

READY MADE WIFE

BY CORALIE STANTON

SUPPLIES: Laurie and Rex Moore have only pretended to be married, so that Rex may hold down his job with Mark Albery. But some gossip Drake has collected in Australia, where the wedding was supposed to have taken place, and found there was none. He tries blackmailing Rex, without success. Now he has gone to Rex's employer, who has indicated that he will listen to his story. Albery is in love with Laurie.

Chapter 28
SILENCE BOUGHT

"AS I understand you are behind Moore, sir," Drake went on, "and financing him, I feel you ought to know that he is deceiving you and everybody else who has been making such a fuss over him. He is making a fool of all the world. He is not married to that girl he is living with. He never was."



"Indeed!" Albery showed only faint surprise. "Are you sure of that, Mr. Drake?"

"Positive. I had my doubts all the time, since I came over from Australia. My paper would naturally have welcomed a story about Rex Moore. So I cabled a friend in Sydney to make enquiries, and the answer is that there is no record of any marriage between Rex Moore and any woman, either in Sydney or anywhere in Warrabill County, where the bride was supposed to have been living."

"Dear me, that is certainly strange. Albery had got the hang of it by now. He knew that the young man had been to Rex Moore and been heavily turned down. His own mind was immediately made up. "I suppose you have evidence that you can give me?"

"Certainly, sir, I consider it a shameful fraud on the public. Moore has dragged this young woman into decent society under false pretences. Why, I am told that she has been working in your own firm for years! It seems a disgraceful business all round. I did not feel it right to leave you in the dark." He handed Albery a bundle of papers. "Here are my friend's statements by cable."

Albery examined them with apparently absorbed interest. But his mind was busy with his own affairs. This might be true, or it might not. It probably was. This unpleasant young man evidently bore a grudge against Moore. He must have gone to great trouble and expense to get these facts.

"LOOK here, Mr. Drake," he said, "after a few moments, with the quick smile that gave such charm to his impassive Eastern face, "I am glad you came to me. I suppose your idea was naturally that you might turn it to your advantage and raise the circulation of your newspaper by sending them a most intriguing story?"

This was not true. The young man's one idea tonight had been to damage Rex Moore in his employer's sight. But Albery's words presented another possibility.

"Well, sir, things have been going badly with me," he stammered. "You see, it's not so easy for me to get work." He mentally indicated his empty sleeve. "A really good scoop would be a great thing for me, but, of course, I can't say I'd really thought of that."

"I am glad you came to me," said Albery suavely, "because I am more interested than most people in Rex Moore and his career. For the moment I don't want his activities interfered with. You see, his private life cannot affect his job. As a man, Mr. Drake, you must understand that."

"I am expecting him to do some good work for me and for aviation in general. But I quite see that you could have profited materially by your information in giving it to the Press. Nothing pays like a good scandal nowadays. So that I am prepared—in fact, I feel I owe it to you, Mr. Drake—to make up to you for your loss."

"In return for your promise not to mention these facts about Rex Moore to the press, or to any individual, in print or by word of mouth, I will pay you what you might have expected as remuneration at the moment. How much would that be?"

"Well, I really couldn't say, sir. I'm sure you're very kind. I don't like taking money, but I've had a bad time."

"Shall we say two hundred pounds, Mr. Drake?"

"I'm sure it's very generous, sir."

"And," added Albery very deliberately, "I shall be glad of any further information on the subject. I will make it worth your while. Now, I hope we understand each other. You can ring me up and make an appointment at any time. I expect you would prefer notes to a check. I think I have enough in my safe. I will go and fetch it."

A FEW minutes later the black mallet was gone.

A sorry creature, reflected Albery, but he would have made use of the devil himself in such a cause.

If his story was true, then, Laurie Moore was a liar and a cheat. She had been associated with Rex Moore in Australia, but the rumor of their marriage was untrue, and when she thought he was dead, she had posed as his wife, in order to make as much as she could out of it.

And Moore, when he came back and found her in England, had forgiven her the deception, because it suited him.

That did not make her any less desirable in Albery's eyes. It did not cool the flame of his passion for her.

