

READY MADE WIFE

BY CORALIE STANTON

SYNOPSIS: Rex Moore has returned from a round trip flight to America. But he had a temporary recurrence of his old blindness. He is in a dream world, and does not see Laurie, whom he loves, the truth. She believes he has gone blind; their situation is complicated by the innocent lie they told Mark Albery, their employer. It was that they were married. Laurie wishes to tell the real situation to everyone. Rex asks that she wait until he has done the Pacific.

Chapter 22 PARTING PLAN

"Of course, I don't want to see you found out!" Laurie's eyes blazed. "I made a bargain, and I'm prepared to stick to it. Besides, I'm in it, too! And, as you've so often pointed out, I've made a good thing out of it!"

"You're a sport," said Rex. "Well, it's like this, I want to do the Pacific flight as soon as possible. At once. And I must have a free mind. This mock divorce business will take time. It's got to be a fool-proof plan, or we shall look like a couple of idiots, as well as crooks. There's not a soul who would understand our position."

"But I can't think it out with the Pacific flight before me. Will you agree that we let it stand over until I come back?"

His voice had the eagerness of a boy's. He loved her, but he was a man, and love could not be everything in his life, and for the moment he was in the grip of a fixed idea.

His words fell coldly on her heart. "I don't want to interfere with the Pacific flight," she said. "But I won't stay here any longer. It's not right. Why should we go on sponging on Mr. Albery? I've got my own place to go back to. That's what I shall do."

"Of course, as you please. Perhaps it would be better if we just met occasionally at first. We don't want people to talk too much all at once, do we?"

"I suppose not. Am I to tell Mr. Albery?"

"I leave that to you. Perhaps a hint would be wise. Always remember, when you're playing the end of this game, that it is all my fault!" He laughed again. He was on fire with jealousy of Albery, just as Albery raged with jealousy of him.

"And you will tell Mrs. Steele," she suggested. "I would like you to do that. And it would be a good way of getting it about."

The man gave a twisted smile at this piece of sheer femininity but he said coldly:

"Yes, I will tell Mrs. Steele when I have an opportunity. But I shall be grateful if you don't make it out an absolute break, Laurie."

"All right, then," said Laurie, and added quite gaily: "It'll be a great relief to get back to normal life."

"Thank you," returned Rex grimly. "You've been a brick. I'll get on to Albery and fix things up. You'll stay here the night?"

"Oh, yes, I'll have to. Glad will be tired when she gets back from the show. And tomorrow is Saturday and Mr. Albery won't be up, so I shall have all day to move."

Rex went to the telephone. Laurie went into the kitchen. She was sure he would like some tea. He still looked grey and exhausted and, in a queer way, different. She had dispensed with Mrs. Budd after the early morning while he was away.

"It's all right," he said, coming into the kitchen a few minutes later. "Albery was pretty beastly at first, because I'd not rung him up from Ireland. But, of course, he's glad that I did the flight. I'm to have the bungalow and start getting ready at once. So now the stage is set again, Laurie, this time for the final curtain!"

He went into his bedroom to pack his meager belongings in his shabby suitcase, while Laurie got the tea.

He drank two cups, as if he were thirsty, but would not eat anything.

"Well, I'll be off, Laurie! I suppose we can both be trusted not to make idiotic mistakes. I'll write to you at your place, then."

"Rex," she said suddenly, "there's one thing I'd like you to do for me one of these days."

"What's that?" He looked at her, his eyes lighting up with that eager frankness that she had known during their queer comradeship of emity.

"Take me up in a plane before you go off again." She spoke the words mechanically, as if they had been put into her mouth. It was an uncontrollable impulse. A moment ago she had not had the slightest idea of wanting him to do such a thing.

"Why, of course, I shall be delighted," he said, looking slightly blank. "Have you never been up?"

"Yes, once. Last year Mr. Albery gave a party to all the staff, and there were little joy trips all day. I went up and I loved it. And I would like to go up again."

