

Lena Hates Men

by MARGOT NEVILLE

CHAPTER XXXII

AFTER leaving the pantry, Eileen went to the living room. There, she found Bill, Michael and Brenda. The two men had been sitting there for the last hour or so, putting away quite a few drinks and talking endlessly. Brenda had joined them when she left Joyce's room.

Presently, Bill and Brenda started home, but Michael lingered.

"Eileen, I've been thinking about something. I think I've got a kind of idea. I may be going mildly insane, but..."

"Well?" Eileen prompted.

"You know how it is. All through this awful business, you get ideas. They flash into your mind."

"I know," she said. "Sometimes the most awful suspicions."

"Yes, and sometimes things that seem absurd. For instance, there may be significance in the fact that Lena was murdered a few hours after that photograph disappeared from your room. Supposing Lena took it, supposing she'd discovered something in it and wanted to look at it again and think it out?"

"What could she have discovered? What do you mean?"

"Do you remember that, besides Clarence and her husband in that picture, there was Deschamps—Denise's father? He'd been an old love of Clarence's. Then there was Mike who took Clarence her last drink."

"I remember. What about it?"

"Michael dropped his voice. 'Haven't you ever noticed that children sometimes have the most striking likenesses to people that they love later? It's a frightful giveaway sometimes. I don't know if it struck you or not.'

"He broke off suddenly and listened.

"What is it?" Eileen asked.

"Sh," he whispered. "I thought I heard someone outside."

She listened, too. "No, it was only a bird in the creper."

But he turned like a flash and went out the French window. She saw him go to the edge of the veranda and peer into the bushes. He threw her one warning glance over his shoulder, then stepped out into the garden.

Eileen waited there in the drawing room for a long time, expecting him to come back. Finally, she turned out the lights and went up stairs. He must have met someone, she thought, and not been able to get back to her.

She returned to bed and, in time, fell fast asleep.

THE next morning, at about nine o'clock, Eileen and Felix and Joyce and Denise were at breakfast, when Bill came over.

He looked around as he stepped into the dining room.

"Mike here?" he asked.

Eileen felt a shock as, through her, she couldn't have said why.

"No," she answered. "Why?"

"He didn't come home last night and I was wondering where he was."

"Didn't come home?" Eileen got up from her place at the table.

Bill shook his head. "No, I have not seen him since Brenda and I left him with you last night. Did he stay long with you?"

"No. We had a little talk and—then he went away."

Something tied Eileen's tongue. Something prevented her from telling them all what Michael had said to her and the incident that had cut it short. What had been the meaning of it? What had Michael been going to say?

"Oh, why make a fuss?" Joyce asked. "He'll probably turn up."

"Suppose he's been knocked down by a car or something," Bill said. "He may have gone to see someone." Felix suggested, "and didn't ring for fear of disturbing you. Where have you looked for him?"

"Everywhere. He hasn't been in his room or slept in his bed."

THERE was a silence. Denise sat quiet. She stirred and stirred her coffee.

Bill moved from foot to foot. "Well, do we do anything about it?"

"Yes," Eileen said quickly. "I think we should tell the detectives at once."

Denise looked up then. "I suppose you know what they'll think? He disappears just after Lena's death. And they'll remember that it was Mike who took Clarence her last drink."

"Denise! You're mad," Felix burst out.

"All right, but you're a fool if you go to the detectives. My advice is—abstain from action. Know nothing, tell nothing, keep quiet."

"They'll find out," said Felix.

"Let them. That's their job." Suddenly Denise pushed her cup away. It fell over into the saucers with a clatter. It was a clumsy gesture, very unlike Denise. "You don't seem to realize that we're all in danger. We're in two sorts of danger. One—from whoever murdered Lena—perhaps because she was going to meddle. The other danger is from the police. They want to arrest someone and I don't suppose it matters terribly much to them which one of us they drop on."

Eileen was staring at her. "You said something like this before when we found Clarence hadn't committed suicide."

"Yes, I did, but no one took my advice, and what's the result? If we had shut up the servants then and not allowed a word to get out, Lena wouldn't be in the morgue this morning."

"All right, all right." It was Felix who answered. "I knew all that, but I'm going to tell the police just the same. Mike may have had an accident."

(To be continued)

(The characters in this serial are fictitious.)

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TRASH PROGRAMS FAVORED BY RADIO AVERS FCC CHIEF

Chains Would Move Educational Features to Least Desirable Time of Day.

Washington, Dec. 20.—(U.P.)—The radio industry is trying to put "the squeeze" on such long-time sustaining programs as "The Catholic Hour" and move them to less desirable times, Chairman James L. Fly of the Federal Communications Commission said today.

Fly told the Senate Interstate Commerce committee that National Broadcasting Co. sought unsuccessfully to move the Sunday evening Catholic program to a less desirable time to make way for "Amos 'n' Andy." Catholic opinion blocked this move, he said, but other sustaining programs have not been so fortunate.

"Town Hall" and the "Chicago Round Table," two educational features, had been relegated to undesirable periods, Fly said.

