

READY MADE WIFE

BY CORALIE STANTON

Chapter 47
ACCIDENT

REX MOORE came into the little salon. In his grey eyes was a glint of satisfaction.

He ordered food, and a bottle of champagne. With the quick response of the French to all culinary emergencies, it was soon brought. Hot soup and cold chicken.

Glady's took some soup and a glass of wine, and almost immediately afterwards fell asleep on the couch.

Rex Moore and Laurie said very little.

"I gave that young cur a sound thrashing," he said. "I don't think he'll forget it."

"How did you come to meet Glad?" she asked.

"I followed you, Laurie. As soon as the car turned the corner, I got out. I couldn't let you go off like that, alone. I saw you go into this hotel. They told me at the office that you had called on Mr. Dallas. I—well, I guessed something was up. So I walked up and down outside, and then came across this poor child."

"Thank God, you were there!" she said aloud.

And then, in an immense revulsion of feeling, she smokes roundlessly for her inmost heart.

"I love him! I love him! He is the finest man in the world—the only man in the world. How can I go on living? How can I?"

Laurie and Gladys came back to London by train and boat.

Rex Moore flew back alone.

A shock awaited him when he reached the Chelsea flat. He found a message to say that Mrs. Steele had been in a motor accident and was seriously injured. They had rung up from a nursing home to say that Mrs. Steele was asking for him. She wanted to see him very urgently. He drove immediately to the address, and saw from the face of the woman who received him that Wanda must be very ill indeed.

"There is no hope," the matron said. "She is barely conscious. A spinal injury. If she lived, she would be a cripple."

In silence he stole into the room, and looked down with sad, self-reproachful eyes at the grey face on the pillows.

He thought she was unconscious, and did not speak.

"She is slipping away," the matron whispered. "Say something to her. She wants so much to see you."

"Wanda!" he said gently. "Wanda, dear. I am here!"

It took a perceptible time, but his voice reached her and brought her back literally for a few seconds from the other side.

She opened her eyes; she tried to move.

"Rex, darling!" It was a thread of a voice, wandering, uncertain. It hardly seemed to come from the woman on the bed.

He tried to stammer out conventional sayings about getting better; but his voice broke.

Then a smile flickered over her face. Her lips moved. He bent down and that whisper, hovering between two worlds, came to his ears.

"I want you to be happy. I want you to have—to have—"

But it was too much. She was already too far away.

The eager lips dropped apart. The matron motioned him away and bent over the bed.

Wanda Steele, who had saved his life, who had given him back his eyesight, who had loved him with a strong woman's tenacious passion, was no more.

He gave her his last homage and his first true caress, as he bent reverently and kissed her forehead.

ALBERRY had returned to London on the same day as Laurie.

When she was called into his room on the following morning, she found him his usual suave, impassive self. But there was something in his manner that warned her. He spoke smoothly, but she seemed to see the whip in his hand.

"I got your message in Berlin," he said. "I am sorry about your sister. How is she?"

"She is getting on all right, thank you."

"How did you go to Paris?"

She was startled, but her instinct was always to tell the truth, and she answered frankly:

"Rex Moore took me by air."

"You had given me your word of honor not to see him again."

"I couldn't help myself. I had to

get there as quickly as possible. It was very urgent."

"You did not tell anybody that you were going to Paris. My people here thought you were at home."

"I wired to Mr. Mortimer from Paris. He had asked us to dine with him."

"That's how I found out you were in Paris. Mortimer told me, Laurie, you're not telling me the truth. That's not only unkind, but untrue."

"I am telling you the truth," she felt a furious resentment against him. It was a foretaste of what was to come. She had sold herself to this man with the unreadable Oriental face, and always the whip in his hand. She could not call her soul her own. She was a slave. "Are you going to get together with Moore every time my back is turned?" he asked in that silky voice that stabbed like a stiletto. "Do you want to call our bargain off?"

"No—not!" she said. What was there behind his eyes that gave his words such a sinister meaning? On the face of it, he was in the right. She had given him her word and broken it. And she could not explain. She felt actually that she would rather die than explain. But their bargain—that was another matter. That meant Rex Moore's career, which was his life.

