

LITTLE SPITFIRE

By Jean Randall

YESTERDAY: Mac buys a car and takes Brenda out. She enjoys his company until they disagree violently about the Abernathy twins. Brenda tries to concentrate on her writing again but a letter arrives concerning Sultus.

Chapter 16

'Mind Your Own Business'

ON HER way to see Hugh, Brenda heard her name called. She stopped impatiently. Having made up her mind to a move which might be deemed by others somewhat unwise and officious, she was naturally impatient at any delay in this action.

"What is it, Dorothy? You are Dorothy, aren't you?" Dorothy gave a timid grunt in reply. Her broad face was scarlet, either from her exertions or from embarrassment, and she fingered the hem of her apron exactly like the second housemaid in a good old British drama.

"Well, what can I do for you, Dorothy?" Brenda asked. Dorothy mumbled something, at the same time poking an awkward finger into her hair.

"What is it? You'll really have to speak up if you want me to hear."

"Curly!" the innocent orphan gasped. "I want to have curly like yours."

The astounded Miss Burnham gazed at her in silence. It appeared that Kipling was right after all. The Colonel's lady—or at any rate, the Brenda Burnhams and Dorothy Arnolds were sisters under the skin, so far as curls went anyhow.

She said kindly: "I'm afraid a permanent is the best you can do along that line, Dorothy. You see, I was born with curly hair just as you were born with straight."

"You'd really be wise not to touch it though, she warned. "It's very nice hair, and such a lot of it!"

Dorothy gulped. "Too much! I have to wear the awfulest old hats! Would you—please, Miss Brenda, would you—ask Mrs. Arnold can I have a permanent?"

Brenda's besetting sin, her sinful independence, rose in one outraged leap. "Ask her? Why should I or anyone ask her? It's your hair, isn't it?"

"You have wages, and an allowance, of your own, Dorothy?"

"I got my savings accounts; and I have a dollar a week to spend."

Brenda surveyed her wonderingly. Was the woman really subnormal, as she had suggested to Mrs. Arnold? Surely nothing else could account for the dictatorship which was exercised over her. For once in her life Brenda resolved to use some caution. She would inquire into the mental status of Dorothy before she gave advice.

If she was normal, well and good. She should be encouraged to spend her own money as she pleased. If she was not—well, of course that might alter the case. Brenda said kindly:

"I'm in a terrible hurry now, Dorothy. Let me think it over—about your hair, I mean. After all, I'll tell you what I have decided. Will that be all right?"

She was surprised to see tears spring into the small brown eyes looking down into her own. Dorothy gulped, tortured her apron hem more violently than ever, and nodded. Brenda said kindly:

"What this street needs is O'Neill and Mary Wilkins Freeman in collaboration," she remarked thoughtfully.

"Don't Overstep" HUGH did not answer her tap at the studio door. He seldom did when he was absorbed in his work. Undaunted, Brenda pushed it open and walked in. The artist was seated before a long table, busy with some pen and ink sketches over which he hastily placed a blotter when he recognized his caller.

"Hugh, I've got some news for you!" He looked at her with something of Adelaide's vagueness. It was plain that his mind had been far away from the Street.

"It's about—Linda!" His head jerked up, his eyes grew stern.

"Look here, little Brenda Burnham," he said levelly. "You're a nice child, and I've liked having you drop in. But don't overstep your privileges. In other words, he finished with a charming smile, 'mind your own business, darling!'"

Her small jaw tightened. "I will of course, if you insist. But I'm quite sure that you don't know what I've come to tell you, and that you ought to know it. I paid you the compliment of believing you would enjoy being treated as an adult; as a responsible adult," she finished.

He took out a cigarette and lighted it with hands not quite steady.

"Confound you, Brenda! Must you come here raking over old coals, stirring the ashes of—of my marriage? There's nothing I need to know about Linda. She's perfectly able to look after herself. And then he added in a panic-stricken voice: "She's not ill! You haven't come to tell me that she's ill!"

Brenda drifted toward the door. "Not that I know of—though it's like she will be, under the circumstances."

He crossed the studio in five strides; gripped her arm until she winced.

"What do you know about Linda? Tell me!"

"But I thought there was nothing you needed to know about her; I thought you wanted me to mind my own business."

He smiled wryly. "It doesn't seem to me that you have minded it—exactly. Even for a Burnham you seem to have a finger in a good many pies on The Street. Sit down," he commanded, "and say what you came to say."

She sank obediently upon the couch. "You remember you asked me a while back if I'd written anyone about you? And I said I had one or two persons? Well, I had an answer this morning to one of those letters. It's from a friend of mine in New York. She knows—your wife; she knows Linda."

"Go on," he bade her impatiently.

"She's clerking in a bargain basement. Hugh. She's living in a down-at-the-heels room in a none-too-distinguished house."

"A Bad Mistake" LINDA! His eyes darkened and his face grew ashen. Then he laughed. "You've been misinformed, Brenda. I pay five hundred dollars into Linda's bank on the first of every month. She could live comfortably on that. Aside from that, you don't know Linda. Luxury is an absolute necessity to her. I honestly believe she'd die if she—did what you said she was doing. Clerking—Linda! Your correspondent has made a bad mistake."