"Any time you like," he said. "I'll let you know when I can get off. Of course, any Sunday." It was a person in a dream who spoke, but she looked quite natural.

"Right, let me know, Laurie! I'll go and call the porter now to get me a taxi."

He came back and stood looking at her awkwardly. In his strange grey eyes struggled a thousand things that no words could express. What he did say was commonplace enough.

"It's a nice hole, this flat, I think. But you'll be glad to get away."

And, suddenly, he came up to her and laid his hand on her shoulder and said in a hoarse, stifled voice: "I'm glad you're going away. I'm glad I'm not going to see you any more like this. I wouldn't want you to be near me any more—now—I couldn't bear it! Good-bye!"

And he was gone.

Laurie was working with Mark Albery in his room at the office, ten days later.

The time had slipped by, as periods of life do when the brain and heart are dazed by emotion. Laurie had had a large amount of special work to do, and her employer had been very little in London.

When she first left the flat in Chelsea and returned to her own rooms, he had commented on it, but appeared to regard it as natural, now that her husband was at Gretton, preparing for his great flight, and would be away for some time after he had started on it. He had had very little personal conversation with her, seeming to be absorbed in business.

But today, when they had finished, and she was just getting up from her chair, he came swiftly towards her, with his graceful, cat-like steps, and laid his hand on her arm.

"Don't go! I want to talk to you. I have been thinking of you night and day. I can't sleep for thinking of you. Why wouldn't you come down to Gretton on Sunday?"

"I had an appointment that I couldn't break, Mr. Albery. It was very kind of you to ask me."

"Why won't you come down and stay at the bungalow? You could do your work there just as well. In fact, last week you would have been very useful to me. And when I'm up here, any of the men can take my correspondence."

"You don't say I would be useful, Mr. Albery. If I had known you wanted me, of course I would have come."

"Don't you want to be with your husband?"

Laurie felt herself coloring. The moment had come. It was the first opportunity to do what she and Rex had discussed.

"Is there anything wrong between you?" he went on. His voice was more toneless even than usual; his face more impassive. But his eyes gleamed between his half-closed lids with a watchful fire.

"Moore never mentions you. I've seen quite a bit of him. He gives me the impression that he doesn't want to talk, so I haven't asked him anything."

Laurie took the plunge. "We are not sure that we are getting on very well, Mr. Albery. We have decided to part for a time. I don't know why Rex didn't tell you. Of course, he is very busy. We have decided not to do anything definite until he comes back from his flight."

"You can't expect me to be sorry," he said. "Moore doesn't understand women. I have seen all the time that he makes you unhappy. And now I suppose he is carrying on with that old friend of his, Mrs. Steele?"

Laurie shook her head dumbly. She could not find words to answer that. The very thought was like a knife in her heart.

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Laurie is made a strange offer tomorrow.

EARLY DECISION ON AAA VALIDITY HELD NECESSARY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—(AP)—Senate and house conference committee members gathered for peaceful congressional acceptance of the farm adjustment bill today by opening wider the doors of the courts to suits for recovery on processing taxes.

With removal of this major obstacle of acceptance by congress of the conference report on the AAA amendments, the measure will be put before the house Tuesday and sped to the senate later.

An agreement was reached as processing tax collections were cut sharply by the 899 pending injunction suits in federal courts. The situation caused some farm officials to repeat their belief of the necessity for an early decision on constitutionality of the AAA.

June taxes, collected in July, dropped more than \$11,000,000 from the May total, and daily treasury receipts indicated an even greater decline for July taxes being collected this month. For June, 1935, collections were \$30,250,261, compared with a total of \$43,043,373 for June, 1934.

Tomato Sales Brisk
PORTLAND, Aug. 12.—(AP)—Tomatoes were in such brisk demand this morning that the supply was exhausted before the market was an hour old.

