

# READY MADE WIFE

BY CORALIE STANTON

**SYNOPSIS:** Laurie and Rex Moore are pretending to be man and wife, because when Laurie thought Rex was dead she borrowed his name—and when he returned she was forced to continue the pretense to protect Rex's job. Now Wanda Steele, Rex's employer, has found him, and is obviously in love with him. Laurie has no claim on Rex—but she wants Wanda a little, just the same.

## Chapter 15 MONEY AGAIN

THE next morning, as soon as Mark Albery arrived at his office, Rex Moore called and asked to see him.

"I've come to ask you for something," the young man said. "It's a tall order, but I've got nobody else to turn to. I'm badly in need of money. Would you let me have a loan of a thousand pounds?"

Albery looked slightly startled. He was paying the young man a thousand a year as a retainer. It was his habit, however, to take such surprises humorously.

"What's the idea, Moore? Do you want to buy Mrs. Moore's pearl necklace?"

"No, it's a debt I want to pay. It will be all right, Mr. Albery," he added earnestly, for him, almost humbly. "It sounds a lot, I know, but I can pay it back soon. I've been offered a big price for some articles by the North American Gazette—'Dead Airman Comes to Life'—you know the sort of thing! I'm starting on them at once."

"But what about your dislike of publicity?" asked Albery, with uplifted eyebrows.

"Can't help it, I've got to get the money. But I want it now."

To himself, Albery was saying, "I must be right. There must be some woman in this. He never said anything about being in debt before."

Aloud, he spoke with quiet cordiality.

"Of course, I'll lend you the money, my boy. I'm glad you came to me. I always feel I can't do too much for you. I'll write the check now."

"Make it so that I can cash it, please!"

"All right!" Albery wrote, and handed over the slip of paper as if it were a thing that happened every day. "You needn't be in any hurry to pay it back," he said. "Well, what's the latest report on the new fuel?"

"I don't like to say anything yet. It seems too good to be true. I've only tried it in the car. If it really comes off, it will nearly double our range in the air. Gerard is still working on the safety test; he seems certain of success. Of course, I'm not an expert."

"But using it in the engine of the car, you said there would be danger above a certain speed?"

"I think so. That's what Gerard is working on."

"Safety is everything, my boy. Don't take risks!"

"One must now and then—it's all in the day's work."

"But it mustn't be in your day's work for the present—not that particular risk. You've got to be perfectly fit for the Pacific flight next month."

Rex Moore took his leave, thanking his employer with something nearer emotion than anyone had ever heard in his voice.

Albery rang on the telephone, and a minute later Laurie Moore came into the room, and the man's blood ran faster in his veins, as he looked at her changing face, with the little nervous lines around the mouth that told of some inner distress.

REX MOORE wrote letter after letter to Mrs. Steele, and tore them up. Brought up against what she had done for him, the fact that he was trying to pay her back with a bundle of borrowed bank notes deprived him of words.

But he could not help it. He simply had to pay her back some of the actual money that her husband had spent on him. It was probably more than this. The specialist's fees in America were enormous, and they had traveled great distances to see him.

Perhaps he ought to go and see her? It would look less ungrateful if he tried to explain that he would lose all self-respect if he did not pay the money. But he could not bring himself to do it. He had always fed this woman.

He was in a way afraid of her. He would have to bear the stigma of ingratitude. He could not face her alone. It was bad enough to go with Laurie to dinner with her that night.

# WEDDING FINERY COSTS TWO LIVES

BELLAFONTE, Pa., July 22.—(AP)—Twenty-nine-year old Sherman Strawser, who killed by his young sweetheart a wedding dress, died in the electric chair today after saying in his last message:

"You know women can be a blessing and again they can be a curse."

Strawser was electrocuted at 12:35 a. m. in Rockview penitentiary for slaying Charles Gable, elderly Jack's Mountain farmer, in order to obtain funds to be married.

The crime netted \$77 for a troupe-sensu for the intended bride, a wedding license and a honeymoon, but Strawser went to jail before he could be married.

