Lena Hates Men

by MARGOT NEVILLE

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Clarice Dodd, wealthy middle-aged widow who lives in Sydney, Australia, keeps her house filled with gay, indolent young people. Her nephew and niece, Felix and Joyce Burke, live with her. Besides two house guests, Eileen Foster and Denise Deschamps, others are constantly in and out. Denise has designs on Felix and is jealous when he falls in love with Eileen, a sweet girl quite different from the rest of the pleasure-loving crowd. Then, one night, Clarice dies from an overdose of sleeping tablets. It's apparently suicide, for her will and a valuable ruby brooch labeled "For Denise" are found on her dressing table. However, her eccentric maid, Lena, insists that she had only one sleeping tablet in her possession that night. When Inspector Grogan of the police investigates, Joyce casts suspicion on Denise by saying that Clarice had no intention of leaving the brooch to Denise, but that Denise coveted it. Then, Eileen learns accidentally that Joyce recently tried to buy some of the drug that killed Clarice. Denise, too, discovers this and hints to Eileen that she'll tell the police unless Eileen breaks her engagement to Felix.

CHAPTER XXIII

AT ABOUT the time that Grogan and Manning were having their late lunch, in a downtown restaurant, Denise was talking to Felix in her room. She had gone and knocked at his door and told him she wanted to see him. He had followed her in here unwillingly.

Now, she was telling him about Joyce's attempt to buy seconal a few days before Clarice's death.

"It must have been Joyce," she concluded. "She wore my necklace one day last week, and the druggist described it accurately. I hate to tell you this, Felix—I know what a shock it must be to you—but the implication is obvious."

Felix was visibly upset. "There's some other explanation. Maybe Joyce did try to buy the stuff, but that doesn't prove anything. Why, it's incredible that she had anything to do with—with Clarice's death! Looking at it cold-bloodedly, look what she loses by it. Clarice gave her everything she wanted, showered her with luxuries, but now she'll get only a measly two hundred pounds a year."

"Perhaps she wanted to get away from Rockwater—just as you did," Denise said quietly. "And she knew that Clarice would try to prevent it—would stop giving her money if she left."

"That's a mighty weak motive for murder," Felix scoffed. "Besides, why should she want to leave here?"

"Because she's in love. I happen to know that she wants desperately to marry some young engineer who was down here from Darwin six months ago."

"You mean that fellow Brodie?"

"Yes—she told me all about it when I first arrived from Saigon. He wanted her to marry him and go back to Darwin with him, but Clarice didn't like him and threatened to cut Joyce off without a cent if she married him. Didn't you know that? Anyway, Joyce couldn't face it on the little that Brodie had—she had to have some money of her own. So she knuckled under to Clarice, but she has been brooding over it ever since."

"OH, THE devil! That's all over." Felix rose and took a turn about the room. "Joyce forgot Brodie long ago."

"What makes you so sure? Last evening, I went into her room before dinner. There was a letter from Brodie on her table."

"I take it that Joyce was not in the room," said Felix drily.

"No—she was in the bathroom."

"And you read the letter, no doubt?" Felix sneered.

"I inspected it," Denise admitted. "One can't afford to be too frightfully particular at a time like this. Anyhow the letter plainly indicated that Joyce had been corresponding with Brodie and still wanted to marry him, provided she could get hold of some money of her own. And it was only through Clarice's death that she could get it."

"That's a fiendish invention!" Felix burst out angrily.

"Oh, Felix, let's be realists. It was pretty odd, wasn't it, that Joyce should have a fit of hysterics when I told her that I knew she still wanted to go away and marry Brodie?"

"I'll bet that wasn't all you said to her."

"No, it wasn't." Denise retorted defiantly. "I asked her how she dared to try and throw suspicion on me by putting my name on that brooch!"

"You're crazy! Joyce *couldn't* do such a thing! Heaven knows I've never had much brotherly love for her, but I'll not stand for an accusation like that against her. I know she's selfish and silly and vain, but—"

"And *I* know she went on trying until she got that seconal she wanted," Denise broke in. "She gave it to Clarice!"