She drew a letter from the pocket of her smock and put it into his hand.

"Read for yourself," she said simply.

Five minutes later he lifted his head and gazed at her haggardly.

"But what in heaven's name is she doing with the money I pay her?"

It was a tact admission of conversion but his visitor refrained from flouting her triumph.

"I've thought 't all out," she informed him. "I don't know why she left you—I imagine it was some silly sort of quarrel—but if she happened to be a proud person—"

"Linda is damnably proud!"

"Um. Yes. It all fits in. She isn't using your money, you see. She went out and got herself a job—any kind of a job."

He plunged his hands in his thick hair. "But that doesn't make sense! In the first place, Linda is entitled to what money I send her. We're not divorced, she's still my wife. It's my job to support her. In the second—"

"I wouldn't think I was entitled to money, if I'd left my husband," Brenda said bluntly.

"You wouldn't?" The idea appeared to be so odd to him that he stopped to ponder it. "But that's absurd, Brenda; it's ridiculous. Naturally a man supports his wife."

She said still more bluntly: "But she isn't your wife now, Hugh. Surely you must see that. Surely you must realize she would look at it that way."

Angry color began to replace his pallor. "Of all the specious reasoning I ever heard! ... but that's a woman for you! Logic simply doesn't exist for your sex!"

"On the contrary, it seems to me that Linda's being far more logical than you are, Hugh! Think it over!"

He swallowed. "Listen, Brenda! I'll give you the barest outline of the—trouble between Linda and me—"

She shook her head, her eyes on her shoes.

"Better not, Hugh! You might regret it afterward. I've told you what I thought it was important for you to know. That closes the discussion, so far as I am concerned."

But he was as eager now to detain her as he had been to speed her on her way ten minutes before.

"All me what to do," he begged. "Shall I catch the first train to New York and find Linda—reason with her—"

She looked at him pityingly. Such a clever artist, and so stupid where women were concerned.

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS
Where to Find Them on the Dial:
KEX, 1160, Portland; KFI, 640, Los Angeles; KGA, 1470, Spokane; K100, 790, San Francisco; K10W, 120, Portland; KJR, 970, Seattle; KXN, 1050, Los Angeles; KQA, 830, Denver; KOIN, 940, Portland; KOMO, 920, Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1130, Salt Lake.

Thursday
5:00—Drama, KGO, KEX: Good News of 1940, KPO, KFI, KGW: Major Bowes, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
5:30—Rudy Vallee, KFI: Safety First, KPO.
6:00—Miller's Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL: Music Hall, KPO, KFI, KGW: Dance Orch., KGO, KEX.
6:30—Easy Aces, KGO, KEX, KJR, KFI: Fred Waring, KPO, KGW, KOIN; Kinsey's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN; Kinsey's Orch., KEX, KJR.
7:30—Musical Americans, KGO, KJR, KEX; Ask-It-Basket, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
8:00—Strange As It Seems, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Modern Strings, KGW: Judy Deane, KGO; Dress Rehearsal, KPO; News, KEX.
8:30—Symphony Hour, KPO, KGW, KFI: Answer Auction, KNX, KOIN.
9:00—Paul Sullivan, KSL, KNX, KOIN.
9:30—I Love a Mystery, KPO, KFI, KGW: Duffy's Orch., KOIN, KNX, KSL.
10:00—Reporter, KPO, KGW, KFI.
10:30—Fields' Orch., KPO, KFI.
Pastor's Orch., KSL, KNX; Nottingham's Orch., KGO, KEX.
11:00—Malneck's Orch., KPO; This

Moving World, KEX; Noble's Orch., KSL, KOIN; News, KGO, KGW, KNX.

Friday
5:00—Drama, KGO, KJR, KEX; Waltz Time, KPO, KFI, KGW; Pearce Gang, KNX, KSL, KOIN.
5:30—What's My Name? KPO, KFI, KGW; First Nighter, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Name It and Take It, KGO.
6:00—Drama, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Don Ameche, KPO, KFI, KGW; Madison Square Garden Boxing, KGO, KJR, KEX.
6:30—Story Behind the Headlines, KFI; Believe It or No—KNX, KSL, KOIN; Big Town, KPO.
7:00—Fred Waring, KPO, KGW, KFI; Amos and Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Barnet's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR.
7:15—Thompson's Orch., KPO, KGW; Lanny Ross, KNX, KOIN, KSL; News, KFI.
7:30—This Amazing America, KGO, KJR, KEX; Johnny Presents's, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Show Boat, KPO, KFI, KGW.
8:00—Dance Orch., KEX; Treasure Island, KPO; News Conference, KGO; Kate Smith, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
8:30—Dean's Valley Days, KPO, KGW, KFI; Baseball Game, KEX.
9:00—Ebener's Orch., KFI; Paul Sullivan, KNX, KSL, KOIN.
9:30—Music by Woodbury, KPO, KFI, KGW; Hutson's Orch., KSL, KOIN, KNX; Malneck's Orch., KOMO.
10:00—Reporter, KPO, KFI, KGW.
10:30—Arbuthnot's Orch., KGO, KEX; Field's Orch., KPO, KFI; Pastor's Orch., KSL, KNX, KOIN.
11:00—Nottingham's Orch., KPO;

LISTENING IN IS GIVEN APPROVAL

Spring Hill, Kas. (U.P.)—L. H. Snyder, who has been in the telephone business most of his 61 years, sees no harm in party-line subscribers listening in on their neighbors' conversations. In fact, he encourages it.