Zella Gill would have been Strawser's third wife. She is in an eastern house of correction as an "incorrigible."

The words "United States of America" may be expected to disappear soon from the postal paper of the Philippine islands.

# FIVE FACE JUDGE DRUNK CHARGE, RECKLESS DRIVING

The same thought of Wanda Steele was in his irritated mind that Laurie had so often had about him: why had she come back into his life?

In the end, he wrote a stiff letter of thanks, as if to a stranger, and spent the rest of the day cursing himself and dreading the ordeal to come.

Laurie was reading a letter when Rex Moore came into the flat at seven o'clock.

"Gladys, my sister, is coming back tomorrow," she told him. There was a soft, happy look in her blue eyes.

"She thinks they are going to make a tour of the London suburbs. That means she'd be here some time. But she can't stay here, can she?"

"Why not?" he asked. "I thought it was fixed."

"What room is she to have? Share mine?"

"No, that wouldn't do," he said, with his grim chuckle. "We must keep up the conventions—at any cost. You've forgotten the room on the other side of the landing, where Albery's young cousin put up his men friends. It's good enough for your sister, isn't it? It's got its own bathroom."

Laurie had forgotten it. How could she have been so stupid, and made herself look a fool again? She had looked into it when he had pointed it out. But her mind was always in a muddle now. She was only her sane, well-balanced self when she was at work in the office.

"YES, of course, it'll do splendidly," she said, and her voice was hard, as it always was when these domestic subjects came up. "But perhaps she'd be all right in my place. The landlady would look after her. I suppose."

"And you'd be worried to death. I can see. She is certainly coming here. Didn't we decide it would be as well to have a witness to our cat and dog life?" he added mockingly.

"I'm glad I'm going to meet your sister. Does she mention me? You said she wrote nice things when she heard I had come back."

"Glad writes she is 'thrilled to the bone' at the idea of meeting you," Laurie told him.

"Good! I'm sure we shall get on. You must think up a small dinner for her tomorrow. We'll celebrate."

"I suppose we'd better get ready to go to dinner with Mrs. Steele," Laurie said.

"I suppose so." His voice lost all expression. He had been talking before almost as if they were friends; at least, as if they understood each other. It was a queer kind of companionship that they experienced now and then. After all, even enemies can understand one another.

The telephone rang. Rex Moore went to answer it.

From him Laurie only heard several sharp exclamations:

"Oh! Yes, of course! Too bad! I hope so! Immediately! All right! I'll get ready!"

He turned to her when he hung up the receiver.

"A call from Albery. An S.O.S. The two airmen, Kendal and Giles, who were flying across Africa, have been missing for a week. No news at all. You saw it in the papers, didn't you? They're afraid they've crashed, or come down somewhere in the jungle. Albery is sending me to look for them. Wilmer Jones is coming with me. I must get ready at once. We go down to the airport tonight and take off as soon as we can."

"Is it dangerous?"

"Of course not. I'm damned glad of the chance of doing something. Ring up Mrs. Steele, will you, and tell her we can't dine."

Laurie's quick temper rose at the words that were virtually a command.

"Look here!" she said. "This is our chance. As you're going away, I'll clear out of here tomorrow. When you come back we can explain that we didn't get on."

"Nonsense!" His voice was so violent that she started back. "Besides, I've borrowed some money from Albery, and he'd be bound to smell a rat! What on earth could you say to him?"

"How long will you be away?" she faltered.

"I don't know. Perhaps two or three weeks." Then came the old mocking taunt: "You had two years of it as my widow! Surely, you can stand two months of being my wife!"

(Copyright, 1935, Coralie Stanton)

Laurie finds herself in a bad state of mind, tomorrow.

# NORWEGIAN FLIERS REST IN LABRADOR

CARTWRIGHT, Labrador, July 22.—(AP)—Thor Solberg and Paul Oerican, Norwegian-American fliers enroute from New York to Norway, rested here today before continuing their journey in easy stages.

They arrived here yesterday at 5:47 p. m. (Eastern Standard time).