"I HAVE settled my business," he went on, and now he was the smiling, ardent-eyed lover on the point of achieving his desire. "So there is nothing to wait for. I am going to take a holiday, entirely away from business. I have a place in France, not far from Paris. We will go over and be married there, and then we will tour through Spain for our honeymoon."

"And when I have to come back here, you will stay in some quiet little place and I will come over every week-end. Mortimer is going to work things when he gets back to Australia. I can trust him. He will wangle it so that we can announce that you have divorced Rex Moore down there, where you were married."

"So you see, it's all fixed up. Get ready to leave London in the middle of next week. Don't bother about anything in the way of clothes. You can do your shopping in Paris. I shall have to go over a few days before to arrange about the wedding. Laurie! Laurie! My lovely girl!"

His voice changed to passionate exultation. He took her in his arms. She was caught in the merciless spokes of the wheel of life. She was helpless. She could only submit.

Next week she would be Mark Alberty's wife. And life would be over for her.

Wanda Steele was buried in England, according to her wishes, and the cabled confirmation of her nearest relative, a brother in New York.

After the funeral, Rex Moore learned the meaning of those last words that she had breathed.

A member of a firm of solicitors had been acting for her, who, besides himself, her maid, and her chauffeur, were the only mourners, drove him back from the little country churchyard of the village that her family had originally come from, and asked him to come into his office.

Here he revealed the fact that Mrs. Steele had made a fresh will the very day before her accident, in which she had left him nearly the whole of her property in California, and securities that would bring him in a very comfortable income.

Rex was overwhelmed. His first thought was that he would be independent of Mark Alberty. He felt an inexpressible gratitude to the dead woman who had demonstrated her love for him beyond the grave.

Everything was in perfect order, the lawyer assured him. He had exchanged cables with Mrs. Steele's men of business in California and with her brother. There could be no question about the validity of the will.

Rex Moore went out, dazed, into the hot July afternoon. He felt humble; so unworthy of the dead woman's great love.

He walked swiftly through the streets; not only a free, but a rich man.

The next day an even greater blessing was bestowed on Rex Moore. On paying a visit to the famous eye specialist, he was told by the great man:

"I can find no more trace of the trouble. Mr. Moore, I am happy to pronounce you completely cured."

(Copyright, 1935, Coralie Stanton.)

Laurie defies Alberty, tomorrow.

281,219 for the previous season. The drop in mild cured and frozen fish pack was even greater, figures showing only 831 tierces of mild cure salmon and 1314 boxes of frozen fish put up on the river. This was a drop of 50 per cent.

Bulktest Constitution Found

BERKELEY, Cal. — (UP) — Now amended more than 200 times, the constitution of the state of California contains more than 75,000 words. It was framed in 1879 and is the biggest and bulkiest of any in the United States.

The pack this summer was reported at 208,895 full cases as compared with

front here on the east side at the old home of the Ryan Fruit company.

McLaughlin, for 35 years with the Pacific Fruit & Produce Co., has been in charge of that firm's plants at Seattle, Yakima, Walla Walla, Aberdeen, Hoquiam and other points. He has resigned his position with Pacific Fruit.

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 28.—(AP)—The Mutual Fruit Co., Inc., will open a large and modern wholesale fruit and produce house here within 10 days, Ralph McLaughlin, president and general manager, announced today.

The plant will be near the water-

WHOLESALE FRUIT CO. TO OPEN IN PORTLAND

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 28.—(AP)—The Mutual Fruit Co., Inc., will open a large and modern wholesale fruit and produce house here within 10 days, Ralph McLaughlin, president and general manager, announced today.

The plant will be near the water-

front here on the east side at the old home of the Ryan Fruit company.

McLaughlin, for 35 years with the Pacific Fruit & Produce Co., has been in charge of that firm's plants at Seattle, Yakima, Walla Walla, Aberdeen, Hoquiam and other points. He has resigned his position with Pacific Fruit.

