

FOR THE LOVE OF PAM

By VIVIAN GREY

Chapter 11

Over-night Guest

Freda was smiling, but there was a note in her voice that was far from laughter. For the first time Pam felt she could believe; that Freda was sincere with her. Then Freda was talking again:

"You see I wasn't as fried as I seemed when you came here and saw us in your flower beds."

"Fried?" Pam was puzzled. The vernacular of drinking was foreign language to her.

"Yes, sweet child, fried. Saturated. Spiced. Or just plain intoxicated, if you'd rather. Only wasn't, you see, I hadn't been drinking at all, but it suited me to have the handsome Jerry think I was helpless."

Freda was leaning forward a little and talking with sudden earnestness. "I heard everything, Pam. Just how sweet you were to me. I wouldn't have been that way to you. I want you to know that. It's only fair. I couldn't have been as big and fine as you've been. I fight for what I want in all the small ways a woman knows. I've never wanted anything as you want Jerry. If I had, I'd have been poisoned. I'd never have insisted that you be brought into my house, had things been reversed. I'm not made of that kind of stuff. And I'm surprising myself in wanting you to have Jerry."

"But that was nothing," Pam said quietly. "Anyone would have done what I did."

"That's what you think. Really it was heroic, Pam. Not one girl in my crowd would have done that. Not one. From now on I'm with you, Pam."

"Thanks," Pam said in a very small voice. She was still hurt and stunned by the events and revelations of the night. "You will stay here?" she asked. "It's too late for you to go out alone."

"Yes, I will," Freda said with the quick decision of her sort. "Mother would scold me if I came in at this hour. So show me a bed. I'll phone the hotel in the morning to tell her I've stayed with friends."

Pam took her upstairs to a room that was a revelation of simple beauty. There was an old oakwood bed that had once been part of a ship that had sailed the early seas. There was a little round table that had been made to take a ship's roll. There were old and rare bits of bric-a-brac.

Freda fell asleep almost as soon as Pam's soft footsteps left her room. Not Pam, however. She stood at her window, looking out into the star-swept early morning sky. The sweet heavy scent of the blooms of the orchid tree lay on the soft air. There were the low, vague sounds of tropic dawn—palm trees rustling, the sharp crack of the fruit of the sandbox tree exploding.

Pam turned finally to her own bed with its quaint patchwork quilt. She was more tired than she had realized. Sleep closed her eyes to the slowly waking world just as a shower dropped suddenly from the sky. One of those strangely tropical things—rain that comes swiftly and without warning from a suddenly clouding sky, and then stops just as quickly, leaving in its wake an incomparable freshness of atmosphere that is weighted with the pleasant scents of earth and flowers.

There was only a note in Freda's room when Pam went there. Pam read the large, flamboyant writing so characteristic of the girl:

"Thanks for everything. I still mean what I said last night."

Strange Music

DUVAL Street in Key West runs east and west, straight across the island. Near the west end, not far from the red brick building that houses the bank and not far from the dock where vessels from foreign ports tie up, is a hall that is rented upon occasion for band practice.

Not far from the hall, across a vacant lot, is an empty house sagging under the weight of a vine that blooms with an odorless brown flower that is dry and, to all appearances, lifeless even as it is bud unfurling. It has a strange, huring sort of beauty that is changeless even after the dust of years has coated it. "Rose of Hell," they call it in Key West. Or by the less gussy souls, it is named "Wood Rose."

Two middle-aged tourists had stopped to admire the strange flower. The woman turned suddenly, her plain face lifted as if listening to some celestial strain.

"Tom! That music! And someone singing! I've never heard anything like it!"

Antoine, with his sensitive ear trained to catch every nuance, every imperfection of measure and beat, had the look of a man who has just made an important discovery. He turned suddenly and went into the hall realizing only then that the girl's voice was familiar.

In the hall Lenore stood close to Vincenzo Barolli, her singing lips uplifted slightly to his. His voice, as he looked down at her, poured from his throat like sunlight water flowing over a bed of velvety moss. Antoine was struck by something in their voices and their faces. He remembered seeing Barolli at the window while Lenore sang at his party at Pam's, sang with that old brightness in her eyes that could have been tears.

