

# After A Man's Heart

by JEAN RANDALL

Chapter 27

## Flight

"Where has Buff gone?" Tim yelled at Webby.

"No need to speak to me so mad like, Mr. Tim. I don't know no more'n you do. She just said she was on her way and wouldn't be back."

"Where's her father? Where are Mr. and Mrs. Carroll?"

"I can't tell you that neither. The last letter Miss Buff had from 'em, they was in Arizona."

George was surprised at the look of frozen misery on Tim's face.

"It's all right, guy," he said gently. "We can always reach her through her father's syndicate. She hasn't disappeared completely."

The other man sank into one of the big chairs.

"That's exactly what she's done, and I know why: because she wanted to!"

"But why in thunder should she want to?"

A wry smile twisted Tim's lips. "I thought you knew her so well I thought it was I who didn't understand her, couldn't guess the motive for what she did of course she would go—after that Denver business. I think I suspected this all along. I think I knew she wasn't sick—unless she was sick at heart, poor child, over the imbecility of her friends. Don't you see?" he demanded feverishly.

"She did what she could for us—which happened to be everything!—and then she washed her hands of us; of Boulder. Clean disgusted with the lot!"

In his turn George sat down. "It doesn't make sense to me. Why should she be disgusted with us simply because she'd accomplished what she set out to do?"

"Would you make us some coffee, Mrs. Webb?" Tim requested.

"Mr. George and I didn't have time for lunch today. And when the fat housekeeper had withdrawn, he explained, 'When I said the lot of us, I meant myself, of course. What sort of a girl would she be if she felt the least interest, let alone friendship, in a man who stuck his nose out at her in the same place in less than a year? Who? If it hadn't been for her, would have got it in the neck, too! She's fed up, she's through, don't you get it?"

"No, I don't," replied the simple Mr. Webb. "I don't see all along the kind of fool you were making of yourself. Good good, Tim, didn't you talk it over—she and I, you and she? Even Iris dumped plans and specifications in her lap. She cared enough then to put that smart brain of hers on the job and show you where you stood. Why should she change her mind about you just because she did that? Unless," he added, "she thought you were still in love with Iris; that you resented what Buff had done for you. Listen," he demanded, "didn't you call her—telephone even?"

"I telephoned half a dozen times. I called her. I sent her flowers that same evening. The shop was closed and I had to hunt up the florist and pay him a wackening sum to open up for me. Then got a messenger boy to deliver 'em—the roses, I mean."

"She knew they were from you."

"I put my card in with them."

"Anything on it?"

"My name."

George clutched at his vanishing hair. "Suffering cats, guy! Of course it had your name. That's really the purpose of cards, isn't it? I mean—"

A Little Exhausted

"YES, I know what you mean," Tim said drearily. "Did I put: 'With the heartfelt gratitude of a twice-proven idiot? No, I didn't. Maybe I should have, but I didn't. It seemed a case for, but I didn't. As possible. Or so it seemed to me. There'd already been too many."

George regarded him unhappily. He felt the situation to be beyond him. Tim was, as he had recently assured Buff, one of the best. Nevertheless his friend and business partner was finding himself a little exhausted by Tim's affairs of the heart. First Iris, then Buff, then Iris again, now Buff.

"Make up your mind!" he said impatiently, and it betrayed the genuine seriousness of the case that he could be impatient with Tim.

The other man rose as though a spring had been released.

"I have! The minute Webby told us Buff was gone. I'm off, George. 'Fraid I'll have to take the car. And—oh, yes!" he paused a moment at the door. "Look for me when you see me."

George made a feeble effort to halt him. "Look here! You can't go off like this! You can't—at least tell me where you're going, for the love of Mike!"

For the first time in actual months, Tim smiled, showing a line of white teeth.

"Going? How do I know? After Buff, of course. I'll be back when I find her and—" he shoved his hat at a jaunty angle, settled his coat more closely to his big shoulders—"I'll bring her back with me, too."

