Lady DOCTOR

by PEGGY GADDIS

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CHAPTER 1

"YOUR dinner's getting cold, Jonathan," said Matilda sternly. "It's after one o'clock."

Jonathan sighed. "How many out there in the waiting room, Mattie?"

"A lot more than you're going to see till you've had something to eat," answered Matilda tartly. "You get right up from that desk, Jonathan, and come in the house."

"Yes, ma'am," he said. "And if I lose all my patients, it'll be your fault. The idea of a country doctor's housekeeper insisting on him keeping regular hours!"

Matilda sniffed and stood holding the door open her eyes on her brother, who heaved himself to his feet.

He was a big man, was Jonathan Blake M.D. Tall and broad of shoulder, though there was a little stoop to the wide shoulders this last year or two. His hair was gray and because he always forgot to get a hair-cut until Matilda drove him to the barber shop, it was usually a little long and untidy looking. His eyebrows were thick, almost tufted. Below them, his blue eyes were kindly, though at times he could lose his temper and the blue eyes could shoot sparks.

AS HE and Matilda walked along the brick walk from the small white house that was his office to the old, brick, two-storied house where he and Matilda had lived all their lives, he lifted his head and sniffed.

"Why, Mattie, I do believe it's spring!"

"Well, certainly, it's spring."

"Nice to have Merry coming home, isn't it, old girl? Think of it—she'll be home tonight!"

Matilda's lean face softened. She was almost as tall as her brother erectly held shoulders making her look quite his height; she lacked his pleasant plumpness however.

"It'll be nice having her here," she answered as they entered the house, fragrant with the mid-day dinner that was a custom in River Gap. "Land. I can't imagine her being a full-fledged doctor — performing operations bringing babies into the world. It seems like she's nothing but a baby herself!"

Jonathan chuckled, as he sat down at the table.

"She's twenty-four years old Mattie—I can't believe it," he said. "Think of that youngster being a graduate surgeon and making a record as an interne. That's quite a girl we've brought up, Mattie—quite a girl! Be nice to have her home again. I've missed the little tyke."

"So have I," said Matilda. "But of course we've had Rosalie."

Jonathan's blue eyes twinkled. "Well at least she has come here to sleep occasionally this past year or so. Sometimes I wonder if we've got Rosalie any more. Would a fellow be too inquisitive if he asked where she is now?"

"The child was out dancing until all hours, and I thought she might as well sleep a little late."

THERE came the brisk patter of light footfalls on the stairs. Then a girl practically bounced into the room.

"Hi-ya, Doc!" she said gaily. "Oh, Mattie, *darlin'!* Turnip-greens again? Phooey!"

Jonathan regarded the girl before him. A small lovely thing she was, with a tumble of blonde curls that fell to her shoulders. She was wearing a blue and white checked gingham play-suit.

"I hope, my dear, that you have no intention of being seen in public in that—er—abbreviated costume?" said Jonathan sternly.

"In public? Certainly not! I'm playing tennis with Tim and some of the gang."

"Tim Abernethy? Is that the young lieutenant you dragged home for me to meet a few weeks ago?"

Rosalie nodded then sighed ecstatically. "Oh, Gramps, isn't he simply *super*? I'm practically insane about him! He likes me a little, too!"

"I gathered as much from the way he looked at you," said Jonathan the twinkle coming back to his eyes.

"Oh did you, Gramps? *How* did he look at me?"

"As though you were strawberry short-cake and he'd like to eat you."

Rosalie beamed. "That's the way he ought to look if he's in love with me wouldn't you say?"

Matilda snorted. "In love with you! I never heard such nonsence! You've known the man only three weeks."

Rosalie sighed. "Isn't it pathetic Gramps? Poor Aunt Matilda. Still living in the dark ages—"

Matilda said sternly "I'll 'dark ages' you, you young imp! You're eighteen, but that's not a bit too old to be turned across my knee and spanked."

Rosalie hugged her hard. "You bark, darling but you don't scare me, because I know you never bite!"

She danced out of the room and, a moment later, the horn of a car honked outside. Jonathan and Matilda saw her running down the drive to join her friends.

JONATHAN said drily, "Yes, we've had Rosalie—if you can hold quicksilver in your hands!"

Worriedly Matilda asked. "Do you think she's serious about this Tim fellow?"

"Rosalie serious about anything in the world? She never drew a serious breath in her life—and I kind of hope she never does. She's the gayest, blithest thing alive. Tim's not her first romance by a long shot. The child's in love with *being* in love. A week from now, she will have forgotten him."

"We-e-ell, I don't know," Matilda said. "She *is* eighteen and her mother was married when she wasn't much more than eighteen. And this Tim seems a nice enough young man."

Jonathan regarded her with amusement.

"You women! When you think the girl is serious about the man, you are worried; and now you are worried for fear she isn't serious. We'll just have to let her go her own gait, Matilda. All we can do is stand by and pick up the pieces."

