

Two's Company

By MARGARET GUION HERZOG

The Characters
Nina, a nice girl with hazel hair, has fallen in love with her stepfather.
Honey, Nina's gay, plump, youthful mother, has brought home a new husband.
Richard, Nina's charming, well-tailored stepfather, pays considerable attention to Nina.
David, a young auto salesman, crashed a party, met Nina and his heart turned over.
Cordelia is Nina's closest friend.

Chapter 10
'You're Good For Me'
BUT Nina's reasoning had all been too convenient, too easy... too brief. The second stage came on at breakfast.

She had been quite wrong, she found.
As she sat sipping her chilled grapefruit juice, in her new American Beauty pajamas, she thought: "Now I must snap out of this schoolgirl lapse of mine."
But when her stepfather appeared in a black dressing-gown with dragons on it, she thought: "Oh, Lord! I can't!"
She loved him, and it couldn't be helped. But she loved him nicely and quietly, and nobody need ever even suspect it. Instead of gnawing inwardly at her vitals, like a cancer, it gave her a warm, glowing feeling inside. Something to be treasured rather than ashamed of.

This beautiful second stage lasted all of three days. She had thought it would last forever. She should have known better.
Nina soon found herself progressing to the stage where she wanted to talk about it... wanted people to know; and immediately, of course, upon the heels of this hideous discovery, came remorse, and self-reviling thoughts about loyalty to her mother.

Nina felt sick all over.
In the Plaza movies, one afternoon, Cordelia had said: "How are you and Richard making out, darling?"
That had been the beginning of it.
Nina had wanted to talk and talk about him; how marvelous they got on together; how marvelous he was to Honey; how marvelously he fitted into the household.

Cordelia had had to shush her because the feature picture had started. And it was then that Nina had begun to be afraid.
Oh, To Laugh About It!
SHE went about then, in a paralysis of fear lest someone would suspect it... Honey... Richard, himself.
She dreaded goodnights, and good mornings, lest he should touch her, and the warm blood should come bubbling out to her cheeks. She felt that she walked awkwardly, talked in a peculiar constrained way when she was with him, in an effort to appear normal. Sometimes her lips felt as though she had been hit with a wind... stiff and frozen almost, when she had to reply to some casual compliment. It was unbearable.

And it wasn't only the effort of trying to hide the signs of her, well, call it infatuation. It was trying to kill the germ at the root of the infection. And that she could not seem to do. It was as though Richard were launching a diabolical campaign to win her; to make her suffer, and hate herself the more.
One night he said to Carrie Van Alstyne, right in front of Honey and Nina: "I'm proud of myself, Carrie. There aren't many men who could keep their heads, with two such beautiful women in the house."

And Horseface had said, coquettishly: "Are you referring to Honey and me, young fella?" Honey had giggled.
Oh, to be able to laugh about it! Nina thought with envy of the girl who had been herself only a few days ago, lying all uncolored, between her peach-colored sheets, figuring it out on her fingers that she really didn't love him at all; who had been able to curl up, and go to sleep afterwards.
And she thought, with loathing, of the girl she was—now; admittedly in love with her own mother's husband... trembling at his approach.

She went out with Tom... and with every Dick and Harry who asked her. And she was so nice to David, when he came back from his trip and called up, that he appeared within an hour... with Buttons, and a happy gleam in his eyes.
She was inordinately glad to see him. He had interested her more than any young man in ages... before Richard Challenger appeared, of course, and she hoped against hope that his charm would help bring her back to normal again.
Not Full A 'Plish Tush'?
"HELLO, David!"
"Gosh, Nina, I'm glad to see you. It's been 5 weeks, 2 days, and 13 hours too long!"

That was a bad beginning. Five weeks, 2 days, and 13 hours since she had walked in, all unsuspecting, and found her new stepfather.
He proceeded to go from bad to worse.
"There've been great goings on in your life since I left you that night, haven't there?"
She had to laugh.
"I'll say there have!"
"He was gay and ridiculous the entire two hours he stayed."
He was no more ridiculous on four cocktails, than he was on none. That, Nina liked about him. She thought it was the only possible feature he and Richard could have in common... Not that Richard was ever ridiculous, but that he knew how to hold his drinks.