# Stromboli Volcano In Active Eruption

ROME, July 22.—(AP)—Stromboli Volcano, on one of the Lipari group of islands in the Mediterranean, mid-way between Naples and Rome, went into active eruption yesterday afternoon.

Ashes rained on the surrounding communities and streams of lava poured down the volcano's slopes. The population of the island was not believed to be in danger.

Leslie Howard, stage and screen star, has finally decided to portray the role of Hamlet on the New York stage.

# OREGON WEATHER

Partly cloudy tonight and Tuesday, unsettled over mountains with light showers over high southern ranges; slightly cooler northwest portion Tuesday; moderate changeable winds off the coast.

# WASHINGTON, July 22.—(AP)—

The works relief administration announced receipt today of an application for \$2,500 for repairing and painting harbor boats at Port Stevens, Oregon.

In the early days of the Hawaiian monarchy, the premiers were women.

# JESSIE A. WALTERS OF KIAMATH FALLS AS FINED \$25 ON A PLEA OF GUILTY TO RECKLESS DRIVING

He telephoned to the lumber company in Kiamath Falls for which he works, and a check for the \$25 was put in the mail. A. D. Sheppard, a companion of Walters, was released on \$10 bail.

L. C. Stone, a transient, was given his choice of 10 days in the city jail, or to leave town, on his plea of guilty to being drunk in a public place. He said he would leave town on the first freight train.

Charles F. Gentry, arrested Saturday night on a charge of reckless driving, when the car he was driving

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# FATHER MRS. STRANG PASSES IN RENO, NEV.

Word was received from Reno, Nev., today of the death there July 18, of James Crawford, father of Mrs. Robert Strang, formerly of Medford.

Mr. Crawford, a retired carpenter and contractor had resided in Reno for 45 years. He was 83 years old. Born in Ohio, he came west when a young man and worked as a logger in the Sierra lumber camps. Coming to Reno in 1890 he engaged in the contracting business.

Survivors include four daughters, Mrs. Robert Strang of Reno, Mrs. Bertha Smith of Corte Madera, Cal., Mrs. Edith Duncan of San Pedro, Cal., Mrs. Rachael Hameltine of San Jose, Cal., and one son, Major James Crawford, who is a member of the army medical corps at El Paso, Texas.

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Five men were picked up in the city dragnet Saturday night on charges of being drunk in a public place and reckless driving. They received fines ranging from \$25 in a request to leave town, in City Police Judge Allen D. Curry's court this morning.

Harold Fator, 24, of Hollywood, who gave his occupation as an electrical engineer and a taid police that he has been working in Medford for the past three weeks, was arrested Saturday night on a drunkenness charge and a taid police that his companions on a party had robbed him at the point of a gun, of \$19.21. In court this morning he said nothing of this, however, and was given today to raise a \$10 fine.

Jessie A. Walters of Kiamath Falls was fined \$25 on a plea of guilty to reckless driving. He telephoned to the lumber company in Kiamath Falls for which he works, and a check for the \$25 was put in the mail. A. D. Sheppard, a companion of Walters, was released on \$10 bail.

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**WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT GUM**  
THE PERFECT GUM  
THE FLAVOR LASTS  
**COOLING**

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**THE BAGGAGE MOVER**  
PACKS BAGGAGE INTO CAR, AND JOURNEY BEGINS, EVERYBODY VERY CHEERFUL

RESULT OF THIS IS THAT AT EVERY BUMP, SUITCASE TOPPLES OFF TOP OF PILE INTO GRANDMA'S LAP

SEEMES IT BY PUTTING VALISE ON SEAT AND HOLDING JUNIOR IN LAP, WHERE, GETTING RESTLESS, HE MAKES DRIVING IMPOSSIBLE

WIFE DECIDES PRESENTLY THAT GRANDMA HASN'T ROOM FOR HER FEET, AND REDISTRIBUTES BAGGAGE

MAKES ANOTHER REARRANGEMENT, THERE SEEMING TO BE MUCH MORE BAGGAGE THAN BEFORE SO THAT THERE'S NO ROOM AT ALL FOR THE BIG VALISE

WIFE STOPS CAR AND REDISTRIBUTES BAGGAGE AGAIN AS IT WAS IN THE FIRST PLACE, SAYS SHE KNEW SHE COULD FIX IT ALL RIGHT

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BY GLUYAS WILLIAMS

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# S-MATTER POP—

WHY, DESPERATE AMBROSE! YOU LOOK PERTURBED! CERTAINLY HEV SOCKED THA GUY IF I HADN'T BEEN STOPPED

YEH, AN' I'D STOPPED YOU?