Buff's flight had been characteristic of her. The night before when Webby was safely asleep, she had slipped into the living room and telephoned Iris at the hotel. It took persistent ringing, and many

assurances to the switchboard operator that the call was an important one, before Iris could be wakened. Buff, listening to the continued buzz, grinned to herself. She who had prevented a fraud, saved a friend and exposed a villain, was sleepless while Iris the lovely fool who if not actually the cause of it all was at least the willing assistant, slumbered peacefully.

There was little evidence of peace in her voice, however, when she finally answered. Those heart-stirring tones were hoarse and thickened by weeping. It didn't need television to prove to Buff that Iris had cried herself to sleep.

The two girls conversed at some length; Iris at first resentful, reproachful, Buff firm and kind.

The next morning when the younger girl's car drew up in front of the entrance Iris was waiting for her, a sleepy belloy staggering under the weight of her suitcases.

"I suppose I can trust you," Iris muttered. She had dark circles beneath her eyes, and her usual delicate make-up was carelessly applied. "I checked out as you told me but—"

"Get in!" Buff held the door open for her. "I want to be out of town before there's danger of running into anyone we know. Had your breakfast?"

"I couldn't eat."

Something in the forlorn statement stirred Buff as perhaps nothing else could. "I want to be out of town before there's danger of running into anyone we know. Had your breakfast?"

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"I couldn't eat."

"I hope so," whimpered Iris.

Trail Grows Cold

THEY stopped in Denver for breakfast. Buff, who had already eaten, sipped a cup of coffee and talked over her plans in a quick, low voice. Iris listened with gradually rising enthusiasm.

Half an hour later they were on Colfax Avenue, headed east.

Tim, inquiring at various filling stations, discovered that Buff had bought gas and oil at one of them. After that her trail grew cold. She spent some time at the telegraph office, endeavoring to get in touch with Lance Carroll. The New York syndicate had refused to disclose his address. In reply to frantic appeals, Tim had had only the assurance that mail sent to Carroll through their office would be duly forwarded. Finally he sent another message to say that Carroll's daughter Buff had disappeared, and it was vitally necessary to get in touch with her parents at once.

This brought results.

"GENERAL DELIVERY, TUCSON, ARIZONA, ADVISE CONSULTING POLICE" was the answer.

Tim appealed to the telegraph operator who was beginning to evince a little human interest in these messages.

"What do I do next?" he demanded.

"Wire the postmaster at Tucson and ask for this bird Carroll's address. You'll have to tell him it's about his daughter, and even then there's no telling if he'll give it to you till he's got Carroll's permission."

He proved himself a true prophet. The postmaster wired: "WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH PARTY AND GIVE YOUR MESSAGE."

"And that," said the operator, "is every damned thing you can do unless you take a plane and fly to Arizona. Better stick around a while, though. If Carroll's within reaching distance he'll probably wire you."

The morning crawled by slowly. Tim had forethoughtfully cashed a check before entering the Western Union office, which was just as well, considering the number of his telegrams. At noon he had had no word from Lance.

"Go grab yourself a sandwich, buddy, and maybe your message'll be waiting for you when you come back." The youthful operator was hourly feeling himself of more importance. Tim had a moment of grim amusement at that "buddy."

"He'll be patting my head next, and telling me not to cry!"

Nevertheless, he took this sensible advice. He was rewarded by finding an incredibly lengthy and expensive wire awaiting him on his return. Lance apparently was having hysterics in Tucson. He gave his telephone number, however, and ordered Tim to call him at once.

This proved infinitely more satisfactory to both men. Tim briefly outlined the situation and Buff's father listened carefully. When Denver had finished Tucson was considerably more cheerful.

"Why didn't you say in the beginning that she went off on her own accord? You had me scared pink for a while. Thought she was kidnapped, or something. Well, my boy, there's nothing to worry about. No, she isn't here—but then she wouldn't have had time to get here no matter how fast she drove. My lease in Chicago has a couple of months to run. She may be there, for all I know. I'll give you the address and you can try her there when you think she's had time to make it."

"But it's winter out here," Tim said, gulping. "It's blazing sun and glittering sand in Tucson but it's slippery roads and snow here. Buff's driving I tell you!"

Continued tomorrow.