"Seems to me it would be a lot more sensible if we could keep the pieces from being scattered in the first place."

"That's one thing we can't do, Mattie. Children are individuals and you can't live their lives for them or protect them from the experiences of life."

"As if I didn't know that," sniffed Matilda, then broke off anxiously. "Why, Jonathan, you haven't eaten a thing!"

"Two helpings of turnip-greens, two pieces of egg-bread a bowl of salad a dish of blackberry pie and two cups of tea," the doctor pointed out mildly. "I think that will sustain the inner man Mattie—provided of course, we have a very early supper."

Matilda said "Oh, you!" But she was gratified and mollified. She adored her brother and had lived for him and his two orphaned grand-daughters since Rosalie had been two years old and Meredith nine. She worried about them, loved them and was completely absorbed in them.

(To be continued)

(The characters in this serial are fictitious)

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Her aunt snorted. "In love with you! I never heard such nonsense! You've known the man only three weeks."

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:

KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland; KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland; KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1510, Spokane; KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco; KGW (NBS-Red) 620, Portland; KJR (NBC-Blue) 1000, Seattle; KNX (CBS) 1070, Los Angeles; KOA (NBC-Red) 850, Denver; KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland; KOMO (NBC-Red) 950, Seattle; KPO (NBC-Red) 680, 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.—Richard Crooks, NBC; Harry Flannery, news, CBS; Jack Armstrong, BN.
5:45 p. m.—News, CBS; Capt. Midnight, BN.
6:00 p. m.—Manhunter Mysteries, NBC; Radio Theater, CBS; Gabriel Heatter, MBS.
6:15 p. m.—Gracie 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.—Fulton Oursler, 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.—Fleetwood Lawton, NBC; Ed Sullivan, CBS; Lum and Abner, BN
8:30 p. m.—Cavalcade of America, NBC; Gay Nineties, CBS; Point Sublime, MBS.
8:55 p. m.—Joseph C. Harsch, CBS.
9:00 p. m.—Telephone Hour, NBC; Blind Date, BN; News, MBS.
9:30 p. m.—Hawthorne House, NBC; Vox Pop, CBS; Lowell Thomas, BN
9:45 p. m.—Fulton Lewis, 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; Lenny Conn Orch., CBS.
10:45 p. m.—Here's Mexico, MBS
11:00 p. m.—Yankee House Party MBS; This Moving World, BN; Hotel Biltmore Orch., NBC.

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.—Horace Heidt 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 Romeos, BN; Gabriel Heatter, MBS; Burns and Allen, CBS.
6:15 p. m.—Gracie Fields, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—Fibber McGee and Molly, NBC; Spotlight Bands, BN; Forum of the Air, MBS; Report to Nation, CBS.
7:00 p. m.—Bob Hope, NBC; Raymond Gram Swing, BN; Romance, 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. Big Town, CBS.
9:00 p. m.—Salute to Youth, NBC; News, MBS; Judy Canova, CBS.
9:25 p. m.—Joseph C. Harsch, CBS.
9:45 p. m.—Fulton Lewis Jr., MBS
10:00 p. m.—News, NBC; 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; Harry James Orch., CBS.
11:00 p. m.—Biltmore Hotel Orch., NBC; This Moving World, BN; Sinfonietta, MBS; Henri Busse Orch., CBS.

COLMANS EXPECT

Hollywood, Dec. 27. — (U.P.) — Suave actor Ronald Colman and his wife, the former stage actress Benita Hume, announced today they would become parents next summer. The British-born couple was married in Santa Barbara, Cal., in the fall of 1938.

Victory in 1945 Admiral's Hope

Washington, Dec. 27—(U.P.)—Adm. Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the U. S. fleet, in a Christmas message broadcast to the nation's armed forces Friday held out hope for victory in 1945.

"Our enemies are being defeated," he said. "The way we must travel is yet long, but as we look forward to the new year, we can be sustained with growing confidence that victory over our enemies is certain. If not next year, then a year later, Christmas may once again be celebrated in a world of peace."

Commodity Credit Measure Signed

Washington, Dec. 27 — (U.P.) — President Roosevelt has signed legislation extending the Commodity Credit corporation and the administration's food subsidy program until Feb. 17, 1944, the White House announced today.

The resolution was enacted as a stop-gap, after congress was unable to find a subsidy compromise agreeable to both the farm bloc and the administration. Without the temporary extension, the CCC—which finances most of the subsidy program — would have died on Dec. 31.

SHIP CARP 2,000 MILES

New York—(U.P.)—Carp from fresh water ports in 12 states are being shipped alive to meat-rationed diners as far as 2,000 miles away. A flow of water at a constant temperature of 45 degrees keeps the wriggling fish alive in tank cars. The Railway Express Agency, which handles the shipments, estimates that more than 5,000,000 pounds of carp will reach markets far from the source of supply this year.