In fact, it brought her nearer to him, even though he knew that she loved Rex Moore. In spite of his infatuation, he did not want to marry her. If this were true, then it gave him a better chance.

Against Rex Moore his account was piling up. Rex Moore had made a fool of him. Rex Moore had the woman he wanted.

His self-esteem was wounded, and it made him pitiless.

From that moment the idea took root in his mind, and from that moment his whole energies were bent to carry it out. Fixed, implacable, merciless; it became an obsession.

Rex Moore must be got out of the way.

Rex Moore answered the telephone in the Chelsea flat about six o'clock in the evening, a few days later.

"Is that you, Rex? Laurie speaking. I shall be able to get back for dinner. Mr. Albery has to work late."

Moore frowned at the instrument. (Copyright, 1935, Coralie Stanton)

Rex gets a difficult assignment, Monday.

32,014 VISITORS AT LAKE IN JULY

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK. Ore., Aug. 6.—(AP)—A total of 32,014 people in 9,887 automobiles visited Crater Lake during July, official travel figures reveal. This total is a substantial increase over July a year ago and included visitors from every state in the union and a number of foreign countries.

The biggest travel day of the month brought 2,826 people on the Fourth of July, with every Sunday having attendances ranging from 1,800 to 2,000 people. Stage and rail travel showed an increase of 89.7 per cent. most of which is attributed to more extensive travel by easterners. R. W. Price, manager of the Crater Lake National Park company, related yesterday that July brought more hotel and cabin reservations than the entire season of 1934. August is expected to be even better, with the busiest day on the 7th, which undoubtedly will be the busiest in the history of the park company, in view of present reservations.

July also witnessed the arrival of a number of educational tours, the largest of which was the Southwestern College or University Tours, originating in Georgia. It brought over 500 persons in six buses for short visits.

Water In Gasoline Brings Plane Down

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Aug. 6.—(AP) James L. Kinney, department of commerce inspector, announced today that tests of underground fuel tanks

MARKETING CODES IN FULL OPERATION

SALEM, Aug. 6.—(AP)—Full operation of the marketing agreements and codes under the state agricultural act will be expected by the director of agriculture and the governor, S. T. White, declared today. He addressed a communication to this effect to the heads of the 11 marketing codes now in force.

The director stated he had many inquiries since the Multnomah County Circuit Court had ruled the act unconstitutional and the case was appealed to the Supreme Court. The court ordered fulfillment of the agreements, however, pending the Supreme Court decision. The case is now pending before the high tribunal.

GLAND EXPERT KILLED ABOARD POWER CRUISER

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 6.—(AP)—Slipping and falling with a shotgun which he had been firing at clay pigeons, guests said Dr. Clayton F. Wheeler, 50, a pioneer of gland surgery in the West, was killed yesterday aboard his power cruiser Steats 12 miles at sea off Balboa.

Witnesses said the gun was discharged into Dr. Wheeler's neck as he fell after firing at the clay targets buried from the boat out over the ocean. Beach authorities said they were satisfied the shooting was accidental.

HELPING TO PACK

ASK'S MOTHER CAN HE HELP HER PACK, AND IS TOLD TO BRING THE PILE OF CLOTHES FROM HIS ROOM?

BRINGS PILE, WHICH ISN'T THE PILE TO GO INTO TRUNK, MOTHER MEANS TO BRING THE PILE THAT'S ON THE BED

RETURNING TO HIS ROOM AND SHOUTS IT ISN'T ON THE BED, IT'S ON A CHAIR BESIDE THE BED. IS THAT WHAT SHE MEANS?

IS TOLD YES, AND TO HELP HER, AND CARRIES IN HIS BOAT, ASKING CAN SHE PACK IT, HE'D LIKE TO TAKE IT ALONG

AFTER SOME ARGUMENT RETURNS BOAT TO HIS ROOM AND PICKS UP PILE OF CLOTHES

MOTHER CRIES TO LOOK OUT HIS TRAILING ONE OF HIS SHIRTS. DIVES FOR IT

RESCUES SHIRT BUT SPILLS REST OF ARMFUL

IS ASKED TO HELP MOTHER GET THE PACKING DONE BY GOING OUT TO PLAY

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S-MATTER POP—



POP, WILL YA GIVE ME A HUNDRED DOLLARS?

