

# READY MADE WIFE

BY CORALIE STANTON

**SYNOPSIS:** The unexpected return to London of Rex Moore the attorney, who had been in the Pacific, has exposed the desperate life of Laurie Moore, told to her husband and her sister from a still more desperate situation. She has told her employer Mark Albery that she is Moore's widow, and she is forced to pretend to be overjoyed, although she does not particularly like him. Rex and Laurie must pretend to be happily married for Rex to hold his job.

## Chapter 11 MOVING IN

A PORTER brought Laurie's bags up in the elevator to the third floor. As she opened the front door with her key, a panic seized her. Was Rex here?

No. He had dressed and gone out. She was rather late. Her friends at the office had kept her talking, congratulating her on her husband's miraculous return. She had smiled and thanked them. How often in the last twenty-four hours she had with a driven fatalism burned her boats behind her!

Her husband. It was a joke, of course. It was a very humorous situation. But it did not seem a bit like one now that she was alone in the flat and would be alone until Rex Moore came back.

How could she have been so crazy as to consent to this impossible position? Where was her pride, her independence, her self-respect? She went over all the arguments tolls, as she put a kettle on to boil on the electric stove and made a pretense of getting herself some supper.

She owed it to him. She had stolen his name; she had lived on it for two years. So had Glad, through her. It was the least she could do to pretend to be his wife for a little while. She drank her tea, but could not eat anything.

She went into her bedroom and unpacked. It was an austere apartment in dull blues, with a large built-in walnut wardrobe and a man's high dressing-table. All polished wood and plain coverings. No feminine touch. Her rose-colored dressing gown looked almost indecent, she thought, with a twisted smile.

She looked into Rex Moore's bedroom opposite, at the other end of the flat. It was intended for a manservant. Very comfortable too, but plainer than hers.

He seemed to have no luggage but the suitcases she had seen in the train. His day clothes were neatly piled on a chair.

Could it be possible that she was going to share this flat with that man of the train? She was filled with a fierce hatred of him again. He was cruel, inhuman, a monster. He must have been able to find some other way than this.

She went out for a stiff walk for an hour and could hardly bring herself to go back. When she did, she fetched her sewing into the living room.

It was a little before eleven when Rex Moore came in, and saw Laurie's chestnut head bent over the shimmering sky-blue material of Glad's evening frock, a patch of color that looked joyously fantastic in that severe brown room.

Every light was on in the flat, which he noticed at once.

"Good evening! Afraid of being alone in the flat?" he asked. "Why didn't you keep the woman?"

"I'm not afraid," she raised her head and gave him a startled glance. He looked so different in evening dress, so much more sophisticated. She hadn't noticed it last night at Mark Albery's. She had been too confused to notice anything, too busy fighting to keep her composure, to appear natural, to say the proper thing.

"Everything went fine," he told her. "It won't take long to fix things up. Albery is keen on my trying the Pacific again. So am I. When you've crashed badly, it's no good funking the same trip. It's a secret, mind! Even from you. Would you like a drink?"

"No thanks," Laurie was quite cool now.

"Mind if I have one? A toast to our new home!"

He laughed, but not mockingly. He was evidently very pleased with his evening.

He thought only of himself, the girl told herself.

"Tomorrow night we'll go out to dinner and a show, if you like," he went on. "You mustn't be bored. And we shall have to have a few people here. I hope this woman can cook."

Laurie woke with a bewildered start, as people do who find themselves in a strange bed in a strange room.

She jumped up, and remembered, and started the day with a bad burst of anger, against herself, against Rex Moore, against life in general. She had overslept, to begin with. She would have to rush, or she would be late for the office.

She had made a fool of herself last night in that ridiculous fit of nerves. She was angrier than ever with Rex Moore because he had thought she was afraid of him.

As she dressed, skipping a bath in her hurry, the sensible side of her took the upper hand. He had been hateful to her and she was going to punish him. But she must keep her temper. She had got to live her own life. And she had now been given this wonderful chance by Mr. Albery. This ridiculous game was only for a short time; but being Mr. Albery's personal secretary might mean a career.

Laurie finds out some strange things about Rex, tomorrow.

