

Two's Company

By MARGARET CLION HERZOG

The Characters

Nina has married David, trying to escape her intense love for her stepfather.

Richard, the charming, well-tailored stepfather, tried to prevent her marriage.

Honey, Nina's gay, plump, youthful mother, is wild about Richard, her recently acquired husband.

David, a bright young auto salesman who worships Nina, has sloped with her—at Nina's suggestion.

Chapter 22

Cordelia's Black-Tie Party

THROUGHOUT dinner, and later, Nina talked—said things—but she couldn't remember what afterwards. Only the part of her brain that made her tongue move, was working properly. The rest of her was a solid mass of longing—and, yes, jealousy, too.

She ached so, for the feel of Richard, his arms... his lips, that it was sheer agony: and when he held Honey close to him she felt near to hating her mother.

David's handclasp—his arm around her, could bring no comfort now, only more hurt.

At the end of the meal, when Honey, all unwittingly, suggested that they leave the two men together for a while, Nina demurred.

didn't care. And she loved him for not trying to seem to be anything that he—wasn't.

The difficulty of dress had been surmounted by Cordelia's saying: "Black ties" to all the men, because she suspected David didn't own a tall coat. She said it to David, too, when they were discussing the party... and, instead of saying: "All right," he said: "Well—I don't own anything but a tuxedo..." And on account of that very small fact, Cordelia had congratulated Nina again, later, for choosing such a grand person for a husband.

"He's real, Nina. He's a—person."

And Nina agreed. "He's a very cute—somebody, and I adore him."

She did.

The next event on their social calendar was very different.

Two of David's friends—Gracie Nolan, and Jack Knight—had arranged a little dinner in their honor.

Knight was another salesman who worked in the same showroom as David; and Gracie had worked there in the past, as a private secretary.

Jack thought that Gracie was his girl.

Gracie thought otherwise... but they got on pretty well, in spite of the difference of opinion.

Off Come Two Bracelets

NINA gave some thought to the matter of what dress she should wear to the party, and de-



David spoke with engaging frankness of his turning Nina into a "homebody."

"Oh, we don't want to be formal with guests!"

But the real reason was that she didn't want to be alone with Honey; didn't want to have to talk gaily and intimately about her own travesties of a marriage, with Honey—who was so wildly happy in hers.

Nina thought: "This is sort of the end, I guess." She could never feel quite the same with her mother now.

That night, when David had fallen asleep beside her, she lay for a long time, thinking... thinking.

And the thing that would come up in her mind, the question that kept insisting itself, was this: did Richard love her still?

What had been in those dark eyes, when he looked at her across the table? Had he meant to cover her hand with his when he reached to refill her cocktail glass?

In spite of all her arguing with herself, nothing could change the one thing that she wanted most of all, right now: that he should love her.

Nothing could be gained by it; it was wicked, and didn't "make sense" as she told herself over and over... but there it was. He must love her—or she simply couldn't live.

In the days that followed, Nina was able to overcome her aversion to being alone with Honey, somewhat; but her mad feeling about Richard went right on. She made no excuses for herself, and she fought it, and she doubled up on her efforts to make David happy... but it went right on.

"Please love me, Richard. Please."

Meeting Nina's Friends

CORDELIA gave a very festive dinner-party for Nina and David, during which David survived the evident curiosity of his wife's friends, most creditably.

Nina was both pleased and amused that one or two of the girls remembered him from Cordelia's party, in the autumn.

He spoke with engaging frankness of his career as an automobile salesman, and of his turning Nina into a "home-body." From their delighted laughter, Nina suspected that some of them thought he was fooling; but she

didn't care. And she loved him for not trying to seem to be anything that he—wasn't.

"Come in at seven... there will be six of us," Gracie had said over the telephone. Nina was frankly puzzled.

Beyond the statement that the men were not dressing, David had been no earthly good to her; so—without being the least bit snobbish—Nina decided it would be in better taste not to run any risk of seeming to be putting on the dog.