# On the RADIO CHAINS

STATIONS

Where to Find Them on the Dial: Kex, Portland, 1180; KFI, 640, Los Angeles; KGA, 1470, Spokane; KGO, 790, San Francisco; KGW, 620, Portland; KJR, 970, Seattle; KXN, 1050, Los Angeles; KOA, 830, Denver; KOIN, 940, Portland; KOMO, 970, Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1180, Salt Lake.

Monday

5:00—Quaker Party, KPO, KFI, Frank and Archie, KEX, KJR, Sunset Shadows, KGO.

5:30—Time and Tempo, KGW; Kelsey's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Master Singers, KPO.

9:00—Drama, KEX; Radio Theater, KSL, KNX, KOIN; Quiz Program, KPO, KGW, KFI; Political Talk, KGO.

6:30—Templeton Time, KPO, KGW, KFI; Youth Questions, KGO, KEX, KJR.

7:00—Barnet's Orch., KGO, KEX; Hour, KPO, KGW, KFI; Lombardo's Orch., KSL, KNX, KOIN; News, KJR.

7:30—Blondie, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Musical Sensations, KPO, KFI, KGW; Radio Forum, KGO, KJR.

8:00—Amos and Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Aloha Land, KGO; Doe's Music, KEX; Fred Waring, KPO, KGW, KFI.

8:15—I Love a Mystery, KPO, KFI, KGW; Lum and Abner, KNX, KSL.

Tuesday

5:00—Aldrich Family, KPO, KGW, KFI; Frank and Archie, KEX, KJR.

5:30—Sherlock Holmes, KGO, KEX, KJR; Heidi's Orch., KPO, KFI, KGW; Bob Benchley, KPO, KGW, KFI.

6:30—Fibber McGee, KPO, KFI, KGW; Crosby's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN; News, KJR.

7:00—Shield Revue, KGO; Bob Hope, KPO, KGW, KFI; Calling All Cars, KNX.

7:30—Sports Pop-Offs, KNX, KOIN; Fun With the Famous, KGO, KJR; Dog House, KPO, KFI, KGW; News, KSL.

8:00—Amos and Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Fred Waring, KPO, KFI, KGW.

KOIN, Political Talk, KGO; Songs, KEX. 8:30—Richard Crooks, KPO, KFI, KGW; Model Minstrels, KNX, KSL, KOIN. 9:00—Sherlock Holmes, KPO, KFI, KGW; Tune up Time, KNX, KOIN, KSL; True or False, KGO, KEX, KJR. 9:30—Hawthorne House, KPO, KGW, KFI; Political Talk, KGO. 10:00—News Reporter, KPO, KFI, KGW; Madriguera's Orch., KGO, KJR; News, KSL, KNX; News, KOIN. 10:30—Music by Woodbury, KGW; Boland's Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL; Pusters Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX. 11:00—Ravazza's Orch., KPO, KFI; This Moving World, KEX, KJR; Organist, KOIN, KSL; News, KGO; News, KNX, KGW.

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Information Please, KGO, KEX, KJR. 8:15—Jimmy Fidler, KSL, KNX, KOIN; I Love a Mystery, KPO, KFI, KGW. 8:30—Aldrich Family, KGO, KEX, KJR; Johnny Presents, KPO, KFI, KGW; Drama, KOIN, KNX. 9:00—Martin's Orch., KEX; Tuesday Night Party, KOIN, KNX; Good Morning Tonight, KPO, KFI, KGW; Dance Hour, KGO. 9:30—Messer's Orch., KGO, KEX; Battle of the Sexes, KPO, KGW, KFI; We, the People, KNX, KSL, KOIN; News, KJR. 10:00—News Reporter, KPO, KFI, KGW; News, KNX, KSL; Madriguera's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX; News, KOIN. 10:30—Pusters' Orch., KPO, KFI, KGW; Dance Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Owen's Orch., KNX. 11:00—Ravazza's Orch., KPO, KFI; This Moving World, KEX; Pianist, KSL, KOIN; News, KGO, KNX, KGW.