Bridge Plagues Culbertson

Boston —(U.P.)— Bridge champion Ely Culbertson is finding the cards stacked against him when he lectures on his pet project — postwar planning. After expounding at considerable length his theories on the world federation plan here recently, he asked for questions from the floor. Piped a woman: "Mr. Culbertson, is an opening bid of one no-trump always a demand bid?"

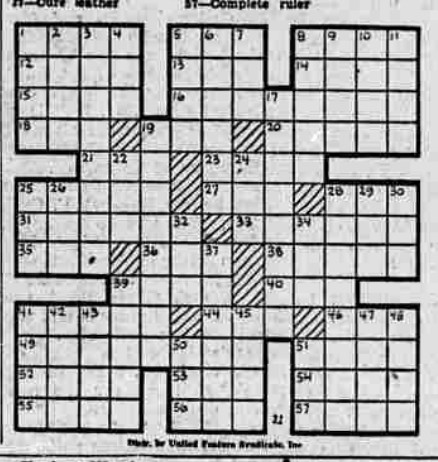
Disgusted, Culbertson picked up his coat and hat, left the hall.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS by JOHN HIX

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1—Metallic dross
6—Skill
8—Ship
12—Solitary
13—Sheltered side
14—Buckeye State
15—First man
16—Careless
18—Babylonian god
20—Fish eggs
30—Rise up
31—Metallic earth
32—Require
33—Musical instrument
37—Cure leather
38—Edge
39—Highways
42—Gully
43—Tool food
44—Deity
45—Jobs
48—Poison
49—Insect
51—Dish of greens
54—Entire
56—Cut off
59—Proximity
61—Take out
62—Arrow poison
63—Long time
64—Land in water
65—Aromatic plant
66—Conclusion
67—Complete ruler



DOWN

1—Flat stone
2—Vein of metal
3—Related thing
4—Precious stone
5—Too
6—Yield
7—Beverage
8—Portended
9—"Moby Dick" character
10—Go up
11—Arabic mascara
17—Before birth
19—Apostate
22—Rodent
24—Hearing organ
25—Danish coin
26—Decay
28—Flabby
29—Writing fluid
30—Foot-like part
32—Scion
34—Front
37—Church officer
39—Founded
41—Revolve
43—Water buffalo
43—Ogle
45—Let use
47—Wide-mouthed jug
48—Gaze
50—Barn
51—Close up (Scot.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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Auroral Observations Wanted in War Research

By J. Hugh Pruett
(Astronomer, General Extension, University of Oregon)

Scarcely would one believe that observations of the faint illumination of the northern lights, or aurora borealis, would be of value to the war effort. But such decidedly is the case according to Dr. C. W. Gartlein, director since 1938 of the National Geographic society-Cornell university program for auroral research. Dr. Gartlein is appealing for volunteer observers in the United States and Canada who will report promptly when even the faintest auroral glow is seen in the sky.

Just how such data is being used is of course a secret, yet Dr. Gartlein has authorized those assisting him in public appeals for observers to state that it is of real value and urgently needed.

We are now at about the time in the average 11-year cycle when sunspots are at a minimum. Since there is a definite connection between sunspots and auroras, one might assume that the latter is now seldom seen. Although the northern lights will likely become more numerous during the next few years, yet several have been reported quite recently.

We usually associate the aurora borealis with far northern regions. True, they are more splendid and appear more often in such localities, yet very fine displays are sometimes seen in the temperate zones. Since these lights are generally quite faint, clear moonless skies and the absence of artificial illumination are needed for successful observations.

Such observations now wanted require at least an hourly inspection of the clear night sky during the hours agreed upon by the voluntary observer. Months might pass without anything to report. When an aurora is seen, it is to be observed carefully and reported at once on the blanks provided. Those well removed from city lights may be most helpful.

The present writer, who has been assisting in this work for several years, has been requested to attempt the recruiting of more observers. Anyone who can help is asked to write him at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Please state what period of the evening or night will be convenient and the possibility of dark observing locations. Those in well-illuminated cities can do very little.

RITES FOR PILOT

Glendale, Cal., Dec. 27.—(U.P.)—Military funeral services were conducted today for Col. William Edward Dyess, 27-year-old aviator-hero of the battle for the Philippines, who was killed Wednesday when his P-38 fighter plane crashed in a Burbank street.

FAVORS 10-TON TRUCKS

New York (U.P.) — Production of heavy trucks for army use will be doubled in 1944 to meet the service's new preference for 10-tonners, manufacturers have indicated. The heavy carriers have proved more efficient on the battlefronts than an equal tonnage of lighter machines, it is said. Not only do they require less personnel and fewer service shops per amount of freight handled, but they reduce traffic congestion on busy military roads.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

THE WORLD AT ITS WORST By GLUYAS WILLIAMS