"Be quiet!" Felix caught hold of Denise's wrists. "If you say that again, I'll—I'll—"

"You'll what? Kill me?" Denise asked coldly. "Does it run in the family?"

Felix threw her hands down and walked over to the window. He stood there with his back toward her.

AFTER a moment, she moved over beside him and spoke in a different tone.

"Listen, Felix—it's all horrible. I know, but it needn't go any further. If we keep quiet, the police will never know. Later, when the whole affair has died down, we can take Joyce away. We must protect her—you and I."

Her hands were on his shoulders and her eyes were looking deep into his. Then, her arms slipped around his neck.

He pulled away from her. "What do you want me to do?" he demanded. "What's your price for protecting Joyce and not telling the police about her attempt to buy seconal?"

Denise looked injured. "Price? Don't talk like that, Felix. But darling, don't you see how foolish you are to let Eileen come between us? You'll regret it if you do. You wouldn't be happy married to her—and she wouldn't be either. You and she just aren't the same sort."

He gazed at her contemptuously. "Ever heard of the dog in the manger? The dog couldn't eat the hay itself, but wouldn't let the horse eat it."

"I don't see the likeness, Felix. After all, I do love you."

He turned away. "You needn't say any more—I'll get Eileen away from here as soon as I can."

"You promise? You'll cut her out as though she never existed?"

"Yes."

"And things will be the same between us as they were before she came?"

"Of course," he said bitterly. "Yes—that's the bargain."

"You're horribly cruel to put it that way. If I'm bargaining, it's only because I can't do without you."

Denise came close to him and again slipped her arms around his neck. . . .

(To be continued)
(The characters in this serial are fictitious.)

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CHINESE IN PLEA FOR QUICK ACTION

Chungking, Dec. 9 —(U.P.)— A Chinese government spokesman today pleaded for quick Allied action against Japanese in the China war theater to cut short the prolonged bloodshed there.

In a statement issued shortly after the Chinese defeat at Changteh was announced, the spokesman said:

"To defeat Hitler is an important task. But equal attention should be paid to this theater of war.

"The Chinese people are willing to shed more blood to attain complete liberty and independence. If the Allies stepped in and helped sooner, there would be less bloodshed.

Coals, which superficially look alike, may have very different compositions under microscopic examination.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

MYER DENIES WRA HEEDED DEMANDS OF RIOTING JAPS

Director Admits White Personnel Of Hospital Staff Immediately Withdrawn.

Washington, Dec. 9 —(U.P.)— Director Dillon S. Myer of the War Relocation Authority today denied that WRA had acceded to demands of rioting Japs at the Tule Lake, Cal., WRA camp, but admitted white personnel of the hospital staff were immediately withdrawn.

Myer said the committee representing the internees had told him they could "not be responsible" for the safety of white doctors and nurses if they were not immediately withdrawn from the hospital.

Would Lose Face

Myer said he subsequently decided to withdraw the staff because they had been through "an exhausting experience" in which one doctor was beaten by Japs. He also said he felt the internee committee would "lose face" if something was not done.

"How about WRA losing face by acceding to their demands," asked Rep. Karl Mundt R., S. D. Myer insisted the action was not taken in response to demands, and that the white staff subsequently returned.

He admitted they did not return until after the army took over administration of the camp.

Questioned concerning discharge of employes "the Japs didn't like," Myers said the internees had demanded discharge of one employe whose resignation was subsequently requested. He insisted the decision had been made before the demand was presented.

Tells of Conference

Myer outlined a conference held between WRA officials and the Japanese "committee of 17" in the administration building at Tule Lake Nov. 1, while a crowd of several thousand internees surrounded the building.

He said that after refusing demands of the committee, he was introduced to the crowd by the committee chairman, George Kuratomi, and made a brief speech which received a "pretty good hand."

He said Kuratomi also spoke in "conciliatory" fashion, but that S. Kai, a professed Buddhist priest "whom we suspect of being a Shintoist," spoke in "a rabble-rousing fashion."