"The squeeze is being put on sustaining programs," he told the committee. "NBC carries only an hour and 45 minutes of sustaining program weekly during the hours from 7 p. m. to 11 p. m. Columbia Broadcasting System carries only two hours and 15 minutes of sustaining time during the same period."

"I question the long-range wisdom of giving up their educational features for commercial programs," he said.

He said the program content on the air during the evening is on the downgrade, while daytime programs are not being improved in content or in variety.

"I wish this committee could hear the NBC programs from 10 in the morning until 6 o'clock in the evening," he said. "I would like to see the picture a psychiatrist draws of a housewife's brain at 6 o'clock in the evening after listening to soap operas all day."

In response to a question by Sen. E. H. Moore, R., Okla., Fly said he would favor "specific legislation requiring stations to set aside a certain amount of time for educational programs and public service programs."

Committee Chairman Burton K. Wheeler, D., Mont., agreed that programs should be improved.

"If you educate a boy to read dime novels, that is all he will want to read," Wheeler said. "If you give American people trashy programs, that's what they will want to hear."

ence have taught me that a woman's idea of what constitutes a good home and a man's do not follow the same pattern. The home instinct in a man is as primitive as we are given to understand are his other instincts. To the average man home means simple shelter, simple food simply served, and a comfortable bed. To him, dishes are just containers for food and any old coverlet will do if it keeps him warm. He regards as feminine whimsy his wife's passionate desire that the dishes match and the blankets be soft and gaily colored. And all he asks of a house is that it keep out the rain. He may endure her nagging persistence about Venetian blinds with gentlemanly civility, but said and abet her in her unreasonable demands he will not. A wife can't really hold his attitude against him since it's just how he's made.

Women react differently to this situation. Yet each one sets up her own individual defense mechanism. My escape from reality is to mentally take over the homes of such women as have those I most admire. Without benefit of deed or tax receipts, I just walk into the house and for the time being possess it. The big soft chair in which I sit is mine, as are the coffee table, dainty napery and china.

The trim and petite Mrs. Morris serving a plump and gray-haired matron doesn't know that the situation is reversed. It is I who is saying, "Do have another cup of coffee. And try this cinnamon toast." Oh, I'm a Molly Mooler. I tell you! I sit right there and without lifting a finger I've polished the silverware, vacuumed the rugs and dusted the baby grand.

One of my friends has just invited me to come and see her new window draperies. I hope I find I've shown good taste in their selection.

COMMANDER DIES IN PLANE CRASH

Hamilton Field, Cal., Dec. 20. (U.P.)—A single-seater fighter plane on a combat training flight crashed early this morning while taking off from the Tonopah, Nev., bombing and gunnery range and killed its pilot, the commanding officer of Hamilton Field announced today.

The pilot was 2nd Lt. Robert M. Harris, 25, single, son of Elmer H. Harris, 591 38th avenue, San Francisco, and was stationed at the Sacramento municipal airport.

George Jessel Teaches School

Prof. George Jessel, instructor in the art of master-of-ceremonying, gives lectures on this subject to groups of soldier boys and girls. He and others have opened a three-day talent school in Los Angeles to provide entertainers for the Army. There's a civilian shortage in this line also.

Noted Surgeon Is Murdered

Dr. Verne Carlton Hunt, 55, prominent Los Angeles surgeon, was murdered in his office by a former patient, Ephram Mounsey, who barged into Dr. Hunt's office, said, "Why didn't you operate on me?" fired six shots at the doctor, and later turned the gun on himself. Dr. Hunt was considered one of the finest surgeons on the Pacific Coast.

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:

KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland
KEX (NBC-Hue) 1390, Portland
KGA (NBC-Hue & MBS) 1510, Spokane
KGO (NBC-Hue) 810, San Francisco
KJW (NBC-Hue) 830, Portland
KJH (NBC-Hue) 1000, Seattle
KXN (CBS) 1010, Los Angeles
KOA (NBC-Hue) 830, Denver
KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland
KOMO (NBC-Hue) 930, Seattle
KPO (NBC-Hue) 880, San Francisco
KSL (CBS) 1160, Salt Lake City.

Time shown is PWT

Monday

5:00 p. m.—H. V. Kaltenborn, news, NBC; Galen Drake, CBS; Terry and Pirates, BN.

5:15 p. m.—Superman, MBS; Dick Tracy, BN.

5:30 p. m.—Voice of Firestone, NBC; Harry Flannery, news, CBS; Jack Armstrong, BN.

5:45 p. m.—News, CBS; Capt. McNight, BN.

6:00 p. m.—Telephone Hour, NBC; Radio Theater, CBS; Gabriel Heatter, MBS.

6:15 p. m.—Grace Fields, MBS.

6:30 p. m.—Spotlight Bands, BN; Dr. I. Q., NBC.

7:00 p. m.—Contented Hour, NBC; Screen Guild Players, CBS; Raymond Clapper, MBS; Raymond Gram Swing, BN.

7:15 p. m.—Pulitzer Courier, MBS.

7:30 p. m.—Information Please, NBC; Blondie, CBS; Lone Ranger, MBS.

8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC; I Love a Mystery, CBS.

8:15 p. m.—Raymond Gram Swing, NBC; Ed Sullivan, CBS; Lum and Abner, BN; Fleetwood Lawton, NBC.