Many things came back to him as he watched and listened. Barolli on the beach in casual conversation with Lenore. Barolli and Lenore at that little stand at the other end of Duval Street, where they sold that peculiarly tropic delicacy, sour-sop ice cream; talking interestedly over two dishes of the sweet with its strange, half sour, mucky flavor. Lenore and Barolli sitting close on the steps of the cabana at Rest Beach where a white oleander bush grew out of the sand.

Barolli glanced at Antoine then and took up the baton, giving the boys the down beat, going through the number again without the voices. It was Barolli's orchestra, then. Lenore walked toward Antoine.

"You've caught me, Eddie," she said.

"Doing a very creditable job," was his answer in a preoccupied tone. Lenore sensed that he wanted to give Barolli and his music undivided attention, and said nothing more.

A New Lenore

AS HE crashed into a finale that was softened gradually until it was only a whisper, Barolli turned to Antoine and held out the baton.

"My name is Barolli," he said. "Give my boys a whirl. See how they follow." It was evident he was proud of his collection of young musicians, their dark, sensitive countenances testifying visibly of their Cuban heritage. There was an eagerness in their faces as they turned to Antoine.

"And this is Edmund Antoine, Vin," Lenore said. "He's maestro at the hotel."

"Yes, I know," returned Barolli.

"You've evidently done some fine selecting and training here, Barolli," Antoine said. "I didn't suppose the island would produce this sort of stuff."

"Oh, yes. They're born musicians. They are so grateful for a chance to let it out."

"They should have plenty of chance," Antoine turned then to the musicians. He looked them over calmly, seemed to be taking stock of them. The music on the air was the Cuban melody. Barolli made famous: "Kiss Me Again." Antoine gave the boys a quick down beat.

Lenore and Vincent took up the words. Their voices soared, died to a tender pianissimo, and soared again. People passing on the street stopped to listen.

Barolli's smile, when he turned to Antoine as they finished, covered a riotous welter of emotion. He had been singing beside beautiful Lenore. With her voice blending with hers, and his boys had played as they never had before. It was almost too much for one day.

"You do with them what I never can," he said.

"No," Antoine was quick to give credit where it was due—"all you need is a little time. Come around some morning. I'd like to have a talk with you. I've got to push along now. We play for lunch today."

"Edmund, I'm going your way. Let me drive you," Lenore offered quickly. And then, as Antoine suspected, after he had settled in Lenore's car, Lenore wanted to talk.

"Eddie, you won't say anything to Adele, will you? I mean about my being there with Vin! She and Father would just die if they knew. Of course it's not serious, I mean with Vin. It's just my art, my singing. And Gervase is coming down with Father any time now. I just don't want anything unpleasant. You see they wouldn't understand."

"But I understand, Lenore," Antoine said seriously, wishing to set her fears at rest. "I won't mention anything to your mother or father or your handsome Count Gervase de Bellefort—though I hate to see you throw yourself away on that effete gentleman!" He laughed a little on the last. "You know Barolli really has got something."

"Oh, Eddie, do you think so, really?" Her eagerness was slightly surprising to Antoine.

When they reached Casa Marina Antoine dropped down on a bench for the few moments he still had left, and watched Lenore go into the hotel.

He wasn't so sure it was all just her art that took her to that barren hall to practice with Barolli. He had seen her face as she stood beside Barolli lifting her voice with his song. Lenore hadn't realized how much was written there.

To be continued

Specially trained business consultants will soon be stationed in 12 regional offices of the department of commerce.

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Where to find them on the dial:
KEX, 1190, Portland; KFI, 640, Los Angeles; KGA, 1510, Spokane; KGO, 530, San Francisco; KGW, 520, Portland; KJL, 1000, Seattle; KNN, 1010, Los Angeles; KOA, 850, Denver; KSL, 570, Portland; KOMO, 550, Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1160, Salt Lake.

