

READY MADE WIFE

BY CORALIE STANTON

SYNOPSIS: Rex and Laurie Moore had only been pretending to be married, so that Rex might hold his job with Laurie's employer, Mark Albery. But now Rex has returned from a dangerous flight over Africa, and quite suddenly both of them realize that he loses the other. The difficulty is that neither can bring himself to tell the truth—and that Rex knows Mark Albery is in love with Laurie.

Chapter 25

COMPLICATION

"I SAID that the time had come when we could make an end of this farce," Laurie managed to control her voice.

"It seems a little soon," Rex replied. "I have only been back six weeks."

"Isn't that time enough for us to find out that we don't get on?"

"I wasn't thinking of that. There are other things."

"What can there be?" Then she put in quickly: "You said before you went to Africa that you owed Mr. Albery money. Is that it?"

"One of them."

Her eyes were steady and looked hostile.

"I can't see how that can matter."

"Albery might turn against me if he thought I had treated you badly. He was making excuses and he knew it. And that made him rage inward-

"I thought that was fixed. We shall decide that we don't get on together, and separate. It's nothing unusual these days."

"But we're supposed to be married!"

"I know."

"Well, we can't stay married, can we?"

"I see!" He gave a savage laugh. "You mean we shall have to get free legally. Get a divorce, or, rather, pretend to get one. I must be a great fool; I admit I never thought of that. But, of course, it can be managed, somehow, without anybody knowing."

AGAIN Laurie thought fearfully of the young man from Australia, but she could not bring herself to speak of him.

"Are you in a great hurry?" he asked. "Do you want to get married?"

"No," she said distantly; and added, with a wonderful imitation of a natural smile, "But perhaps you do?"

"Not likely." He gave her one of those intent, penetrating looks from his grey eyes, that had their snowy, blind look. "Laurie, have you ever been in love?"

She looked back at him defiantly, although her color rose.

PRESS FREEDOM SUITS LOOM FOR 6 TEXAS PAPERS

ANGLETON, Tex.—(UP)—Another court test of the freedom of the press was in prospect after District Judge M. S. Munson said he would cite six Houston newspapers for contempt of court because they printed stories about a murder trial.

Those accused by the judge of contempt of court are Managing Editor Max Jacobs and Reporter Frank White of the Houston Post; Managing Editor Ed Pooler and Reporter Harry McCormick of the Houston Press; and Editor George Cottingham and Reporter Ed Rider of the Houston Chronicle.

The judge said he would hold a hearing on the case on Thursday morning.

The case developed during the murder trial of Clyde Thompson, 23-year-old convict who killed his first two victims "just to see them kick" and since then has been convicted of killing two fellow convicts during prison brawls.

Thompson was found guilty last Thursday of murdering Everett Melvin, an inmate of the Revere prison farm and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

At the start of the trial, Judge Munson ordered newspapermen not to circulate stories of the trial in Brazoria county until after Thompson's two co-defendants, Raymond Hall and Ed Ebers, had been brought

TREASURY CHIEF GIVES TAX VIEW

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Secretary Morgenthau declined today to tell the senate finance committee whether the house tax bill disregards President Roosevelt's recommendations, but agreed the treasury would have to be satisfied with the measure the congress enacted.

After reading a statement to the committee warning against new expenditures outside the budget and expressing the hope the revenues from the tax bill would be applied against the deficit and the national debt, Morgenthau was asked his views on the house measure.

He consulted his advisers and then said it was not his duty to pass on it, that his views were those outlined in the president's message.

