

READY MADE WIFE

BY CORALIE STANTON

SYNOPSIS: Laurie pretended to be Rex Moore's widow to save herself and her sister Gladys from a desperate situation. Now she must keep up the pretense to save Rex's job with Mark Albery, since Rex has returned after two years. Rex has gone to the rescue of some fellow quince in Africa; while he is gone Albery suddenly declares his love for Laurie, who is his secretary as well as Rex's "wife."

Chapter 15
A CALLER

ALBERY released her; she stared at him like a person in a dream.

"I am sorry," he said, and in a miraculous way he was himself again, and the incredible scene was blotted out, and he was smiling at her, a rather sad little smile.

"It was unparadiseable, Mrs. Moore. Do please forgive me, and forget about it! To show my feelings like that was taking a shameful advantage of you."

Laurie was nonplussed. He had suddenly brought an atmosphere of tragedy into what might have been a sordid episode.

"I'm sure you didn't mean it," she murmured.

"That's the sad part of it," he replied gravely, "I did mean it. As I said, you came too late into my life. I am no longer young, and you are the woman I have dreamed of all ways. The woman I could have loved. But I ought not to have told you so."

"Oh, Mr. Albery!" It sounded almost stupid, that whispered exclamation. But Laurie was both horrified and in a way flattered. This captain of industry, whom she had thought of as she might think of any of the overlords of the present-day world, was telling her that he loved her, that she was the woman he had always dreamed of. She—his secretary. She—the girl who had cheated him, lied to him through two years, who had been saved from despair and disaster by his kindness and generosity.

Mark Albery, watching the changing lights and shadows of emotion in her face, knew that he must bide his time. She might be unhappy, but she was loyal.

And Laurie, as she typed the letters in her office, made so many mistakes that she had to do several of them over again.

This was destined to be a memorable day for Laurie.

When she got back to the flat, she found that Gladys had gone out to dinner, leaving a message with Mrs. Budd that a friend had called for her.

"Was it a gentleman?" Laurie asked.

"No, mum, a lady."

Laurie felt a fool, but she was not quite herself after that extraordinary scene with her employer.

About a quarter of an hour afterwards, Mrs. Budd came in to say that a gentleman wanted to see her, and handed her a card. "Mr. Gavin Drake" was the name on it.

Laurie knew nobody of that name. It must be some friend of Rex Moore's.

She decided to see him.

A slim young man under medium height was shown in. Her first reaction was one of sympathy, because she saw that he had only one arm.

He had yellow hair and a small, neat mustache, and wore heavy-lensed spectacles. He greeted her with a bow and a long smile that expressed deferential admiration.

"It is so kind of you to see me, Mrs. Moore," he said.

He had a pleasant voice, with a marked accent, and a confidential, friendly manner that was rather appealing. His accent she recognized with a certain misgiving.

"I expect it is Mr. Moore—my husband, whom you want to see?" she suggested.

"No, I am aware that Mr. Moore is away in his native element, and has just accomplished another wonderful flying feat," he answered. "Of course, I should have been honored to meet him, but it is from yourself that I wanted to ask a kindness, Mrs. Moore."

"What can I do for you?" she asked, taken aback.

"I must introduce myself. I am Gavin Drake."

"You are from Australia, aren't you?" she asked.

"Yes, I come from down under." He gave her a comradely smile. "So do you?"

"I wasn't born there. My father went out when I was quite young."

"It's like this," he told her. He sat forward in his chair, with his one arm, the right one, on his knee. She thought he was rather like a canary,

TEXAS WILL VOTE ON AGE PENSIONS AND RUM RETURN

Benefit for Aged Taking Main Interest in August 24 Ballot—Other Important Questions Face Voter

AUSTIN, Texas (UP)—Texas' much-amended constitution goes before the electorate August 24 with old age pensions threatening to displace prohibition repeal as the most controversial issue.

Since its adoption in 1876, Texas have amended their constitution 74 times. Latest changes were in 1933. Last year eight amendments were defeated.

No. 1 on the list of seven proposed changes which Texans will decide is the old age benefit amendment, empowering the state legislature to provide \$15 monthly pensions to citizens in good standing who have reached 65.

Pensioners promise to lure most voters to the polls.

Liquor Issue Remains

Texans have voted upon the liquor question numerous times since statehood, but the amendments adopted in 1919 making the state "dry" was the only prohibition proposal ever to carry a state-wide election. Two years ago, voters liberalized it, legalizing

LIME PLANT HAS G. P. WAREHOUSE

WILLIAMS CREEK, July 24—(Sp.)—The Oregon Lime Products Co. has rented a warehouse at Grants Pass to facilitate handling their products. The warehouse occupies the east side of the building owned by the Grants Pass warehouse and is on the Southern Pacific tracks. A supply of each of the various products manufactured by the plant will be kept on hand in Grants Pass, so that dealers, as well as local consumers, may get their supplies there instead of having to come out to the plant.

To those curious about the various whistles since the plant is running in full operation every day, an explanation by F. I. Bristol, one of the plant owners, is: One whistle, at starting and quitting at 7 a. m. and 4 p. m.; one at noon, one at 1 p. m. One also means stop when blown during work hours. Two signals go ahead after a stop: three for change of fireman at the boilers; four means a blast is about to be set off, and that everyone within a quarter of a mile should hunt cover; five is a call for any of the bosses in back of the quarry, who can not be easily called in any other way.

Should the whistle ever sound 10 times it is a distress call for aid from the outside. One day recently an occasion arose to use the five-whistle signal and a number of Provolet residents called at the plant inquiring if there was a fire. Therefore this information.