Use Mail Tribune want ads

RED MEN CHIEF COMING FRIDAY

Arthur J. Rutland, national great incoherence of the Improved Order of Red Men, will be in Medford Friday to speak at the regular meeting of the Redmen and Pochaneta Councils and tribes of southern Oregon and northern California.

Mr. Rutland, who lives in Blight-hampton, N. Y., is attending sessions of the northwestern councils in Helena, Mont., Everett, Wash., and Portland.

A radio address is also planned for Mr. Rutland while here, the time to be announced later.

KEEP COOL AND ENJOY meals and fountain service at the What Not. New air conditioner.

GENERAL MOTORS PLANS EXPANSION

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—(AP)—A "more assured outlook for profitable development" brings a \$50,000,000 expansion program to General Motors corporation.

Alfred P. Sloan Jr., president of the corporation, who announced the program yesterday, along with the company's report for the first half of the year, said most of the money would be spent for machinery.

"It will be recognized," he said, "that this program will make a contribution to employment, as affecting the capital goods industries, and many communities in which General Motors operates should ultimately benefit by the increased employment in prospect."

Use Mail Tribune want ads

SATISFYING
WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT
THE PERFECT GUM
AFTER EVERY MEAL

THE FAMILY ALBUM—WATERING THE PLANT

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

REMEMBERS HE PROMISED WIFE TO WATER HER PLANT WHILE SHE'S AWAY

SEARCHES IN CUPBOARDS FOR WATERING CAN BUT CAN'T FIND IT

FILLS A GLASS OF WATER INSTEAD

THIS REMINDS HIM HE IS THIRSTY, DRINKS THE GLASS OF WATER

REFILLS GLASS AND STARTS POURING IT ON PLANT

REALIZES THAT INSTEAD OF GOING ON PLANT, WATER IS DRIBBLING DOWN EDGE OF GLASS ONTO FLOOR

DECIDES HE WAS POURING IT TOO SLOWLY, EMPRIES GLASS AT ONE SWOOP, MOST OF IT GOING ON TABLE

DABS AT TABLE WITH HANDKERCHIEF, SETS GLASS ON MANTEL, AND CALLS THE JOB DONE

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S-MATTER POP—

I SHOULDN'T WANTA GET BIT BY NO POODH! I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

YEH, YA MEAN IN CASE ONE WOULD BITE YA

POP WOULD KNOW! I'LL ASKUM!

HE SAYS THE BEST IDEA IS TO PUT PEROXIDE ON IT QUICK

OH, YEAH, BUT SPODE I COULDN'T KETCH IT?

POP!

8-9

TAILSPIN TOMMY—A Shelter for the Night!

BY A CRUEL TREND OF FATE, BETTY, HOPELESSLY LOST IN THE DENSE NAZILIAN JUNGLE, PREVENTED HER RESCUE BY HIDING FROM EL ZORRO, THE SWAMP FOX, WHO WOULD HAVE WILLINGLY AIDED HER—

I—I—MUST BE GETTING DELIRIOUS—THAT LOOKS LIKE AN ADOBE—AHEAD—

IT IS!—IT IS!

LOOKS LIKE—IT HAS BEEN—ABANDONED—FOR A LONG TIME—

BUT—IT OFFERS SHELTER—FOR TONIGHT—

EATE SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT BETTY TO THIS OLD ABANDONED ADOBE—... LITTLE DOES SHE REALIZE THE GREAT SURPRISE IN STORE FOR HER—?

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BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Ben's Warning

SAY, WHERE'S BRIAR?

AIN'T HE BEEN FOLLOWIN' US?

PANIC SEIZED BEN! BRIAR'S UNACCOUNTABLE ABSENCE, COUPLED WITH THE BOY'S KNOWLEDGE THAT A GLAYER OF DEFENSELESS ANIMALS WAS IN WILD HOGS VALLEY, FILLED HIM WITH TERROR!

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT!

WHAT DO YOU GEE?

GH-GH-GH! WAIT—I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND—DON'T GAY A WORD! QUIET!