When he left, David said: "You won't be an old meany and let me get too crazy about you, if you're going to pull a 'plish tush' on me, when I was serious... will you Nina?"
And Nina said: "I'm never an old meany, darling, and 'plish tush' isn't in my vocabulary."
"Is 'nuts'?"
"Nor 'nuts'."
"You realize, of course, that you're practically accepting me this minute..."
And she said, with more feeling

than she had before.
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STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



ALL-AROUND STAR—MURRAY PATRICK (22), MILA RAMBLERS HOCKEY STAR, HAS BEEN CANADIAN AMATEUR HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMP, BEST FORWARD IN CANADIAN AMATEUR BASKETBALL, A STAR HALF BACK IN FOOTBALL, TRACK AND FIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHAMP, A MEMBER OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC CHAMPION RUGBY AND BASEBALL TEAMS OF VICTORIA, B.C., AND IS A PROFESSIONAL SIX-DAY BICYCLE RIDER!

Colchicum Bulb.
Set somewhere indoors where a little light will reach it, the Colchicum bulb will produce six to 15 lovely lavender blossoms without water, soil or care. When through blooming the bulb may be planted, dug up the following July and again used as an indoor plant.

Boxing is another "top" sport with the young Canadian. In 1935 he won his country's amateur heavyweight title. Later in the same year he won the Washington state championship. In baseball, Patrick has starred as catcher and fielder on Victoria, B. C. teams. His 1932 baseball playing ended with a perfect fielding average. The same year, he played football for the Victoria Capitals in British Columbia's "Big 4" league. Youngest player on the team, he was also the biggest yardage gainer. As a rugby player, Patrick played in the backfield with several Victoria championship teams. In track and field, he won the Victoria all-around high school championship two years in a row. Today, in addition to being a professional hockey player, Patrick also goes in for six-day bicycle riding.

Tomorrow: The Chloroform Party!

RAILWAY MAIL HEAD NAMED FOR DIVISION
WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—(AP) Alvah L. Carr was named today by second assistant Postmaster General Harlee Branch to serve as assistant division superintendent of the railway mail service at Seattle, Wash.

Branch appointed Earl L. March chief clerk for the service at Seward, Alaska.

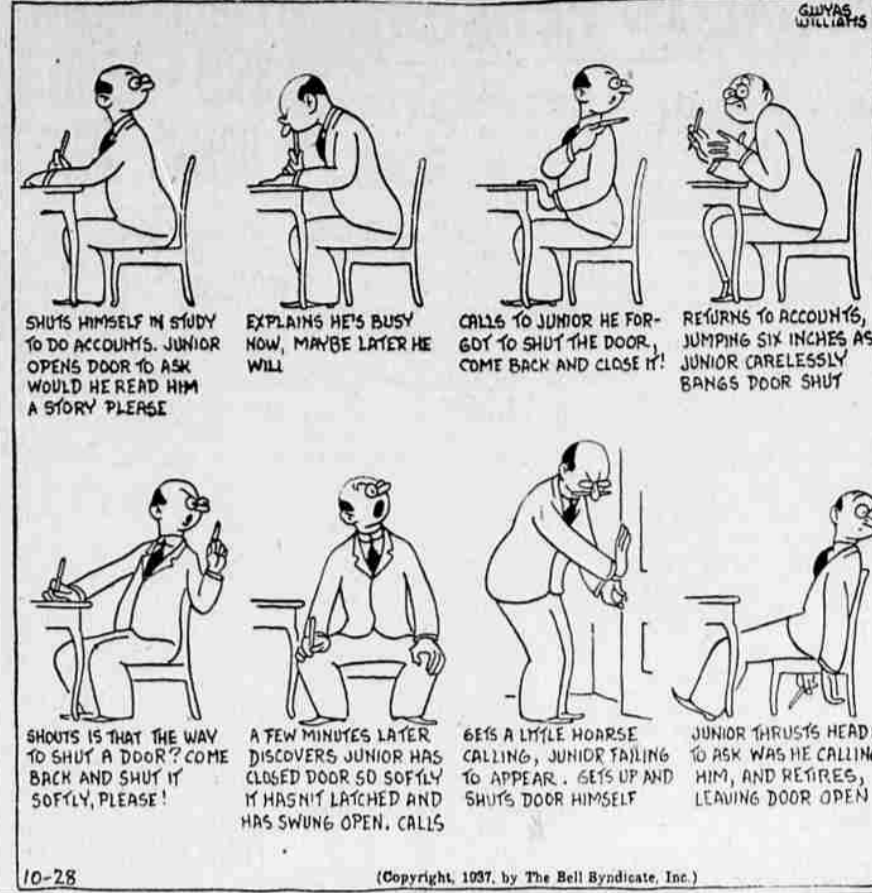
MINIMUM WAGES SET FOR SOVIET WORKERS
MOSCOW, Nov. 3.—(AP) Minimum wages for factory, railroad and water transportation workers were fixed today at 110 rubles (\$37.60) to 115 rubles (\$39.18) a month by government decree, exclusive of bonuses.

