before the house today by its judiciary committee. The bill is looked upon by its sponsors as bound to help the situation of such carriers.

The measure is backed by both the democratic and republican leadership and is in line with President Hoover's recent message to congress urging revision of the bankruptcy law to facilitate reorganization of corporations and for the benefit of hard pressed individuals.

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NEW WOOD JOINTS AID TO INDUSTRY

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 25.—(AP)—Described as the most important improvement in the building field in many years, a new method of making wood joints will be explained at the annual meeting of the West Coast Lumberman's Association in Tacoma Friday.

As a result of studies just completed, the lumber industry for the first time can offer engineers exact information for wood use in various kinds of design, the association declared. Another result is the new metal fastenings which will be utilized, practically the full strength of both the metal joint and the wood. Because of these uses, engineers can

force wood and timber construction used at 50 per cent or less than the present cost.

Stay Execution Klamath Negro

SALEM, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A stay of execution, pending an appeal to the supreme court, was issued for Theodore Jordan, sentenced to hang February 3. The stay was issued by Judge William M. Duncan of Klamath county, where Jordan was convicted of murder.

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Guards Fired For Escape Of Eight

PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Discharge of two jailers for "gross negligence of duty" and suspension of another for 30 days, as the result of the escape of eight county prisoners from the Kelly Butte rock quarry Sunday night, was recommended by Superintendent O. N. Day last night. Four of the eight men were recaptured yesterday.

Beer Tax Levied In Astoria Fines

ASTORIA, Jan. 25.—(AP)—Beer taxes amounting to \$6 a barrel were demanded by the county in a reclamation filed Monday against Oscar J. Peterson and Edward Moore of Besseie who last summer served jail sentences on charges of operating beer parlors. The judgment declared Moore was liable for taxes on one and one-half barrels of beer, and Peterson on two barrels.

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