# UPPER APPLIGATE DAM PLAN TALKED AT GRANGE MEET

APPLIGATE, July 17.—(Sp.)—The Appligate Grange met last Friday night to discuss the matter of erecting a dam on the upper Appligate, to furnish water the year round to farmers down this valley. The dam under discussion will be erected at an estimated cost of \$600,000. Under the PWA, the government will advance half the needed sum and the farmers will put up the other half, with 30 years to pay for it, assessing each man so much per acre of his land.

A preliminary survey is now under way by the government to determine how much land such a structure can serve. At present only a limited number of farms are sufficiently irrigated. Monday morning, Bert Hukill, who is assistant water master, went on duty for the remainder of the summer, to regulate heads of ditches.

Members of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce attended the meeting, which was an open one. The visit was conducted under the leadership of C. M. Hurd, chairman of the inter-city visitation committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Short talks were made by W. S. Bolger and W. A. Gates, directors of the Chamber of Commerce; by C. M. Hurd, Mrs. M. M. Snider, Dr. W. F. Roney and Larry Pennington, members.

A. H. Bawwell, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, gave the main

talk of the evening, outlining in detail many of the features of the recently formed five-year development program. Bawwell stressed in particular the agricultural end of this program and the various points of interest to Grangers. Mineral development, industrial development and other features of the program were also explained. At the conclusion of his talk, Bawwell was called back for an impromptu program of music and readings. Many of the Grangers attending were not aware that Mr. Bawwell was born in England and consequently could give the three English interpretations of "Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie" with hilarious ease.

The evening's entertainment was arranged by Ed Taylor, master of the Appligate Grange.

**46th Traffic Death**  
PORTLAND, July 17.—(Sp.)—The 46th traffic fatality in Portland during the current fiscal year occurred today when Richard Lee Hayes, 4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hayes of this city, was killed when he ran into the side of a wood truck and was run over by the rear wheel.

# HEAVY POWER LINE PLANNED TO ARIEL

PORTLAND, Ore., July 17.—(AP)—Paul B. McKee, president of the Pacific Power and Light company, today announced plans for the immediate construction of a 66,000-volt transmission line connecting the Longview system of the Washington Gas and Electric company with the Ariel Hydro-Electric plant on the Lewis river.

Distance to be bridged by the line was estimated at 25 miles, 16 miles of which is to be constructed by the Inland Power and Light company, subsidiary of the Pacific Power and Light, and 9 miles by the Washington Gas and Electric company.

McKee declared the new line would be wood-pole construction, insulated for 66,000 volts and that about \$60,000 of the total cost of \$190,000 would go for labor.

# THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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# S-MATTER POP—



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By Hal Forrest



By Edwin Alger



By Sol Hess



By Harry J. Tutthill

# NIGHTS OF MUSIC AT CRATER LODGE

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK. (Sp.)—For entertainment of the thousands of visitors at the Crater Lake lodge, B. W. Price, manager, has arranged nightly presentations of high-class musical programs in the spacious lodge lobby, in conjunction with evening lectures, given there by ranger-naturalists.

Carefully selected with the thought of obtaining the best talent available, the musicians and vocalists represent the pick of the Oregon talent. Their musical renditions have already brought pleasure to many hundreds of visitors.

A girl's trio is composed of Alvin Erikson of Astoria, first soprano; Ruth Carlton, Springfield, second soprano, and Amy Hughes, Vernonia, contralto. A mixed duet presents Ruth Carlton and Kenneth Redman, Eugene, tenor, while a man's trio presents Rudolph, first tenor, Cliff Auld, Eugene, second tenor, Grant

# HUSBAND GOT BOODLE WIFE'S SUIT IMPLIES

PORTLAND, July 17.—(Sp.)—A wife's effort to show why her husband, a deputy sheriff, should pay her \$125 a month separate maintenance from a regular salary of \$148.50 and pension of \$26.25 had led to a judge's decision to order an investigation today.

Mrs. Mayme Love yesterday presented an affidavit in her divorce trial declaring her husband, Deputy Rex Love, had an income of \$300 a month from sources other than regular salary. She said she would testify that Love received \$100 from a Chinese known to her as Louis.

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