

Two's Company

By MARGARET GUION HERZOG

The Characters

Nina is beginning to find happiness with David whom she married impulsively to escape her love for her stepfather.

Richard, the charming, well-tailored stepfather, is on a 5-month trip with his wife, after shamelessly talking love to Nina.

Honey, Nina's gay, youthful mother who is wild about Richard, is traveling on doctor's orders.

David, a bright young auto salesman, adores Nina and strives to make her happy on his small salary.

Chapter 34

Nina's Party Struggle

"DAMN!"

A playful August thunderstorm had gaily lifted the top off one of the ash cans in the arway, and an old newspaper with a piece of tomato skin clinging to it, had suddenly taken wing.

It slapped itself, with an alarming thud—like a bird in a storm—against the glass pane of Nina's kitchen window, whereupon she promptly cut a piece of finger, along with the bread she was slicing.

"Damn!"

The whole apartment was airless from closed windows, and absolutely a shambles.

Nina had not yet mastered the technique of finishing one thing—before beginning another. In fact she used the other, messier method, deliberately. If she thought of something that ought to be done in the living-room, while she was washing dishes in the kitchen, she would go and start it... so as to be sure not to forget, when the time came.

As a result of this pursuit, her apartment now, three hours before the party, presented a chaotic appearance.

Across the bed, in their room, lay the clothes that needed to be brushed and pressed for the evening. At the end of the living-room stood the two bridge tables, partially set as a buffet; and on plates all over the kitchen, lay one of every kind of sandwich and salad she was going to prepare... and their makings.

Immediately after the old newspaper with the clinging tomato skin had banged against her window, the house telephone rang. She went to it, with bleeding finger held up in the air.

Button began to howl, as usual. He didn't mind the front doorbell, but he apparently figured out that people who were so unsure of their welcome that they had to announce themselves, were undesirable.

Nina prodded him with the toe of her slipper, and he subsided into a series of low growls.

Disorder And McDuff

IT WAS the superintendent, McDuff, with prospective tenants.

It was so hopeless that she had to laugh.

"Come along, my friend," she told him, "but I warn you, you won't rent the apartment the way it looks today."

He didn't; but it was due as much to McDuff's staunch efforts to hold it for the days, as to the state of disorder. He appeared with a couple.

When the man asked Nina if the garbage men did not disturb them in the early morning, emptying the ash cans under the bedroom windows, McDuff pointed out that the difference between this floor and the one above—in sound immunity—was really worth while. And when the woman remarked on the dimness of the kitchen, he went into an ode on the beautiful sunlight that poured in over the roof tops... upstairs.

Even after they had decided not to take it, they hung about remarking on things: the blue walls, Nina's evening dress, the "cute" sandwiches she was making... until she thought she would scream at the time wasted.

They were there for a good half hour.

Only two and a half left. Nina bandaged her sliced finger, brushed the damp hair out of her eyes, and doubled up on her efforts.

In about 10 minutes, they came back. They had decided to take the one upstairs, but just wanted to be very, very sure that it was nicer than Nina's.

More precious time wasted.

This was the night of the return party for Gracie Nolan and Jack Knight. There were to be six, in all, for the buffet supper: The Davys, Gracie and Jack, Francine and the boy friend, Bill.

Nina was determined that the evening should be a success.

Gracie's \$12.75 Model

WHEN David opened the door for Gracie and her escort, at 7:30, Nina looked down at her own white lace dinner-gown, and gasped. Gracie had on street

clothes: a beige afternoon dress, and a becoming floppy hat.

Nina thought that she had better speak about it.

When they were in the bedroom, she said: "We don't seem to be able to get together on the matter of clothes, do we, Gracie? I only slipped into this..." ("Slipped!" she thought: "You mean brushed and pressed and struggled into it, don't you, Nina?") "because you had been sweet enough to dress up for me, at my party... but it doesn't matter, does it?... That's awfully smart, Gracie. I love the sleeves."

Gracie said: "Twelve seventy-five, my dear," but she was looking at Nina's expensive furniture, with coldly appraising eyes.

"Did you get David to buy this for you, Nina?"

Nina saw at once that the girl was all ready to criticize her for



"We furnished the living-room awfully cheaply, Gracie."

causing David unnecessary expense.

"No, darling, no," she said, hastily. "This was mine, at home. But we furnished the living-room... awfully cheaply, Gracie..." she found herself making excuses... when there was nothing to excuse.

Her arm through Gracie's, they joined the others.

She quoted prices, anxious for the other to see how economical she had been.

"Nice and cool looking," remarked Gracie, but it was plain that the esthetic value of the room was above her head. "I wish I'd known in time. A friend of mine moved to the country, about the time you were married, and sold her perfectly stunning three-piece Spanish suite for a song. Practically new, my dear... with marvelous carving... But this is sweet, of course, too."

"Gosh, Gracie," David came to the rescue. "I like this much better."

"Well then that's fine, isn't it?" But Gracie continued to cast covert glances about the original little room, all evening.

She looked awfully well, after her rest in the country... brown and fresh. Nina caught a glimpse of her tired self in the mirror, and decided that she looked like the belly of a perch, alongside of her.