He said that as the meeting broke up, Kai ordered the internees to bow, but insisted it was not a patriotic obeisance to Emperor Hirohito but merely "an ordinary custom."

Chairman John M. Costello, D., Cal., said army officials would be questioned about return of some Japanese to the west coast.

Axis Food Hoards To Feed Liberated

Washington, Dec. 9 —(U.P.)— Assistant Secretary of State Dean Acheson said today that the United Nations relief and rehabilitation administration intends to use any hoarded supplies found in conquered enemy countries for relief of liberated peoples from whom they were stolen.

"There will probably be surplus supplies in enemy countries, particularly Germany which the military can make available for use in liberated areas," he said.

Christmas Jellies Free of Rationing

Washington, Dec. 9 —(U.P.)— The Office of Price Administration ruled today that holiday gift packages of jams, jellies, fruit, butter, preserves, and non-citrus marmalade packed prior to Oct. 23 for sale as Christmas presents may be sold point free between Dec. 8 and Jan. 8.

Freed

Minus the famed "peek-a-boo bang, Movieite Veronica Lake, above, appears in Los Angeles court to win a divorce from Hubby Major John Detlie. The actress' charge was the usual "cruel and inhuman treatment."

Students Lecture Council on Curfew, Obtain Added Hour

San Rafael, Cal., Dec. 9—(U.P.) Two high school students who delivered orations on the facts of life to the San Rafael city council succeeded in liberalizing a proposed curfew ordinance today.

"We can go into the merchant marine at 16, the navy at 17 and the army at 18," young John Rossi told the city council.

"We're all going to be in the service within three or four months, anyway, and we'll be fighting for you guys who sit here and argue whether kids our age should be in at 10 or 11 o'clock."

Miss Marilyn Sarti, speaking for girl students, clinched the argument:

"In place of accusing us of being juvenile delinquents, you should look around at some of your adults."

The curfew ordinance under consideration by the council was amended to make the curfew 11 p. m. instead of 10 p. m. for youngsters between 14 and 18 years of age.

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Time Shown Is PWT

Thursday

5:00 p. m.—Terry and Pirates, BN; Galen Drake, CBS.
5:15 p. m.—Dick Tracy, BN; Superman, MBS.
5:30 p. m.—Jack Armstrong, BN.
5:45 p. m.—Louis P. Lochner, NBC; Capt. Midnight, BN.
5:55 p. m.—Bill Henry, CBS.
6:00 p. m.—Music Hall, NBC; Major Bowes, CBS; Gabriel Heatter, MBS.
6:15 p. m.—Gracie Fields, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—Bob Burns, NBC; Spotlight Bands, BN; Dinah Shore, CBS; Hour of Song, MBS.
6:55 p. m.—Harry Wismer, sports, BN.
7:00 p. m.—Abbott and Costello, NBC; Raymond Gram Swing, BN; The First Line, CBS; Raymond Clapper, MBS.
7:15 p. m.—Fulton Ousler, MBS.
7:30 p. m.—March of Time, NBC; Red Ryder, BN; Here's to Romance, CBS.
8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC; I Love a Mystery, CBS.
8:15 p. m.—Night Editor, NBC; Lum and Abner, BN; Harry James' Orch., CBS; Harmony Hall, MBS.
8:30 p. m.—Coffee Time, NBC; Death Valley Days, CBS.
8:55 p. m.—Joseph C. Harsch, CBS.
9:00 p. m.—The Aldrich Family, NBC; News, MBS.
9:30 p. m.—Ellery Queen Mysteries, NBC; Mayor of the Town, CBS.
9:45 p. m.—Art Baker, BN; Fulton Lewis, Jr., MBS.
10:00 p. m.—News Flashes, NBC; Town Meeting, BN.
10:30 p. m.—Chats About Dogs, CBS.
10:45 p. m.—Voice of a Nation, NBC; Russ Smith Orch., MBS.
11:00 p. m.—This Moving World, BN; Henri Busse Orch., CBS.