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# TRUCKER MAKES SLIGHT MISTAKE

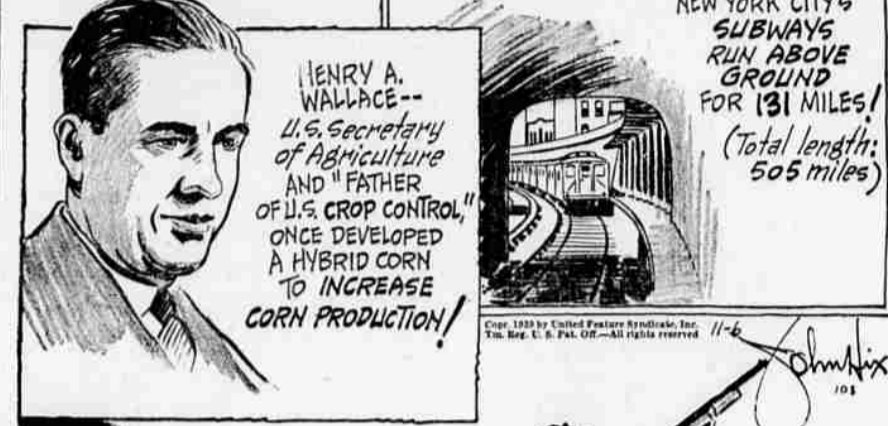
Lancaster, Cal., Nov. 6.—(U.P.)—Charles C. Johnston, 27, truck driver, admitted today he made a slight mistake.

Singing merrily, Johnston watched a train engine puff across a crossing, then stepped on the truck's throttle to go ahead himself. That was his error. In the early morning darkness he didn't see the freight cars attached to the engine. He knocked four cars off the track.

Dewey "Boom" Started Olympia, Nov. 6.—(P)—The "Thomas E. Dewey for President Club" was incorporated with Secretary of State Belle Reves today "to do all necessary things" looking toward the nomination and ultimate election of Dewey as president. Closing time for Too Late to Clarity Ads is 1:30 p. m.

# STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



HENRY A. WALLACE-- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture AND "FATHER OF U.S. CROP CONTROL," ONCE DEVELOPED A HYBRID CORN TO INCREASE CORN PRODUCTION!

NEW YORK CITY'S SUBWAYS RUN ABOVE GROUND FOR 131 MILES! (Total length: 505 miles)

SOUTH SEA NEUTRALITY ACT! THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, South Pacific, HELD A SPECIAL CABINET MEETING TO OBSERVE STRICT NEUTRALITY DURING THE WORLD WAR!

IT WANTED TO KEEP ITS ARMY OF 20 MEN AT HOME...

Answer to Saturday's question! WHAT IS MULTIPLIED BY DIVIDING? ANSWER: BACTERIA

SOUTH SEA NEUTRALITY A tiny group of South Pacific islands denounced war in 1916, and passed a resolution to observe strict neutrality and keep its standing army of 20 men at home. Tonga, appropriately called the "Friendly Islands," is a nominally independent kingdom under the protection of Great Britain.

WALLACE'S CORN Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, creator in 1933 of a united farm front to control production of United States crops, contributed to farming an improved hybrid corn that would increase production, rather than curb it. For the past decade Wallace's corn has won high honors in Iowa grain exhibits. Tomorrow: The 275,000,000-year-old Trees!

# PERSEVERANCE By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



PERSEVERANCE By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Sinister Instructions!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Ballinger Can Take It!



THE NEBBS—The Mysterious Stranger



By HAL FORREST



By EDWIN ALGER



By SOL HESSE

Call GOP Meeting Portland, Nov. 6.—(P)—Kern Crandall, chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, said today a special meeting had been called for November 9 to endorse Senator Charles L. McNary (R-Ore) for the Republican presidential nomination.

Crash Kills Six Marshall, Tex., Nov. 6.—(P)—Five persons were burned to death and a sixth was injured fatally when an automobile and a gasoline truck collided head-on Saturday at Ward's creek bridge, near here.

More Farm Homes Washington, Nov. 6.—(P)—Stewart McDonald, federal housing administrator, said today that records for the first nine months indicated that 430,000 non-farm dwelling units would be built during 1939, an increase of about 30 per cent over last year.

Coast Benefits. Seattle, Nov. 6.—(P)—The Pacific Builder and Engineer said today 83 public works contracts let in the Pacific northwest last month meant \$5,981,405 to the engineering and construction industries.