When Francine came in, also in street clothes, Nina excused herself, and retired to the kitchen.

(Copyright, 1937, Margaret Herzog)

Nina agonizes, tomorrow, as everything goes wrong at her party.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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

VANDERBILT U. DIDN'T LOSE A SINGLE FOOTBALL GAME IN 1891—AND NEXT SEASON LOST ALL BUT ONE...



BULLDOG LIZARD—THE GILA MONSTER, POISONOUS LIZARD, BITES SO HARD THAT ITS JAWS CANNOT BE OPENED WITHOUT A LEVER!



MASINISSA—King of Numidia, LED A CAVALRY CHARGE AGAINST THE CARTHAGINIANS AND DEFEATED THEM—AT 90 YEARS OF AGE! (150 B.C.)



Warrior at 90

Easily rated as one of the world's most decisive battles in its effect on world history is the Battle of Zama, 202 B. C., ending the second Punic war in which Hannibal met his first and only true defeat.

The battle, which stripped Carthage of her power and terminated the long struggle between Rome and Carthage for mastery of the Mediterranean world, was in a large part successful to the Romans because of a wild barbarian horseman, Masinissa, king of the Massylians in eastern Numidia, northern Africa.

Masinissa led a brilliant cavalry charge that drove Hannibal's horsemen from the field of battle, and was

first to turn the tide against the Carthaginians. For this service, Masinissa in the following year received the kingdom of Syphax.

After nearly half a century of peace, the Numidian king renewed his warfare with the Carthaginians and in 150 B. C., at the venerable age of 90, rode at the head of his dauntless cavalry in a crushing defeat over the Carthaginians. He was assisted in this conflict by Roman troops, and Carthage fell to rise no more.

Mystery Boundary Strange as it seems, there is no definite boundary between the states of Virginia and West Virginia! It was

customary for border counties in each state to agree upon the exact location of the boundaries and forward their agreement to the state legislature; but, according to the Virginia Conservation and Development commission, the Virginia-West Virginia boundary was never completely agreed upon.

Gila Monsters Only lizard known to be poisonous is the gila monster of southwestern United States. Usually a sluggish animal, it becomes surprisingly agile when aroused. It grows some two feet in length and its lower jaws are supplied with poison fangs.

Tomorrow: The Borrowed Empire!

Windsor Duchess Makes Who's Who LONDON, Dec. 2.—(AP) The Duchess of Windsor, American-born wife of Great Britain's former king, entered the British who's who today with publication of the 1938 edition.

The duchess, former Wallis Warfield of Baltimore, Md., was listed with the royal family as were the wives of the other brothers of King George.

She was the only one of the royal wives whose date of birth and parents were not included. Her divorced

husband, Ernest Aldrich Simpson, was not among the 52 Simpsons listed.

Even before the advent of the talking picture, sound rights to many properties sold to the motion picture were reserved. Companies refilming such stories have to pay an additional amount for the talking rights.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Blurtz Gets Excited!

WHEN THE RADIO PROGRAM IN THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT OF FLIGHT TEN WAS INTERRUPTED BY A NEWS FLASH, IT CREATED A SENSATION BECAUSE THAT NEWS FLASH VOICED THE CONCERN OF THREE-POINT AIRWAYS OVER THE SUDDEN CESSATION OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ITS DENVER TERMINAL AND FLIGHT TEN

OUR OUR PILOTS THEIR NAMES ARE... ARE TOMKINS AND MILLIGAN?

EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT... PERHAPS OUR CONTROL ROOM RADIO IS TEMPORARILY OUT OF COMMISSION.

THEN IF THE RADIO'S GONE, HOW CAN OUR PILOTS FIND US SAFELY THROUGH THIS FOG?

GO ON AND DO IT, JASON!

WOW! EEE-E-E-E! BULLY! BOOM!

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A SATISFACTORY FIRECRACKER!

GO ON AND DO IT, JASON!

WELL, I GUESS IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG. SHOEMAKER STICK TO YOUR LAST WHEN THEY TAKE YOU OUT OF A KITCHEN YOU AIN'T GOT NOthin' TO DO BUT GIVE DOUGH TO HONEY-MORDED FELLERS!

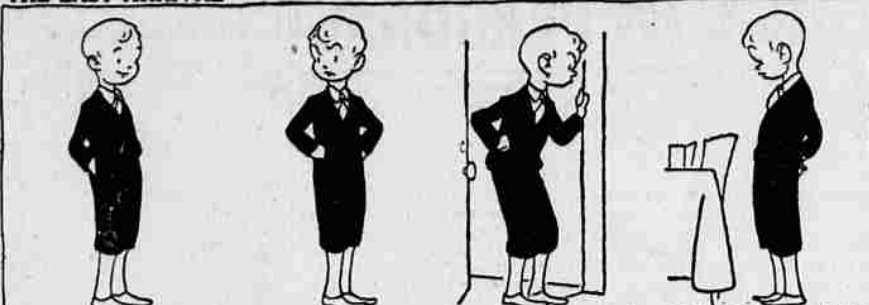
PLEASE DON'T SAY NOthin' MORE ABOUT THAT. I'M TRYIN' TO FORGET IT. IT AIN'T EASY EVEN IF YOU DON'T MENTION IT.