9-7

THE NEBBS—Look Out Ahead

SAY, LISTEN, YOU! I DON'T CARE HOW MANY TAVERNS OR ROAD HOUSES YOU OPEN IN THIS TOWN, YOU LET MY HELP ALONE

JUST WHAT'S THE CAUSE OF THIS RUCKUS—BURST OF EMOTION—PUT-IF I'M TO BLAME I'D WIRE TWO MORE GUYS TO HELP ME BE ASHAMED OF MYSELF

DON'T GET FUNNY—YOU OFFERED MY COOK, MISS GRUNTLEY, \$2.00 MORE A WEEK TO COME WITH YOU—NOW YOU LAY OFF ME OR I'LL GET OFFERING TOO AND I'LL SNAP YOUR SHORT BANK-ROLL WITH LONG WAGES

I WAS JUST PLAYING A LITTLE JOKE ON THE DUMB COOK OF YOURS AND SHE SHARED IT WITH YOU

AND AS FAR AS MY SHORT BANK-ROLL IS CONCERNED I GOT TWO PARTNERS—EITHER ONE COULD BUY YOU AND THINK IT WAS AN INSIGNIFICANT TRANSACTION

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THE BUNGLE FAMILY—A Triangle?

Hello Madge, what's new? I hear a few of those hair-brained Reds are starting some sort of Votes-for-Men foolishness and Oh! Who's this?

Oh Chlo, he's the most charming man, says he came from the year 1935 and you tell her Highness, George.

Well, I got here in a rocket, and

In a what? Madge, isn't he tall? So good looking, Bold, too

Well, your Highness, since I got here everyone keeps saying it's the year 7324 and

Madge, as you know I'm not one bit superstitious, but isn't he the picture of those old Americans who put wheels on everything? What's his name? George?

Nice name, Lovely

Ah...George and I got to be very good friends while waiting for you, Chlo, and

George! Madge this is fate I knew it the very moment I walked in here, saw him, Sit down here, George, near me and tell me about, oh, this rocket business

9-11

MEXICO TO TRY FIVE ON ASSASSIN PLOT

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 12.—(AP)—Preparations went forward for the trial today of five men charged with the attempted assassination of President Lázaro Cárdenas.

Officials maintained a strict secrecy regarding the identity of the prisoners, but they were said to be members of a band of seven, two more of whom were held at Paracutaro.

It was reported in military circles that one of the prisoners was Reuben Gomez Prado of Jiquilpan, Michoacan, the president's home town.

Oregon Weather
Fair tonight and Tuesday, cooler northwest portion Tuesday; moderate northwest wind off the coast.

Siamese Quadruplets
NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., Aug. 12.—(AP)—Lew Stewart's cat has kittens—four of them joined together at the body. "Siamese quadruplets," Stewart says the cat is pretty much bewildered.

Tender Relieved

MARSHFIELD, Ore., Aug. 12.—(AP)—Aided by two tugs, the United States coast guard cutter Pulaski yesterday pulled the 69-foot cannerie tender, C. P. R. A. No. 2, off the sands of North Spit, one mile north of Coos Bay, Ore., where it ran aground during a dense fog Thursday.

Freight Train Blasted
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 12.—(AP)—Three men were injured, two seriously when an Illinois Central freight train was dynamited three miles south of here early today.

California Resort Burns
NUEMBER, Calif., Aug. 12.—(AP)—The Northern hotel, Northern club and Paxton bar were destroyed by fire today, at an estimated loss of \$23,000.

Called to Colors
ROME, Aug. 12.—(AP)—Italy summoned a new unit of its reserve military power to the colors today.

WINDOW GLASS—We sell window glass and will replace your broken window reasonably. Phone 1384. Cabnet Works

FRESH GARAGE in new location, 801 N. Central. Phone 1388.

By C. M. Payne

By Hal Forrest

By Edwin Alger

By Sol Hess

By Harry J. Tuttle