Before they started, David took her by the shoulders, and grinned at her.

"Now listen, baby... I'm not making any excuses, because I wouldn't have these people for friends if I didn't like 'em... but remember, the Social Register never heard of these gals and boys. They're the people I met when I came to New York... just a fresh kid from Syracuse... the only people I'd get a chance to meet. See what I'm getting at, sweetheart?" He grinned again. They're a little... different, that's all. Simpler than your friends."

Nina said of course she understood and was dying to meet them; and she went into the bedroom promptly, and took off two bracelets and one ring.

She left on her slender gold wedding-ring, and the single strand of exquisitely matched pearls her father had given her. That was all right. They would probably think they were false, anyway.

They took the bus to Gracie's apartment—116th St. and Riverside Drive.

Nina had been presented to the Court of St. James; she had passed before the critically scrutinizing gaze of the patronesses of the Junior Assemblies; she had, in short, been put through many tests that required social poise and tact... but tonight, as she entered the grille-work lift with David, she was really afraid.

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Nina readjusts her ideas about Gracie before the party is over, tomorrow.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



VAN HELMONT (1577-1644)—DISCOVERER OF GAS, COINED ITS NAME FROM THE GREEK, "CHAOS," BECAUSE HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND ITS ACTIONS!



SIN-EATING WAS ONCE A PROFESSION IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND. FOR A FEE, THE SIN-EATER WOULD EAT A CRUST OF BREAD AND DRINK A BOWL OF ALE—THUS ABSOLVING DECEASED PERSONS OF ALL THEIR SINS!!!



21 STATES OF THE U.S. EXTEND NORTH OF THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF CANADA—POINT PEELE, Lake Erie!!!

A MIRAGE—NATURE'S WEIRDEST ILLUSION, CAN BE PHOTOGRAPHED!



11-17-37, McNaught Syndicate, Inc.

Naming of Gas.
Strange as it seems, the actual discovery of gas was made by a 16th century alchemist—Jean Baptiste Van Helmont. While he was decidedly a mystic—believing in the philosopher's stone, transmutation of mercury into gold and other medieval vagaries—Van Helmont was capable of scientific observation and reasoning.

He had observed that when coal burned away it left only an insignificant residue of cinders. From this he concluded that the rest of the coal had disappeared in a volatile form, which he called "wild gas."

"This spirit that is contained in vessels, but that cannot be reduced to a visible body, I called by a new name—GAS," Van Helmont wrote of his experiment. He borrowed the

name from the Greek word, "chaos," because he suspected gas to be in the confused state of primordial matter.

It remained for later observers to find that gas behaves in a well-regular manner, and not as Van Helmont had supposed.

Mirages.
Many a thirst-maddened desert traveler has been victimized by one of nature's diabolical disappointments—the mirage. Lured on over scorching sand toward a vision of cool, lapping water and shady trees only to have the vision disappear, prospectors find instead another stretch of sand under a sea of shimmering heat waves.

Yet, strange as it seems, these

"ghost lakes" are real enough to be photographed! First mirage pictures ever believed taken were obtained in 1929 in Africa by Masor and Mrs. Court-Treatt.

The mirage is an optical illusion, caused by refraction or reflection of light rays passing through varying layers of atmosphere. Images of far distant objects are made to appear near at hand, or are seen inverted or reflected and raised in the atmosphere.

Most famous mirage is the "Fata Morgana," often seen in the Straits of Messina, in which men, ships, houses, etc., are seen in various distorted positions.

Tomorrow: The First Candid Camera.

Channel Pilot Dies

WALMER, England, Nov. 17.—(AP)—Captain Harry Pearson, 73, who piloted many swimmers across the English channel and sometimes was called the father of channel swimming, died today. Among those he guided were Edward Tenme, only man to swim the channel in both

directions, and T. W. Burgess who crossed the channel in 1911.