IF I HAD SOMEBODY THAT WOULD STICK ABOUT 2000 BUCKS INTO MY BUSINESS, I COULD GET 10,000 MORE CHICKENS AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SEND TO MY FRESH EGGS!!

ID LIKE TO GO IN BUSINESS, BUT MAX ASKED ME FIRST, AND BESIDES I GET FREE MEALS. YOU CAN SEER HOW SILLY ID BE TO GO IN THE EGG BUSINESS.

THE LAST ARRIVAL

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



GRINS AS RELATIVES ARRIVE FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER. HOPES THEY CAN SIT RIGHT DOWN TO DINNER BECAUSE HE'S HUNGRY

HEART SINKS AS CHECK-UP REVEALS THAT AUNT ELLA ISN'T HERE YET

GOES TO FRONT DOOR TO WATCH FOR HER, THINKING BITTER THOUGHTS OF AUNT ELLA

DISCOURAGED, GIVES UP POST AND WANDERS INTO DINING ROOM AND SURVEYS TABLE HUNGRILY



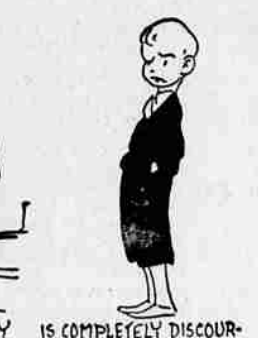
CHEERS UP AS HE HEARS DISCUSSION WHETHER OR NOT THEY NEED TO WAIT FOR AUNT ELLA



GROANS AS MOTHER DECIDES IT WOULDN'T DO TO START WITHOUT HER. SITS ON STAIRS THINKING ABOUT FOOD



JUMPS UP GLEEFULLY AS FATHER FROM WINDOW CALLS HERE SHE COMES



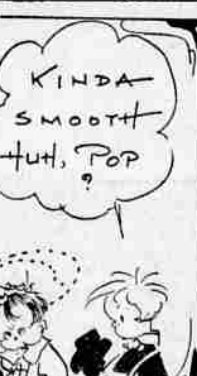
IS COMPLETELY DISCOURAGED WHEN AUNT ELLA BEFORE TAKING THINGS OFF INSISTS ON MINUTELY EXPLAINING CAUSE OF HER DELAY

GLUYAS WILLIAMS 11-25

(Copyright, 1937, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

S'MATTER POP

By C. M. PAYNE



(Copyright, 1937, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

By HAL FORREST



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The Celebration!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ABOUT A CELEBRATION, JASON?

I'VE GOT STRALE ROPED AND TIED MR. JORDAN—

WHAT CELEBRATION, JASON?

SHOULDN'T WE REJOICE WHEN RIGHT LICKS MIGHT? THIS STICK O DYNAMITE WOULD GIVE US A LOVELY BANG IF I BUT HURLED IT INTO THE GULCH BELOW—

GO ON AND DO IT, JASON!

WOW! EEE-E-E-E! BULLY! BOOM!

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A SATISFACTORY FIRECRACKER!

GO ON AND DO IT, JASON!

WELL, I GUESS IT'S WHERE YOU BELONG. SHOEMAKER STICK TO YOUR LAST WHEN THEY TAKE YOU OUT OF A KITCHEN YOU AIN'T GOT NOthin' TO DO BUT GIVE DOUGH TO HONEY-MORDED FELLERS!

PLEASE DON'T SAY NOthin' MORE ABOUT THAT. I'M TRYIN' TO FORGET IT. IT AIN'T EASY EVEN IF YOU DON'T MENTION IT.

IF I HAD SOMEBODY THAT WOULD STICK ABOUT 2000 BUCKS INTO MY BUSINESS, I COULD GET 10,000 MORE CHICKENS AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SEND TO MY FRESH EGGS!!

ID LIKE TO GO IN BUSINESS, BUT MAX ASKED ME FIRST, AND BESIDES I GET FREE MEALS. YOU CAN SEER HOW SILLY ID BE TO GO IN THE EGG BUSINESS.

CULBERTSON'S MOODS BLAMED BY WIFE AS SHE LEAVES FOR RENO

NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—(AP)—The bridge-playing Ely Culbertson headed in opposite directions today toward dissolution of their card-table romance, but with their business partnership which made them millionaires still intact.

They disclosed last night their marriage of 14 years would be terminated by a Reno divorce.

Culbertson was Europe-bound on a business trip to London, while his wife, Josephine, was en route by boat to California—and eventually Reno.

"I've lost a grand slam doubled," Culbertson commented.

Girl Says Stabbing Was In Self Defense

CHELSEA, Dec. 2.—(AP)—Accused of stabbing John Elliott, 24, who was in a critical condition in a hospital here, Carmela Carono, 23, of Portland, faced a second degree assault charge today.

Police quoted her as saying she stabbed Elliott with a pen knife "in