

Two's Company

by MARGARET CLION HERZOG

The Characters
Nina, a nice girl with flaxen hair, has decided to escape from her desperate love for her stepfather by marrying David.
Richard, the charming, well-tailored stepfather, tells Nina passionately of his love for her.
Honey, Nina's gay, plump, youthful mother, who is crazy about Richard, has gone on a trip.
David, a young auto salesman, has been urging Nina to marry him, for he adores her.

Chapter 18

Nina's Wedding

NINA said: "Come, David, darling."
But David stood still.
"You can't do this thing, of course, Nina," Richard came up to them, and his eyes were as cold and bright as pieces of steel.
"Richard... please. This is my life. I'm sorry you heard us just now, because I can see that you would feel that you ought to interfere... but I know what I'm doing, truly."
His eyes were so terrible that she couldn't look into them; they were so... compelling that she didn't care.
"That's just it, Nina... you don't know what you're doing." And he said, in a way that must surely bare their secret: "You know you don't, my dear."
David came forward.
"I don't think you understand, Mr. Challenger. You couldn't, of course. I wouldn't want to force Nina to marry me this way, any more than you would want to have me."

If Nina felt anything beyond a terrible, terrible yearning to turn back... she felt proud of him.
"Then don't let it go, Day. That's simple enough... if you're sincere."
But she does...
"Rot!"

The word shot out like the crack of a pistol in the silent house.
The younger man stiffened.
It came again: "Rot!... Go upstairs, Nina. My God, you must be out of your mind... And look here, Day, you're trying to put on a fine, upright front... but I scarcely need remind you that your actions are decidedly... shady."

A slow flush mounted to David's forehead. Nina could see the little muscle in the side of his cheek working furiously.
Richard went on. He was speaking very softly. "If you're in love with this girl, why haven't you come out in the open like a decent self-respecting..."

"Richard, you're saying horrible things. Stop... please." Nina laid a hand on his arm, though it cost her an effort. "David has been open with me, from the first moment. This... running away was my idea. I'm only explaining this to you because I think your rudeness is due to alarm."

David related a little.
He smiled and said, in an effort to lighten things up a bit: "After all Mr. Challenger, when you and Mrs. Challenger discovered you loved each other, you didn't seem to be able to think up any reason why you should wait... not even to tell Nina... After all, we love each other too and I'm no, he laughed, 'no leper...'"

Richard cut in.
"Oh, don't trouble to give a description of yourself, Day. Since you're... clandestine meetings... I have made rather a point of looking you up. And at the risk of being called 'rude' again by my stepdaughter I'm going to add, that my familiarity with you... shall we say, background?... is my chief objection to you. Have I made myself clear?"

Nina stood by quite helpless. What seemed like a million conflicting emotions were tearing her apart.
She was ashamed of Richard for the tone he was taking, but she thought that if he had let her walk out without a word it would have surely broken her heart.

David Strikes Back
BUT now David had had enough. "I have no desire to insult you, Mr. Challenger... or no, I take that back. I have a strong desire to... but I'm restraining myself. And what's more, I'm not going to stand here and let you insult me any more. If there have been certain things that I have missed in my life... they have not been the most important things. And after this little interview I'm inclined to think there are certain attributes that go along with your kind of breeding that I'm thankful I haven't got... As for your concern for Nina, I assure you that my greatest wish in life is to make her happy; and I'm pretty sure I can... or I wouldn't take on the responsibility."

"Heart! Heart!" said Richard; and it was a sneer.
"I think David's behaving splendidly," said Nina, hotly, "and I think you're behaving like a... like a... Oh, Richard, don't let's part in this horrid way."
"Don't let's... part, Nina"... and all his anger and sarcasm deserted him.

Mr. and Mrs. Day think of plans, a little, Monday.

HIGHWAY CHAIRMAN FOR 60 M.P.H. LIMIT

PORTLAND, Nov. 12. — (UP) — Henry F. Cabell, chairman of the state highway commission, suggested here today a "maximum speed limit of 60 miles an hour, under some conditions" be established in Oregon.
"I don't want to commit myself to any speed, as it is a matter of study," he said, "but it seems 60 miles an hour is a reasonably safe speed under some conditions, such as on straight highways with few intersections."

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KLAMATH MAN DIES WHILE HUNTING ELK

LONG CREEK, Nov. 12. — (AP) — The body of Willis Fry, 47, Klamath Falls, yesterday noon was brought out from the wilds of Desolation creek in Grant county, where he died Tuesday while on an elk hunting expedition.
Charles Gierdoney, Grant county coroner, said heart disease was the cause of death.
Fry, hunting with Clinton Pinnell, Bob Smith and Bob Dunlap, Klamath Falls men, left camp alone at about 8 a. m. Tuesday, the others reported. When not seen later, the men searched for him and found the body in the afternoon.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



Suicide Crater.
While nearly every large metropolis has its famous "Lover's Leap," the greatest monument to self-destruction stands today at Mount Mihara, a volcano on Oshima Island, near Tokyo, Japan.
In the past six years more than 2000 Japanese have joined their ancestors by hurling themselves into the hot lava from the crater's lip. In 1936 alone, 619 persons were officially known to have sacrificed their lives to the Fire God of Mount Mihara for 619 unfathomable reasons.
Alarmed at the high suicide rate of Oshima Island, the small inter-island steamship company that runs boats from Tokyo to Oshima decided to stop selling one-way tickets in an effort to discourage would-be suicides.
And, strange as it seems, the alarming suicide rate has actually increased the population of Oshima Island rather than decreased it. The sulphurous pit of Mihara proved to be such a morbid lure to tourists that the steamship company has added new ships and doubled up its sailing schedule. The number of tins at the Oshima port has tripled in four years.
Other famed mecca of suicides are the 302-foot monument to Sir Christopher Wren in London; the Sydney Harbor Bridge at Sydney, Australia, where 43 suicides were recorded in the first two years after its construction in 1932; the Washington Monument, where it was found necessary to bar the windows; and Pasadena, California's 150-foot high Colorado Street span, where nearly 100 persons leaped to violent deaths before steps were taken to safeguard it.

400 JAPANESE MINERS BURIED ALIVE BY SLIDE
TSUMAGOI, Japan, Nov. 12. — (AP) — Four hundred copper miners were believed to have been buried alive today by a landslide on Komenshi mountain.
Communications were severed and the extent of the catastrophe could not be determined at once. Tsumagoi is in Nagano prefecture of central Honshu.
Be Specific, Please.
PORTLAND, Nov. 12. — (AP) M. H. Jones, chairman of the Columbia Basin Sawmill association, asked Dr. Richard M. Steiner, Unitarian minister, today to supply specific information to support a charge that member firms discriminated against recommendation of Detective W. B. Odale, head of the police red squad.
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