Phone 542 We'll haul away your refuse. City Sanitary Service.

KERBY LEGION SENDS \$25 TO CAPITOL FUND

SALEM, July 25.—(AP)—The American Legion post at Kerby, Ore., today remitted a check for \$25 to apply to the state capitol fund. The governor already has received voluntary contributions amounting to \$285 toward the new building, he announced.

SMATTER POP—

I DON'T know what you want me to say," Laurie was at a loss. "Well first of all, a message of greeting," he said glibly.

"I shall be delighted to do that."

"Then just a few details about your romantic reunion. The thrill of learning that your husband was alive. And then, if I may ask you, a few words about your marriage. You see, it was such a secret romance, so few people knew anything about it."

Laurie went colder still.

"Oh, there's nothing to tell about that, Mr. Drake!"

"But I assure you it's just what people would love to read about, your secret wedding just before the hero went off on the flight that was supposed to end in tragedy. You can't imagine what a hero Rex Moore is in Sydney. And nobody knows anything—only rumors, just that Rex Moore was married to a girl a short time before he took off. Where were you married, Mrs. Moore?"

The chill went up to Laurie's brain. It felt frozen.

"I'd really rather not say anything until my husband comes back."

The young man's smile grew even more ingratiating.

"But it would be such a kindness to me. When he does come back, there'll be hundreds of newspaper men 'round him."

Laurie's wits deserted her. On no account must the young man suspect anything.

"In Warrabill County," she said recklessly.

"Oh indeed, how interesting!" Mr. Drake took out a little note book and a pencil. Through her confusion Laurie noticed how skilful he was in his movements with only one arm.

"I know Warrabill County a little myself. Was it in Warrabill township itself that you were married, Mrs. Moore?"

"Why wasn't Rex Moore here! Why hadn't they discussed this hideous possibility when he was here?"

"No, in a little outpost near where I was staying, not far from my old home."

"What was it called, Mrs. Moore?"

"I had no name that I know of."

"Church, chapel, or registrar, please!" The young journalist was devastatingly businesslike.

"There was a Minister visiting," she said. "He married us. I've forgotten his name."

"Was there a church?"

"No, a little tin hall, where they held services."

"What date was it?"

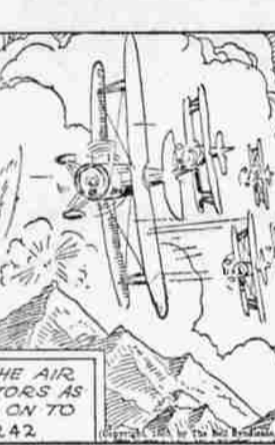
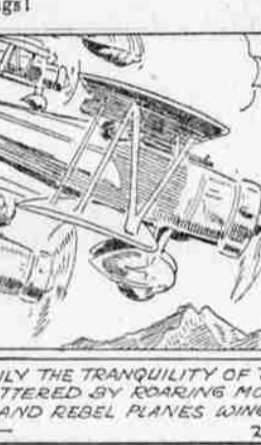
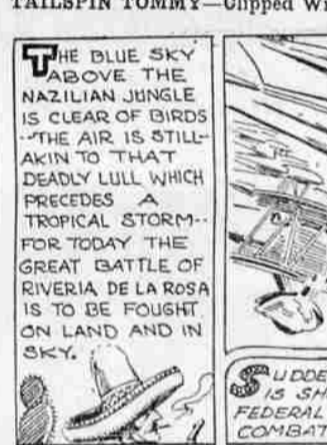
"Do you know, I've forgotten, exactly. It was all such a rush, and we hurried back to Sydney. But it was somewhere about three weeks before my husband left Sydney on his flight."

"The date of his departure was March 17, two years ago," the young man reminded her. "So it would have been three weeks before that—about the end of February."

(Copyright, 1935, Coralie Stanton)

Laurie got an unexpected week-end invitation, unexpressed.

THUMBS



176 ARRESTS LISTED BY POLICE IN JUNE

SALEM, July 25.—(AP)—State police officers reported 176 arrests in general law enforcement during June, Charles P. Pray, superintendent, announced today. In addition 411 arrests for traffic violations and 78 in game law enforcement were made.

General law enforcement arrests resulted in sentences totaling 34 years and fines assessed at \$1,534.70. Fines totaled \$3,659 in traffic violations and fees collected amount to \$1,164. Game law violations resulted in five years sentences and fines of \$1,561.

SALEM, July 25.—(AP)—Governor Martin today expressed gratification in the announcement from Washington that the public works administration had allocated \$1,000,000 for the construction of the Wickiup dam on the upper Deschutes river as a supplemental reservoir for irrigation in central Oregon.

MANY MEDFORDITES AT LAKE O' WOODS

LAKE O' THE WOODS, July 25.—(Sp.)—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Mann drove to Lake o' the Woods Sunday to take back to Medford, Margaret and Janet Mann, Betty Thorndyke and Patsy Thompson who had spent a week at the resort. Other visitors from Medford who spent several days at the resort were: Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Stuart and party and Miss Elsie Brown and party. Marine Olson joined the Brown party on Saturday.

Klamath visitors included Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Patterson, M. Beal Gamble, Phil Quisenberry and party, J. Shirk and party and C. Larvick and party.

Many Boy Scouts drove to the Lake o' the Woods resort and Camp McLaughlin on Sunday to take the boys home from the Scout encampment.

By C. M. Payne

By Hal Forrest

By Edwin Alger

By Sol Hess

By Harry J. Tutnill