He owns the Mijo Telephone company of southeastern Johnson and northern Miami counties, which has more than 200 subscribers sharing 24 party lines.

He calls listening in "rubbering" and believes it is all right. "For instance," he said, "somebody is sick and a doctor is called. The neighbors get a first-hand report on the sick person's condition and are ready to offer aid."

"Maybe a couple of women are planning a neighborhood entertainment—the women listening in can offer suggestions and can save a lot of individual calling."

40,000 COAST TROOPS IN FORT LEWIS DRILL SCHEDULED NEXT AUGUST

Fort Lewis, Wash., May 23.—(AP)—Details of intensive summer maneuvers that will concentrate 40,000 troops here during August were revealed today.

The troops, including regular army, national guardsmen and reserve officers from throughout the west, will train in the Fort Lewis-Centralia-Chehalis-Grand Mound area of southwest Washington.

A four day mock war, involving war planes, light tanks and other hit-and-run military weapons, will be held August 14-17 in the heavily wooded, river cut prairie region south of Fort Lewis.

The concentration, heaviest at Fort Lewis since the first world war, is being held under the president's "limited emergency" decree. It will bring together virtually all mobile units of the ninth corps area, com-

Everything German

With the German Western Armies, May 23.—(Delayed)—Seen on a German armored car behind the front: "Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, England—everything German."

The fingers and eyes of professional sorters of mohair have to be so sensitive they can divide batches of goat's hair into 30 classifications that vary only 37 ten thousandths of an inch.

GUATEMALAN INDIANS -- BUY THEIR WIVES ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN!

DOWRY PAYMENTS MAY CONTINUE FOR A LIFETIME

Among Indians of Guatemala a groom may arrange dowry payments for his bride on the installment plan. With a small down payment and easy terms, payments often last a lifetime. If the husband decides not to keep the wife, he may return her—and get his money back!

TOY SOLDIERS An ardent pacifist, H. G. Wells, British author, maintains an army of toy soldiers which he himself colors. He frequently engages them in terrific battles in his study. Tomorrow: Fungus Face!

H. G. WELLS -- noted British author, ALTHOUGH A GREAT PACIFIST, COLLECTS AND PLAYS WITH TOY SOLDIERS!

A HEN LAID 6 EGGS IN A QUART FRUIT JAR! EACH ROLLED OUT OF THE NEST INTO THE JAR... - Owned by J. M. Griffith, Polkton, N.C.

SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



THE BRIDGE PARTY AT THE COMMUNITY CLUB GOT A BAD SETBACK WHEN FRED PERLEY, HAVING SOME VARNISH LEFT OVER FROM THE SPRING FRESHENING UP, THOUGHT HE WOULD DO THE LADIES A GOOD TURN BY TOUCHING UP THE BRIDGE TABLES - ONLY THEY DIDN'T DRY IN TIME

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Good News . . . And Bad!



REN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Suspicious Is Right!



THE NEBBS—The New Boss?



INSTALLMENT WIVES Among Indians of Guatemala a groom may arrange dowry payments for his bride on the installment plan. With a small down payment and easy terms, payments often last a lifetime. If the husband decides not to keep the wife, he may return her—and get his money back!

TOY SOLDIERS An ardent pacifist, H. G. Wells, British author, maintains an army of toy soldiers which he himself colors. He frequently engages them in terrific battles in his study. Tomorrow: Fungus Face!



By EDWIN ALGER



By SOL HESS

DOCTORS' WIVES OFTEN SUSPICIOUS

New York, May 23.—(U.P.)—Now it can be told. Wives of physicians often are suspicious of their husbands' association with women patients. This is the conclusion of the Divorce Reform league, which says that physicians have a higher divorce average than members of any other profession—partly because of their wives' suspicions. League Director David Epstein, says that a 10-year study of the divorce situation reveals that five of every 12 marriages by physicians fail. Other professions average two failures in 12 marriages.

12 COUNTIES ESCAPE NEW MEASLES CASES

Portland, May 23.—(AP)—Only 12 Oregon counties escaped without new outbreaks of measles for the week ending May 18, the state health department's survey showed today. Of the 503 cases, Baker reported 1, Clackamas 54, Douglas 4, Jackson 40, Josephine 52, Klamath 51, Lake 24, Lane 19, Marion 20, Multnomah 83, Washington 83. Crook and Wasco counties each recorded a case of tick fever and Hood River one case of infantile paralysis. The mocking bird is the state bird of Tennessee.