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH I'VE GOT A CRACKED LIP!

OH, RIGHT ABOUT HERE!

WHERE?

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Bound for Del Segundo!

YOU SAY YOU CAN FLY THIS PLANE, SKEE-TAIRE? THEN YOU CAN FLY ME TO MY PADRE, SI?

YOU MEAN, YO' MAK' THEES-AEROPLANO FLY?

YOU SAID A GRAN VERDAD, MISTER SWAMP FOX, WHICH IN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS TO YOU IS JUST A MOUTHFUL--

O-OH! YOU ARE GR-RAND IN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS SKEE-TAIRE!

I'LL TAKE TH' BEAUTEOUS SEÑORITA TO HER PAPPY, AN' BE BACK PRESTO PRONTO!

VIVA EL SKEE-TAIRE!

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BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Fond Hopes, That's All

THAT'S ONE BOY WHO'S GOT SOME O' THE MILK O' HUMAN KINDNESS IN HIS HEART! AN' COME T' THINK ON IT, MADCAP AN' HER BABY AIN'T--

NEVER BOTHERED NO HUMANS SO WHY SHOULD WE HUMANS BOTHER THEM?

BUT, MADCAP, I SURE WOULD LIKE T' HAVE YOU AN' LONESTAR SOMEWHERE SO I COULD KINDA RUB YOUR GOFT NOSES ONCE IN A WHILE AN--

YOU STOP THAT SNICKERIN', DIANNIE! WHAT IF I AM A SENTIMENTAL OLD FOOL? THAT'S MY BUSINESS AINT IT?

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THE NEBBS—Confidence?

NOW MAX WENT AND PUT SUCH SUSPICIONS IN MY MIND— WE SAID I OUGHTA HAVE IT IN WRITIN' THAT I'M GOIN' TO GET HALF THE MONEY ON THE MINING STOCK— I TRUST MR NEBB MOST FULLY, BUT I OUGHTA HAVE SOMETHIN' TO SHOW

MR NEBB, IT TAIN'T CAUSE I AIN'T GOT TRUST IN YOU BUT I AIN'T GOT NOthin' IN WRITIN' ABOUT OUR GOLD MINE

WELL, IF YOU GOT THAT IN ME, YOU DON'T NEED ANV WRITIN' SO GO BACK IN THE KITCHEN AND GO TO WORK SO I'LL HAVE SOME TRUST IN YOU

I TOLD HIM I TRUSTED HIM AND GOT SOUR LAST TIME AND BLOODED ME IN THE KITCHEN— I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE SUSPICIOUS EVERY MINUTE

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THE BUNGLE FAMILY—Rough Reformers

REBELS OF TOMORROW WERE SO IMPRESSED BY A ROCKET VISITOR'S REQUESTS FOR DIRECTIONS THAT THEY ELECTED HIM A REFORM LEADER OF THE YEAR 7324

Fellow Reds, forward! On to the very front of the palace where Dictatress Chloe the XIV shall

Who are we, who are we, we are the men of 73.

Oh boys, look! Here comes a mother-in-law. Shall we, as usual, salam us or?

Boys, we're done with all that old-fashioned legal stuff. Let's be real tough.

You Reds! Anarchists! Refusing to salam to me I've got all your numbers. I'll see about this.

An-hh we're not afraid of you! All right boys, let's strike up our battle song, real loud!

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LAND RETIREMENT MONEY PROVIDED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—(AP)—Funds to take some land out of production and put other areas into use were included today in \$4,350,000 of work relief money which President Roosevelt allotted to the rural settlement administration and the reclamation bureau.

HALT CALIFORNIA JOBLESS INFLUX

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6.—(AP)—Three separate steps have been taken by the federal government to call a sharp halt to the influx of unemployed transients into California. It was announced here today by Frank Y. McLaughlin, state relief administrator.

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STATE WILL SAVE ON BRIDGE BONDS

SALEM, Aug. 6.—(AP)—The federal government today informed the state highway commission it would resell \$4,200,000 bonds for the five Oregon coast bridges, to the state at par with accrued interest.

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