It was estimated officially the increases would amount to 600,000,000 rubles (\$308,760,000) a year.

JOHNNY GOODMAN WINS MEXICAN GOLF CROWN
MEXICO CITY, Nov. 3.—(AP) Johnny Goodman, United States amateur golf champion from Omaha, Neb., won the Mexican national amateur title today, routing Don Schumacher of Dallas, 6 and 5, in the 36-hole final.

OPEN AND SHUT

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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S'MATTER POE

By C. M. PAYNE



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TAILSPIN TOMMY—"Cornered!"



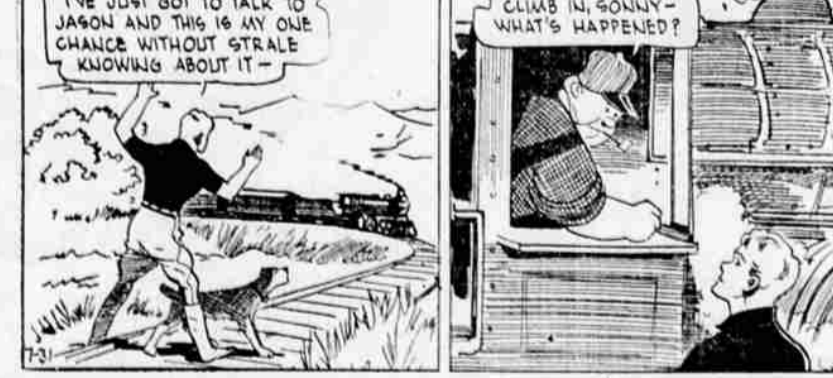
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BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The "Conspirators"



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THE NEBBS—You'll Never Know



By EDWIN ALGER

TWO KILLED IN FALL WITH EX-WAR FLIER

ROSEVILLE, Mich., Nov. 3.—(AP)—A stunning airplane piloted by a man whose flying experience began in the World War, crashed here late yesterday, killing two persons and injuring one.

The dead were John T. Britt, 52, of Detroit, the pilot, and Dennis A. Keohane, 34, Detroit, salesman for a Minneapolis smelting and refining company.

Taken unconscious from the wreckage was Mrs. Florence Mauser, 41, of Roseville. Her husband, William, described her as "always crazy about flying."

Department of commerce officials from Detroit began an investigation immediately and took statements from several witnesses.

BRITAIN WILL SIGN SPANISH TRADE PACT

LONDON, Nov. 3.—(AP)—Britain is about to complete negotiations, an informed source said tonight, for a trade agreement with insurgent Spain. The terms, which are expected to be announced "at an appropriate moment," would provide for establishment of commercial missions in Britain which would have the right to deal with the British department of overseas trade.

Gas Used on Animals.
ISTANBUL, Turkey.—(UPI)—Istanbul police are using rifles firing poison gas capsules in their campaign to rid the city of stray dogs and cats. The powerful gas anesthetizes the strays, which are removed and painlessly destroyed.

WINDOW GLASS.—We will window glass and will replace your broken windows reasonably. Truebridge Cabinet Works.

By SOL HESS



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