8:30 p. m.—Cavalcade of America; Gay Nineties, CBS; Point Sublime, MBS.

8:55 p. m.—Joseph C. Harach, CBS.

9:00 p. m.—Telephone Hour, NBC.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith—Arid Neck's "Grave" Error!

YEAH, SNUFFY—IT'S ME, B. GOOGLE—NO KIDDIN'—I GOT A 15-DAY SHORE-LEAVE!! OWAY—ILL DO AS YOU SAY—I'LL TAKE TH' BUS ARRIVIN' TOMORROW.

WA-HA—HOW? ARID NECK, YOU DESERT-RHT? DON'T FORGET MY CORN-SQUEEZIN'S—HO-HO—

BLONDIE—Sure-Footed Cookie!



L'IL ABNER—The Old Maestro.



HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—Blowing His Own Horn.



THE NEBBES—Two Dollars, Please!



Blind Date, BN; News, MBS.

9:30 p. m.—Hawthorne House, NBC; Vox Pop, CBS; Lowell Thomas, BN.

9:45 p. m.—Pulitzer Law, Jr., MBS.

10:00 p. m.—News, NBC; Army Air Force, MBS.

10:20 p. m.—William Winter, CBS.

10:30 p. m.—H. V. Kaltenborn, news, NBC; Paul Martin Orch., CBS.

10:45 p. m.—Here's Mexico, MBS.

11:00 p. m.—Yankee House Party, MBS; This Moving World, BN.

Tuesday

5:00 p. m.—Terry and Pirates, BN; Galen Drake, CBS.

5:15 p. m.—Dale Cross Orch., NBC; Dick Tracy, BN; Superman, MBS.

5:30 p. m.—Horse Head Treasure Chest, NBC; Jack Armstrong, BN; Harry Flannery, news, CBS.

5:45 p. m.—Capt. Midnight, BN; News, CBS.

5:55 p. m.—Bill Henry, news, CBS.

6:00 p. m.—Mystery Theater, NBC; Three Romances, BN; Gabriel Heatter, MBS; Burns and Allen, CBS.

6:15 p. m.—Grace Fields, MBS.

6:30 p. m.—Pulitzer McCoe and Molloy, NBC; Spotlight Bands, BN; Forum of the Air, MBS; Report to Nation, CBS.

7:00 p. m.—Bob Hope, NBC; Raymond Gram Swing, BN; All-Star Radio Show, CBS.

7:15 p. m.—Fulton Oursler, MBS.

7:30 p. m.—Red Skelton, NBC; Red Ryder, BN; Joy Orch., MBS; Congress Speaks, CBS.

7:45 p. m.—Guy Lombardo Orch., CBS.

8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC; I Love a Mystery, CBS.

8:15 p. m.—Fleetwood Lawton, NBC; Big Town, CBS; Lum and Abner, BN; Harry James Orch., CBS.

8:30 p. m.—Johnny Presents, NBC.

9:00 p. m.—Salute to Youth, NBC; News, MBS; Judy Canova, CBS.

9:25 p. m.—Joseph C. Harach, CBS.

9:45 p. m.—Pulitzer Law, Jr., MBS.

10:00 p. m.—News, MBS; Henry King Orch., MBS.

10:20 p. m.—William Winter, CBS.

10:30 p. m.—Edwin C. Hill, CBS; America Tomorrow, BN.

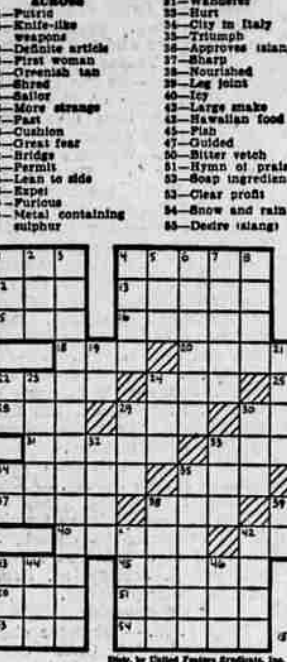
10:45 p. m.—Voice of a Nation, NBC; Ted Powell Orch., CBS.

11:00 p. m.—Biltmore Hotel Orch., NBC; This Moving World, BN; Sinatra, MBS; Henri Busse Orch., CBS.

Crossword Puzzle



Answer to Previous Puzzle



Down

- 1-Wager
- 2-Humming bird
- 3-Naval trainee
- 4-Ancient
- 5-Crested
- 6-Open
- 7-Dry
- 8-According to custom
- 9-Ugly woman
- 10-Indefinite article
- 11-Woe is me!
- 12-Tuna
- 13-Was fought by Hannibal
- 14-Jelly
- 15-Tend a fire
- 16-Rigid
- 17-Fashioned piece
- 18-Hungry
- 19-Fashioned
- 20-Cover
- 21-Mother
- 22-Type of shoe
- 23-Last
- 24-Knockout (abbr.)
- 25-Lies up
- 26-Inclination
- 27-Ogre
- 28-Inclined metal
- 29-Town in New Guinea
- 30-Examine
- 31-Lair