

Secret Orders

BY
ELEANOR
ATTERBURY

YESTERDAY: Stephanie Merrill stayed so long at her Red Cross work that she was late for her Aunt Allison's dinner party. And when she hurried, she crashed her car, and was very firmly rescued by Capt. Kurt Knudsen. The Captain was helpful enough, but there was something about his efficiency that antagonized her. Still, she thought, he was very good looking—

Chapter Two The Second Man

"STEPHANIE, my dear child, you are very late. What delayed you so?" Aunt Allison, regal in fuchsia velvet and long diamond earrings, met her at the foot of the broad central stairs.

Silently, Stephanie cursed her luck and said, aloud, "Auntie dear I had to work late at Headquarters. But it won't take me but a moment to change. I promise."

"Well, do hurry. Some of the guests have already arrived. And tell Victoria that I want her down here at once." Handsome Mrs. Stone, once a famous beauty, dismissed her niece with a nod.

Stephanie ran up the broad stairway to the door of her cousin's bedroom. "Hi, Vicky. Sorry I'm late and don't you look too utterly utter!"

"All but Captain Kurt. So—" she shrugged gracefully. "This time we made the party a special one in honor of the new pilots. He practically was forced to accept."

"How gracious of him!" Stephanie murmured acridly but her indifference suddenly went all wobbly inside. No time she'd be seeing her tall rescuer again.

"You still haven't accounted for your bruises, darling. Vicky reminded her from the doorway that made an ivory frame around her brow."

Startled, Stephanie recovered quickly. "Oh, a stupid fall. You know how steep the back stairs are at home."

Vicky would prod her with questions if she knew the truth. Aunt Allison would insist on telephoning Dad who already had enough to worry about.

"Too bad you didn't black both eyes. The dark circles make you look devastatingly sophisticated."

Stephanie laughed. "Since I'm neither devastating nor sophisticated, perhaps it's just as well."

"You're the most sophisticated person I know," Vicky went on glibly. "That's why I've put you next to Henri de la Pagerie at dinner tonight."

Slick Customer

"MERCY. He sounds like something out of a French novel."

"He is. Or at least he could be."



"I didn't know he had so charming a daughter," Henri said.

Vicky, enthroned before her dressing table, smiled at her in the mirror. "You're far too conscientious about that job. And who was the tall and handsome who drove you over?"

Stephanie groaned inwardly. Captain Knudsen hadn't stood outside in the drive more than three minutes at most. But leave it to Vicky! She simply sensed the presence of a handsome man.

"Oh—just a friend," she said with what she hoped sounded like indifference. "I bumped into him in town and he gave me a lift."

"Did he give you the black eye, too?" Vicky asked dryly.

"Black eye?" Stephanie dashed to the mirror. There under her left eye was a circle, suspiciously blue-purple! And she'd forgotten about that long scratch on her temple, too.

Vicky, her lovely dark eyes full of laughter, went on brushing the thick black hair that fell in soft waves just to her shoulder.

"Come clean, cousin. Just what did you say to handsome Kurt Knudsen to make him take a poke at you?"

Charm From Texas

"YOU know him?" Stephanie asked, amazed.

"Not half as well as I'd like to, angel." Vicky turned to raise perfectly curved brows at her.

"He's only Texas most recent contribution to Lafayette Field with a record of brilliant flying as long as your arm and charm enough for six men."

Stephanie shrugged. "If he's your idea of charm—I'll take mine without any."

"Thanks, angel." Vicky made a face at her. "All the same I'm glad to hear that you aren't to be in the race."

"What race?"

"The crush, the panic, the stampede at the club dance last night. Kurt Knudsen has finally accepted our invitation to a dance."

"What's so wonderful about that? Don't all the officers attend these affairs?"

He's exciting. Sort of mysterious and terribly smooth. He's some distant relation to the Belgian royal family, they say, and he was attached to the Belgian consulate here before the war. Now he can't get home and he never hears anything from his family and it's all perfectly ghastly for him."