OH, WHO STOPPED YOU?

POST! WHO INTERFERED, AMBROSE?

I SAID WHO STOPPED YOU?

HE DID!

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# TAILSPIN TOMMY—Fire!

**FIRE**  
—THE GREATEST FEAR OF ALL AIRMEN—HAS STRUCK AT TOMMY. TRACER BULLETS FIRED BY FEDERAL PILOTS, WHO BELIEVED TOMMY TO BE AN ENEMY, FOUND THEIR MARK.

THIS IS ONE TIME I'D LIKE TO HAVE A PARACHUTE.

MAYBE—IF I SLIP IT STEEPLY TO THE LEFT—I CAN BLOW OUT—THE—FLAMES.

HOW WILL TOMMY PULL OUT OF THIS CRASH? CONTINUED—

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# BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Madcap

BEN WEBSTER, LOVER OF ANIMALS, STARED UNBELIEVINGLY AT THE GNAPHOGH OLD CALVIN PANHARD HAD HANDED HIM!

WHY, WHY, WHERE'D YOU GET THIS, CAL?

HOLD IT OVER HERE T' THE LIGHT!

Laurie's quick temper rose at the words that were virtually a command.

"Look here!" she said. "This is our chance. As you're going away, I'll clear out of here tomorrow. When you come back we can explain that we didn't get on."

"Nonsense!" His voice was so violent that she started back. "Besides, I've borrowed some money from Albery, and he'd be bound to smell a rat! What on earth could you say to him?"

"How long will you be away?" she faltered.

"I don't know. Perhaps two or three weeks." Then came the old mocking taunt: "You had two years of it as my widow! Surely, you can stand two months of being my wife!"

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# THE NEBBS—Partners Again

EMMA HAD A DREAM OF GREAT RICHES SINCE THEN HER "CONSCIENCE" HAS BEEN BOTHERING HER ABOUT NOT HAVING SHARED THE ASSESSMENT WITH NEBB

MR. NEBB, I'VE BEEN TALKING THINGS OVER WITH MYSELF AND I MADE UP MY MIND I OUGHTA STAND HALF THAT ASSESSMENT ON THE MINE

HERE'S \$50—AND IF ANYTHING COMES OUTA THAT MINE BUT WATER WE'RE PARTNERS AGAIN, EVEN PAPPY SAID, AND YOU KNOW HOW CLOSE PAPPY IS, I SHOULDN'T LET YOU TAKE ALL THE CHANCES

I'M IN FOR 1100 BUCKS AND SHE COMES BACK AND BUYS A HALF INTEREST FOR 50 BUCKS. IF THEY WERE GIVING A CUD FOR THE PRIZE FOOL THEY'D HAVE TO GET A GUY WHO BUILDS GAS TANKS TO MAKE IT FOR ME

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# THE BUNGLE FAMILY—Off Again

Oh you still up, Jo?

I know from the way you hawler in here at this hour that someone...haddock...has stuffed you right up to the ears with some hulum-scarum business.

That's why I stayed up. If I'm stuffed, so was I know from the way your eyes popped out when I called you home with that stuffed look.

How discouraging, every time you come home looking like a small boy who just shook hands with Santa Claus and...

You're making a big mistake if you think this is just another mental rash.

I can't go into details, but...

Imagine! Off on another wild goose chase. This time with a lantern. Ha! No wonder other women look at me so mournfully when they pat my arm and say, What is Mr. Bungle doing now?

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