Death Driver Indicted

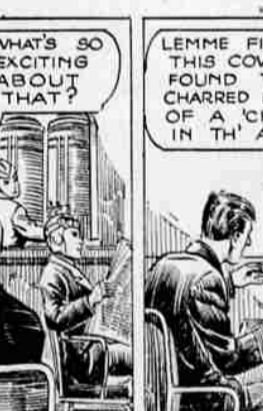
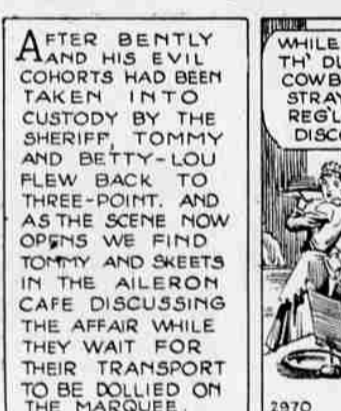
ASTORIA, Nov. 17.—(AP)—Faville Hanks, charged with driving a car which struck and killed Mrs. Josephine Hagman, 62, here October 15, was under grand jury indictment for

involuntary manslaughter today. He was released on \$2,000 bail.

Gets 7-Point Elk

PENDLETON, Nov. 17.—(AP)—Wesley Townsend, Eglin, reported the record bull elk, a 7-pointer with an antler spread of 59 inches.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—"Dirty Weather Ahead!"



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—"And Many of Them!"



THE NEBBS—You Tell Him, Kid



A BOY AND HIS NAPKIN

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



UNFOLDS NAPKIN, MOTHER CAUTIONING FAMILY TO BE CAREFUL BECAUSE TABLE CLOTH AND NAPKINS ARE CLEAN TODAY

A SHORT WHILE LATER DISCOVERS THAT NAPKIN HAS GOT ON FLOOR AND UNDER HIS FEET

PICKS IT UP AND SURREPTITIOUSLY MOPS UP WITH IT THE LARGE BLOB OF GRAVY HE SPILLED



NOTICES PRESENTLY THAT SOMEHOW ALL THE CRANBERRY JELLY MEANT FOR HIS BREAD GOT ON HIS NAPKIN

FINISHES BEFORE THE OTHERS AND AMUSES HIMSELF PRACTICING A KNOT TRICK WITH NAPKIN

MEAL ENDS. CAREFULLY FOLDS NAPKIN WITH CLEAN SIDE OUT, SO THAT IT LOOKS AS FRESH AS THE OTHERS

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GLUYAS WILLIAMS

S'MATTER POF

By C. M. PAYNE



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By HAL FORREST

Offer Gang Buster \$150,000 Film Job

HOLLYWOOD, Nov. 17.—(AP)—H. Thomas E. Dewey, gang buster and district attorney-elect of New York, wants to pick up \$150,000, he can do it in Hollywood.

Grand National studio said today that it had offered Dewey that sum to play the hero in a motion picture having to do with catching and convicting gangsters.

KLAMATH RELIEF NEEDS SHOW SUDDEN INCREASE

KLAMATH, Nov. 17.—(AP)—Max Dudley, county relief director, today reported a 30 per cent increase in relief applications over last month. Dudley believed the situation was due largely to a seasonal decline in farm and industrial operations.

The Mail Tribune wants ads.

Price on Turkeys Shows Slow Gain

PORTLAND, Nov. 17.—(AP)—Turkey offerings from the country were slower in gaining today with an improved market. In spots the price on hens has been advanced 1/2 cent by buyers with the payment of 24 cents for No. 1 birds. Some remain generally 21 1/2 cents, making the current premium on hens one of the largest seen here.

Weather

Northern California: Generally cloudy tonight and Thursday, showers in extreme northwest portion and over mountains tonight; cooler south portion tonight; moderate west and northwest wind off coast.

Oregon: Unsettled tonight and Thursday, showers in west portion tonight and local snows over mountains; somewhat lower temperature in extreme northeast portion tonight; moderate wind off coast.

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