But not so ghastly for Vicky Stephanie guessed. A man could be dull as ditch water and Vicky would never notice it if he wore a title or a uniform or an air of foreign sophistication.

However, Henri de la Pagerie was anything but dull. Tall, he wore dinner clothes easily, becomingly. Handsome, too though he seemed blessedly unaware of it, and so completely the perfect high-born gentleman that Stephanie immediately felt gauche as a school girl.

"I didn't know Vicky had a cousin," he said when he'd put her into her chair, picked up the napkin she dropped, almost immediately.

His slight accent caressed Vicky's name until it became a tender French endearment. "It is strange she has never mentioned you to me."

Not so strange, Vicky would be perfectly content to go cousin-less the rest of her days.

"I have never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Guy Stevens Merrill, but of course I know who he is."

"Do you, really?" Amazed, Stephanie looked up, found his eyes studying her with disarming boldness. Dad was pretty well known in business circles, naturally, but he'd never gone in for "high society" as he called it.

"But of course," he smiled and Stephanie felt sudden caution send up a signal flag in the back of her mind. "I didn't know he had so charming a daughter nor that he was related to my lovely friend, Vicky."

The smile, which she noticed never reached his eyes suddenly, unaccountably, filled her with strange mistrust.

To be continued

Ben Olcott's Son Is Jap Prisoner

Portland, Ore., April 10.—(P) —Former Gov. Ben W. Olcott's uncertainty is at an end. His son, Ensign Chet W. Olcott, is in a Japanese prison camp.

Several Portlanders heard a Japanese propaganda broadcast yesterday containing a message from young Olcott, who was on Wake Island during the early fighting. He said he was well.

It is illegal in Cuba to refuse to accept U. S. currency.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

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\$33.00

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STATIONS:

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:
KEX (NBC-Hi) 1330, Portland
KEX (NBC-Hi) 1190, Portland
KGA (NBC-Hi & MBS) 1510
Spokane: KGO (NBC-Hi) 810
San Francisco: KGO (NBC-Hi) 810
Portland: KJH (NBC-Hi) 1000
Seattle: KJH (NBC-Hi) 1070
Los Angeles: KGA (NBC-Hi) 850
Denver: KJH (NBC-Hi) 920
Portland: KJH (NBC-Hi) 920
Seattle: KJH (NBC-Hi) 920
San Francisco: KSL (CBS) 1160
Salt Lake City.

Time shown is PST

Friday

5:00 p. m.—Flying Patrol, KGO, KJH; Stars of Today, KGO; Do Windows of the Navy, KPO; Kate Smith Hour, KSL; Ed Stoker's Music, KGO.

5:30 p. m.—Bill Sabransky, KGO; Children's Playhouse, KGO; Leon P. Drews, KGO; News of the World, KEX, KGO, KJH; Harry W. Flannery, KJH.

6:00 p. m.—Waltz Time, KPO, KGO, KJH; March of Time, KEX, KGO, KJH; What's On Your Mind, KJH, KGO, KSL.

6:30 p. m.—Celebrity Theater, KEX, KGO, KJH; Plantation Party, KPO, KGO, KJH; First Nighter, KEX, KSL, KGO.

7:00 p. m.—Ella Maxwell's Party Line, KGO, KJH, KEX; Glenn Miller's Orch., KEX, KGO, KJH; Capt. Jack and Sgt. Quirt, KPO, KGO, KJH.

7:30 p. m.—Bob Hawk, KEX, KGO, KJH; Grand Central Station, KPO, KGO, KJH; Meet Your Navy, KGO; Golden Gate Quartet, KEX.

8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, KPO, KGO, KJH; Herbert Marshall, KGO, KEX, KJH; Amos 'n' Andy, KEX, KSL, KGO.

8:15 p. m.—Lenny Ross, KEX, KSL, KGO; Lum and Abner, KPO, KGO, KJH.