PICNIC DIET

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

RECEIVES HIS QUOTA OF FOOD FROM THE PICNIC BASKET

BEGINS ON FIRST SANDWICH, WHICH PROVES TO BE LETTUCE ON HEALTH BREAD. AFTER ONE BITE, LAYS IT ASIDE

LOOKS INTO NEXT SANDWICH - CORNED BEEF. SEES IT ASIDE

FINDS HIS OTHER TWO SANDWICHES ARE JAM AND CONSUMES THEM RAPIDLY

TOPS OFF WITH THREE COOKIES, A PIECE OF CHOCOLATE CAKE AND A BANANA THAT ISN'T QUITE RIPE

FINDS A PIECE OF CAKE LEFT IN THE BASKET, WHICH NO ONE ELSE WANTS. EATS IT

ACQUIRES FROM RELATIVES WHO HAVE HAD ENOUGH, A JAM SANDWICH, HALF A BANANA AND SIX COOKIES

WHDRAWS A LITTLE FROM THE OTHERS, WONDERING WHY HE NEVER FEELS SO GOOD ON A PICNIC

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"We'll separate. It's nothing unusual these days."

ly. A loud, insistent voice was calling in his ears—"I don't want her to go!"

"I think that is absurd," she said. "What could it matter to Mr. Albery, anyhow?"

"I don't want to risk the slightest chance of Albery finding out the truth." It was clumsy, ridiculous, pitiable. He knew it. But the voice went on—"She is lovely! She is the loveliest thing in the world!"

Laurie turned away and walked to the window. The memory of that fair, one-armed young man from Australia came back to her. The questions he had asked her about her marriage with Rex Moore. And her stupid answers.

SHE had heard no more of him. She had forgotten him until just now. What was she to do? Tell Rex Moore about him? No, she couldn't bring herself to do that. It had probably meant nothing. The young man had gone back to Australia, no doubt. Australia was such a long way off.

And probably nobody would trouble to investigate the facts she had given him. She herself was quite unknown. More than likely, all trace of her family was lost by now. Her father had made such a mess of things after her mother's death. He had had no more life in him, and just faded out of existence, a hopeless failure.

But, even so, just the memory of that interview unconsciously altered her frame of mind.

She turned and faced Rex Moore again.

"What do you suggest, then?" she asked.

"That you should give me another fortnight or three weeks," he answered. "He was not looking at her; he was mechanically pouring himself out another cup of tea, although he had finished his breakfast. "It would give me time for certain things I have to do, and then I shall be going off on the Pacific flight, and that will make things easier."

"Very well," said Laurie, and her heart gave a great thump. "And how shall we manage it? I mean—something will have to be done."

"We must show some hospitality to Albery," he told her. "Hang it all, we are living in his flat rent free!"

So it came about that Laurie sat at the head of her own luncheon table, entertaining Wanda Steele and Mark Albery, as well as other men distinguished in the world of aviation. But for her there was only one man present—Rex Moore.

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Tomorrow, Albery learns something important from Mrs. Steele.

S-MATTER POP—



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THE BUNGLE FAMILY—Tomorrow



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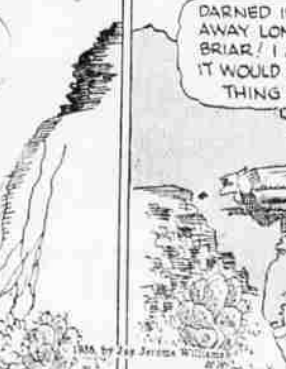
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THE BUNGLE FAMILY—Tomorrow



ELOPERS FOILED IN CONNECTICUT

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (UP)—Elopement in Connecticut—from other states—formerly was so commonplace that many justices of the peace earned a steady income each year in being called out of bed at all hours of the night to read the marriage service.

COUPLES TO PRODUCE A CERTIFICATE OF GOOD HEALTH WHEN APPLYING FOR A LICENSE

"Hurry up" marriages consequently passed on to border line towns and many couples from Connecticut found it more convenient to take advantage of the more lenient laws in surrounding states.

DAMASCUS LETTER

Joe Chapman's mailbox serves a dual purpose. A sparrow established headquarters in it and laid some eggs. The letter carrier opens the box to deposit mail and the mother bird doesn't object.

BY SUFFERANCE OF OUR GREAT DISTRESS

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