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 28.—(AP)—William Frederick Daniels, 15, who picked yesterday's heat as a propitious time to learn to swim, drowned in the Columbia river at Morgan beach late in the day. His body was recovered an hour and a half later.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

SPOKANE GROWING AS WHEAT SHIPPING PORT

SPOKANE, Wash., Aug. 28.—(AP)—Pointing to a prospective increased importance for Spokane as an inland Empire wheat shipping point, railroad and grain men reported almost a doubling of wheat handled through grain elevators here, compared to last year.

They credited the recent removal by the rail carriers of the 2 1/2 cents for 100 pounds transit charge for the jump.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

NEIGHBORHOOD BASEBALL

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



WHEN FOR LACK OF ANYONE ELSE THE BOYS LET BUD BEMIS'S SISTER UMPIRE, THE GAME BECAME VERY UNCERTAIN, BECAUSE EXERCISING HER FEMININE RIGHT TO CHANGE HER MIND, SHE DECIDED IN THE SEVENTH INNING THAT AFTER ALL EDDIE SELZER WAS OUT AT THE PLATE IN THE SECOND, AND THAT BUD'S RUN IN THE FIFTH DIDN'T COUNT BECAUSE SHE HAD DECIDED TO CALL HIS FOURTH BALL A THIRD STRIKE

8-27

(Copyright, 1935, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

GLUYAS WILLIAMS

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

For further proof address the author, inclosing a stamped envelope for reply. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



3 GENERATIONS IN 29 YEARS!
MRS. HUBERT EDWARDS, 29-YEAR-OLD GRANDMOTHER, HER 13-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, AND TINY GRANDDAUGHTER...
Kurtz, Ind., 1933



THE WORLD'S MOST NORTHERN GOLF CLUB—Chesterfield Inlet, Hudson Bay, HAS JUST 3 MEMBERS—A MISSIONARY, A MOUNTY AND A BUSINESS MAN...

THE TREE SWALLOW IS THE FIRST BIRD TO FLY NORTH IN THE SPRING AND THE LAST TO FLY SOUTH IN THE WINTER...



SAVED BY A MIRACLE!
U-BOAT 35 WAS MIRACULOUSLY SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION WHEN A PERFECTLY AIMED ITALIAN TORPEDO JUMPED OUT OF THE WATER AND PASSED HARMLESSLY OVER THE CRAFT!
—1917—

Strange as it seems, the most northern golf course in the world is also one of the most exclusive in the world. It is located just south of the Arctic Circle at Chesterfield Inlet on the Hudson Bay. Its membership totals three—a mounted policeman, a missionary and a trader.

The course has only three holes—but these are played six times to make an 18-hole round, par for which is 72. The fairways are northern moor, and the greens are made from sand brought up from the coast. For caddies the members employ Eskimo, and for refreshment they use pay polar bear teeth—five teeth pay for a life membership. The Eskimos, strange as it seems, play golf sometimes, but they would rather caddy.

One of the most miraculous escapes from death during the whole World War was that experienced by the officers and crew of the German U-boat 35 late in 1917. The submarine was cruising at the surface when an Italian warship took it by surprise and fired a torpedo. Too late to dive or get out of the way, members of the crew on deck helplessly watched the torpedo head straight for the mid-

Suddenly, when it was within a few yards of its mark, it jumped out of the water and over the German craft. The torpedo just cleared the deck, passing between the conning tower and the forward gun—if it had hit either of these it would have exploded.

Again before the submarine could get out of the way, another torpedo was fired straight at it. It, too, sped straight for the middle of the sub—but it was fired a little too deep, and passed harmlessly under the craft.

Tomorrow: The Blind Observer.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—An Uneven "Dog Fight!"