8:30 p. m.—Who Done It? KPO, KGO, KJH; Gab Calloway's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJH; Playhouse, KEX, KGO, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—Southern Rivers, KPO, KGO, KJH; News, KEX, KGO, KJH; Erskine Hawkins' Orch., KGO, KEX, KJH; Kate Smith Hour, KEX, KGO; Meet Your Navy, KJH; Sports, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Sonny Dunham's Orch., KGO; Dark Fantasy, KGO; News, KEX, KJH; Moonlight Sonata, KEX; Studio Party, KGO; Floyd Wright, KPO.

10:00 p. m.—Hollywood Legion Stadium Fights, KGO; Reporter News, KPO, KGO, KJH; News, KEX; Masterworks of Music, KSL; On With the Dance, KEX; Shining Hour, KJH; Five Star Final, KGO.

10:30 p. m.—Stadium Fights, KGO; Unimitted Horizons, KGO; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KGO; Northwest Bible Institute, KJH; War Time Women, KPO.

11:00 p. m.—Dance Orch., KPO, KGO; This Moving World, KEX; Gene Grounds, KGO; News, KEX; Polk Music, KJH; News, KGO; Reverses, KGO.

Saturday

5:00 p. m.—Ran Wilde's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJH; Sketch Henderson, KPO, KGO, KJH; Sports Story, KSL, KGO; Civilian Defense Report, KEX.

5:30 p. m.—Ed Stoker's Music, KGO, KJH; Swop Night, KGO, KEX, KJH; News Review, KEX, KGO; This World, KPO; Popular Strings, KSL.

6:00 p. m.—Ran Wilde's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJH; Sketch Henderson, KPO, KGO, KJH; Sports Story, KSL, KGO; Civilian Defense Report, KEX.

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8:00 a. m.—Ed Stoker's Music, KGO, KJH; Swop Night, KGO, KEX, KJH; News Review, KEX, KGO; This World, KPO; Popular Strings, KSL.

6:00 p. m.—Your Hit Parade, KSL;

United China Relief Program, KGO, KEX; Look Who's Here, KEX, KGO; Nat'l. Barn Dance, KPO, KGO, KGO; Studio Program, KJH.

6:30 p. m.—Rochester Civic Orch., KJH; This World, KGO; Here's the Story, KEX; Leon Drews, KGO.

7:00 p. m.—Sports Newswheel, KPO, KGO, KGO; Tune Out Time, KGO, KEX, KJH.

7:30 p. m.—Grand Ole Opry, KPO, KGO, KGO; Vosses in the Night, KEX; Red Ryder, KGO, KJH, KEX; Air Flo, KGO.

8:00 p. m.—Green Hornet, KGO, KJH, KEX; Truth or Consequences, KPO, KGO, KGO; Guy Lombardo's Orch., KEX, KGO, KSL.

8:30 p. m.—Abie's Irish Rose, KPO, KGO, KGO; ABCD Round Table, KGO, KJH, KEX; Hobby Lobby, KEX, KGO, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—News, Best of the Week, KGO, KGO; Robert Ripley, KGO, KEX, KJH; Your Hit Parade, KEX, KGO; Toast to America's Allies, KEX, KGO; Treasury Star Parade, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—University Explorer, KGO, KGO; Powell's Orch., KPO, KGO, KGO; News, KSL, KJH, KEX.

10:00 p. m.—News, KGO, KGO.

10:30 p. m.—Sonny Dunham's Orch., KGO, KJH; Ozzy Nelson's Orch., KGO; Lud Gluskin's Orch., KEX, KSL, KGO; The Quiet Hour, KEX; Concert Hall, KPO; Concert Caravan, KSL.

11:00 p. m.—Phil Harris' Orch., KGO, KGO; Bill Clifford's Orch., KGO, KJH, KEX; Treasury Star Parade, KEX.

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house guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. G.

Kidridge. They are enroute home to Yakima, Wash. after spending the winter in California.