Time shown is PST

Friday
5:00 p. m.—Janet Jordan, KGO, KJR, KEX; Waite Time, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Boulevard Interviews, KNN; Eyes of the World, KOIN; Americana, KSL.
5:30 p. m.—News, KGO, KJR, KEX; Uncle Walter's Dog House, KPO, KGW, KOMO, First Nighter, KNN, KSL, KOIN.
6:00 p. m.—Romance and Rhythm, KGO, KEX; Hollywood Premieres, KSL, KEX, KOIN; Wings of Destiny, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Scandal-Avia News, KJP.
6:30 p. m.—Listen America, KPO, KGW, KJR; Penthouse Party, KNN, KSL, KOIN; First Piano Quartet, KGO, KEX; Comedy, KOMO.
7:00 p. m.—Fred Waring in Pleasure Time, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Johnny Long's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Amos 'n' Andy, KNN, KSL, KOIN; Dance Time, KJR.
7:30 p. m.—Death Valley Days, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Playhouse, KNN.

KOIN, KSL; Vox Pop, KGO, KEX, KJR.

8:00 p. m.—Will Osborne's Orch., KPO, KGW; Grandpappy and His Pals, KGO, KJR, KEX; Claudia, KNN, KOIN, KSL; Pish Pinder, KOMO.
8:30 p. m.—Gene Krupa's Orch., KGO, KJR; You and Your Bank, KPO; Baseball Game, KEX; Port Lewis News, KGW; Chapel Music, KNN; Talspin Tommy, KOIN; Port Lewis Life, KOMO; Leaders of the Wat, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—Dave Marshall's Orch., KGO, KJR; Bill Clifford's Orch., KPO; Paul Sullivan, KNN; Frontiers of Industry, KGW; Leon F. Drews, KOIN; Highlight Hour, KOMO; Masterworks of Music, KSL.
9:30 p. m.—Weekly Spectator, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Bill Henry, KNN, KOIN; Emile Lett's Orch., KGO, News, KSL, KJR.
10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Jay Burnett, KGO, KJR; Bob Crosby's Orch., KNN; News, KOIN.
10:30 p. m.—Neil Bondhu's Orch., KGO, KGW, KOMO; Carl Ravazza's Orch., KOIN, KSL; Paul Pendarvis' Orch., KJR; Concert Hall, KPO.
11:00 p. m.—Gene Krupa's Orch., KPO, KOMO, KGW; This Moving World, KEX; News, KGO, KNN.

A deposit of bauxite is reported to have been recently discovered on the Isle of Pines, Cuba.

Trail

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THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



9-19 (Released by The Bell Brothers, Inc.)

L'L ABNER—Her Bounden Duty!!



TAILSPIN TOMMY—Jungle Mystery!



THE NEBBS—Forgiven



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STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX

Turncoat Goat—Old Bill is white in summer... covered with black spots in winter! Owned by Mrs. J. F. Post, Asheville, N. C.

Pillar of Fire! Demonstrating hidden wonders of creation in his "Sermons in Science." Rev. Irwin A. Moon lets a million volt current of electricity pass through his body!

A Piece of Dry Wood in his hand will burst into flame... Moody Bible Institute, Chicago...

All American Invention—The telephone was invented in America, and all important improvements were made by Americans!

Colonel W. Loudin is a Sergeant! (Colonel is his first name) Columbia, S. C.

Sermons in Science To prove that the Bible and science are in perfect accord, Rev. Irwin A. Moon convinces many doubters by demonstrating scientific facts from the pulpit. In allowing 10,000 watts to pass through his body, Rev. Moon has found that 65,000 cycles a second is the most practical frequency for his purpose. Lower frequencies could prove fatal! Younger congregation members are especially interested in having the scientific accuracy of the Bible demonstrated to them.

Sunday: 10,000 Kisses!

By AL CAPP

Little do Dorothy Lamour and Barbara Stanwyck, whoever they may be, realize that Barney is gonna jilt 'em