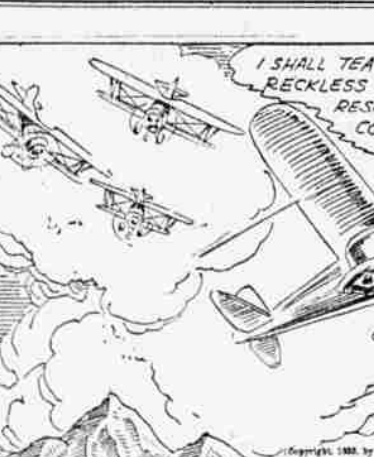


WHILE EL CONDOR, MASKED MYSTERIOUS PILOT, WAS ENGAGED IN SHOOTING DOWN A REBEL COMBOS, HE FAILED TO SEE THREE REBEL PLANES ABOVE HIM—WHICH WAS PART OF THE TRAP PREPARED BY EL LIBERATOR TO CATCH EL CONDOR—

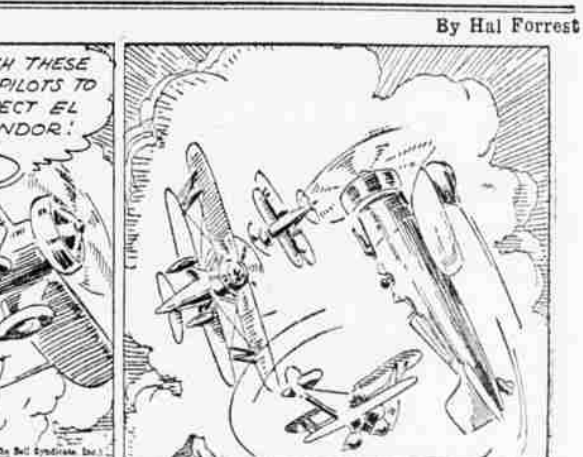
2271



REBEL PLANES! I AM GETTING CARELESS!



I SHALL TEACH THESE RECKLESS PILOTS TO RESPECT EL CONDOR!



GIMME THAT!

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—On the Way!



SCAT MY CATS! WHEN'D ALL THIS GO UP? WHY, YOU GOT A CORRAL!



DO YOU THINK I'LL HOLD, CAL? I COULDN'T SLEEP SO I CAME DOWN HERE WITH BRIAR AND BUILT IT—



YOU GEE, THIS IS THE SPOT WHERE LONESTAR LEADS HIS HERD ACROSS THE CREEK—



HARK, SON! YOU AN' BRIAR GIT BACK IN THESE BUSHES WITH ME! I THINK I HEAR THE LODGE A'COMIN' RIGHT NOW!

THE NEBBS—The Schemer



I DIDN'T GET AN INVITE TO MAX'S OBEYZING—BUT I CALLED UP AND FOUND HIM THAT I WAS THE MAID FROM THE HOTEL—STOPPING AT THE HOTEL—AND I GOT A ROOM FOR FOUR



SPROSEN WLEN YOU HAD TO LIVE YOU TO LIVE



LEAVE ME TO MIND I YOU IT AIN'T SO LONG AGO HE OFFERED ME A JOB AS HIS WIFE—I GUESS THAT'S A TICKET TO THE FRACAS



HE LEFT WITH ME MOST OF HIS LIFE—AND HE'S GOING TO DINE WITH HIM—I GOING OUTSIDE THE TID TO TLEAVE WONT BE NO MORE—CHANGE LANDS

FISHERMEN'S STRIKE CUTS SALMON PACK

ANTORIA, Ore., Aug. 28.—(AP)—The Columbia river canned salmon pack for this summer fell at least 20 per cent below the 1934 summer season pack, packer reports showed today.

The pack this summer was reported at 208,895 full cases as compared with

281,219 for the previous season. The drop in mild cured and frozen fish pack was even greater, figures showing only 831 tierces of mild cure salmon and 1314 boxes of frozen fish put up on the river. This was a drop of 50 per cent.

Bulktest Constitution Found

BERKELEY, Cal. — (UP) — Now amended more than 200 times, the constitution of the state of California contains more than 75,000 words. It was framed in 1879 and is the biggest and bulkiest of any in the United States.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

SATISFYING WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT THE PERFECT GUM AFTER EVERY MEAL