Friday

5:00 p. m.—Terry and Pirates, BN; Galen Drake, CBS.
5:15 p. m.—Dick Tracy, BN; Superman, MBS.
5:30 p. m.—Jack Armstrong, BN
5:45 p. m.—Louis P. Lochner, NBC; Capt. Midnight, BN.
5:55 p. m.—Bill Henry, CBS.
6:00 p. m.—Waltz Time, NBC; Three Romeos, BN; Gabriel Heatter, MBS.
6:15 p. m.—Gracie Fields, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—People Are Funny, NBC; Spotlight Bands, BN; That Brewster Boy, CBS; Double or Nothing, MBS.
6:55 p. m.—Harry Wismer, sports, BN.
7:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, NBC; Durante and Moore, CBS.
7:15 p. m.—Fulton Ousler, MBS.
7:30 p. m.—Bill Stern Sports Newsreel, NBC; Stage Door Canteen, CBS; Lone Ranger, MBS.
8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC; I Love a Mystery, CBS.
8:15 p. m.—Fleetwood Lawton, commentator, NBC; The Parker Family, BN.
8:30 p. m.—All-Time Hit Parade, NBC; Gang Busters, BN; Playhouse, CBS; Name That Song, MBS.
9:00 p. m.—Furlough Fun, NBC; Meet Your Navy, BN; Kate Smith Hour, CBS; News, MBS.
9:30 p. m.—General Barows, MBS.
9:45 p. m.—Fulton Lewis, Jr., MBS.
10:00 p. m.—News, NBC; Football Forecasts, MBS.
10:20 p. m.—William Winter, CBS.
10:45 p. m.—Voice of a Nation, NBC; Cafe Orch., BN; Henry King Orch., MBS.
11:00 p. m.—Hotel Biltmore Orch., NBC; This Moving World, BN.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS by JOHN HIX

Crossword Puzzle

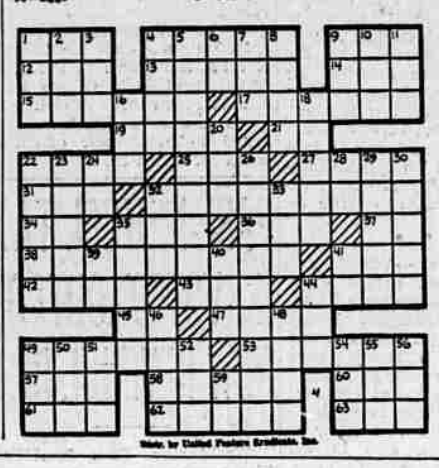
ACROSS

1—Gloomy
4—Indistinct
9—German river
12—Land measure
13—Theme
14—Gambling game
15—Vistas
17—Steals money
19—Astringent salt
21—Either
22—Buggy
25—Strike
27—Blame
31—Cooking utensil
32—Mirth
34—Comparative ending
35—Turf
36—Eggs
37—Accomplish
38—Study of derivation of words
41—A number
43—Venture
44—Desire
46—Blood
45—Behold
47—Part in play
48—Liquid measure
50—Downcast
51—Bra
52—Pueblo Indians
56—Trouble
61—Pea shell
62—Girl's name
63—Hindu cymbal

DOWN

1—Part of "to be"
2—Curve
3—Born
4—Sense
5—Without doubt
6—Exists
7—Harry
8—Amateur
9—Pixie
10—Clever work
11—Distress call
16—No vote
18—Smell
20—Spoil
22—Hurry
23—City in Azores
24—Toward
26—Prediction
28—Compass points
29—Beneath
30—Rock
32—Cow's cry
33—Climbing plant
35—Odor
39—Year (abbr.)
40—Over (poet.)
41—In direction of
44—Precious tone
46—Leak slowly
48—Misplace
49—Space
50—Past time
51—Conducted
53—Make void
54—Flying mammal
55—Narrow inlet
56—Cloth measure
58—Symbol for nickel

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—Rooms for Sale. Edited by DREW PEARSON

L'IL ABNER—Pappy Asked for It. By AL CAPP

THE NEBBS—The Great Experiment. By HESS