

# LOVE FOR TWO

RUTH DEWEY GROVES AUTHOR OF "WHEN A GIRL LOVES" © 1928 By NEA Service Inc.

## CHAPTER XXII

A month, with Lila, was time for anything. The constant drip of her cleverly phrased words had worn away Bertie Lou's memory of the recent struggle which she and Rod had experienced in order to keep their heads above the waters that had threatened to engulf them.

The future looked alluringly bright as Lila painted it. No need to stint.

"Cy will stick to Rod," Lila told Bertie Lou. "He thinks the world of him. Cy's so good-hearted. He'd like to see everyone well off. He'd think Rod lacked confidence in him if you weren't making the most of his friendship. Cy doesn't expect you to save for a rainy day, Bertie Lou, because it doesn't rain on people he likes."

And Molly always kept reminding Bertie Lou of Rod's good luck in having a man like Cyrus Loree interested in him.

"I heard that Rod's slated to keep on moving upstairs in his company," she remarked, not troubling to add that Lila had given her the information.

Bertie Lou could see no reason after a while, why they should not have a place where they could entertain in a way that would do credit to Cyrus' generosity.

"I think he expects it of us," she argued with Rod when he vetoed the idea of moving. "And it will be saving in a way," she went on. "Think what we are spending now on theater parties and suppers. If we had a larger place and a maid we could come home for a 'snack,' after the show. Why, we wouldn't need to take our guests to a theater at all. We could throw a decent party at home."

"Anyway, it looks cheap for us to live in a walkup apartment and not keep a maid. Everybody knows you are getting a good salary now."

Rod signed the lease on the dotted line for the new place, though he said he wished they were moving into their own home instead.

Bertie Lou seemed to have forgotten all their earlier plans for a home. Her life was filled with satisfaction over the present. Care had taken his black shadow off their portal. They had money for a good time and good clothes; health and a lot of jolly friends. Bertie Lou was too happy in the new apartment with the glass-enclosed shower and sunken tub, the many-mirrored dressing rooms, and the wood-burning fireplace to dream of anything more.

Lila insisted upon helping her furnish the place. "You can use my credit at the shops," she proposed; "you'll have to hunt around to get just the right things."

She accompanied Bertie Lou on several shopping expeditions to exclusive decorators and furniture dealers. "Oh, this is what you want," here and "that's just the very thing for your guest room," there, until Bertie Lou had almost unconsciously run up a number of rather large bills at several expensive houses.

But it was well worth while, she thought. The apartment was beautiful. And had she not heard Cyrus and Rod discussing the value of credit?

Even wealthy people, Cyrus had said, bought motor cars on the deferred payment plan. But what Bertie Lou failed to realize was that these people in taking advantage of this policy were inspired by motives other than merely acquiring a car. . . . It meant something to conserve their cash for use in their own enterprises. . . . the returns would be far greater than the interest they paid to the automobile finance companies.



"Just my pearl necklace and the two diamond bracelets," she said, giving the case to him.

Bertie Lou really believed it to be a sound policy to create an impression of affluence, even if it was necessary to plunge Rod into debt. And being in debt now was entirely different from being in debt during the days of their penuriousness.

There was now plenty of money on hand for the larger and the small luxuries it had been necessary for them to deny themselves in the past. Bertie Lou went blithely ahead, aided and abetted by Lila and the example other women of wealth set for her.

In this saturnalia of extravagance Rod found himself unable to save. They were more living on a higher scale, he complained. Bertie Lou said yes, but once the bills were paid their account at the bank would grow like a dandelion.

The first real party Bertie Lou gave in their new apartment was "hurled," as she said, in Cyrus' honor. For two reasons: First, he had made it possible, and secondly, to speed him on a business trip he was taking. The affair went off beautifully and smoothly. Even Rod was a little puffed up over his domain and his attractive and exquisitely-gowned wife.

Lila, dancing with him to radio music, laughed up her sleeve. There was a thought in her head about a lamb. It was about time, she decided, to start him toward the place whence little fatted lambs never return.

The next day she called Rod on the telephone and asked him to come and take her rope of pearls and bracelets down to the office. "Please don't send anyone else," she requested. "I'll feel easier if I know you are looking after them."

Rod went to her apartment during the luncheon hour. Lila was just sitting down to a chop and a slice of pineapple. . . . there was her figure to consider. Rod was invited to stay. He would have declined on a genuine plea of pressure of business at the office but Lila gave him no opportunity. She quickly turned to the waitress and ordered a plate for him. She sent her own plate back to wait for a fresh chop with Rod.

use rattling its skeleton is there?"

"Thank goodness, you've got more sense than you used to have," Lila observed. Then to the girl who brought the chops: "Is there any pie? Serve it for Mr. Bryer and bring a bunch of grapes for me."

The "pie" was a tart, filled with fresh, hothouse strawberries and Creme Chantilly. Very delicious, Rod said. They had coffee and then he told Lila he really must rush back to the office. She made no attempt to detain him.

"I'll get the things," she said, and started to her boudoir. "Cy was going to take them down this morning on his way to the station but we both forgot about it. I'm afraid to keep them in the apartment when he's away." She moved out of the room and Rod went into the hall to get his things on.

Lila came to him there in a few minutes, a leather-covered case in her hands. "Just my pearl necklace and the two diamond bracelets," she said, giving the case to him. Rod took it under his arm.

"Thank you so much for bothering to come for them," Lila said. "I know they'll be safe with you."

Rod thanked her for the luncheon and hurried away. At the office he placed the case in an inner compartment of the safe and turned the lock. As far as he knew only himself and Cyrus held the combination to that lock.

Lila telephoned again a few days later to ask him if it would be too much trouble to bring the gems back to her. She wanted to wear them that night, she explained. Rod replied that it

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wouldn't be any trouble. . . . the day's rush was over.

With the case in his possession he started for the subway. He had not as yet acquired the habit of hailing taxicabs. But the thought of the milling crowds in the subway at this hour caused him to take a cab. Better not take any chances with his precious case. . . . it might be snatched out of his hands.

And yet, in spite of his caution, when he arrived at the Loree's apartment, he did not have the jewelry.

(To Be Continued)

**WHERE WORKA, FROSH MAUCH CHUNE, Pa., July 30.**  
—This brough saved some money and freshman in the local high school learned the meaning of "labor" recently. The seniors got the happy thought, corralled the lower classmen and put them to work repairing holes in the street. But it didn't last long because the freshmen had hands too tender for that sort of work.

Bullets that will drug wild animals but not kill them have been invented by Captain Harris, director of the Harris zoological expedition to South Africa.

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## AT THE THEATRES

**AT THE PELICAN**  
A fast-moving comedy of college life is showing at the Pelican theatre today. "College Love," a feature picture made by the same cast as Universal's popular "College" short comedies, is the attraction.

"College Love" may be considered the graduating opus of this popular group of screen players. It is the last college picture in which they will be seen together. Featuring George Lewis, with such sterling support as Dorothy Gulliver, Eddie Phillips, Churchill Ross, Mayden Stevenson and Summer Getchell, the photoplay was directed by Nat Ross under the supervision of Carl Laemmle, Jr., from a story by Leonard Fields.

**AT THE PINE TREE**  
District attorneys have innumerable times conducted "drives" on fortune-tellers, mystics and seers to "run them out" of their jurisdiction on the ground that their activities are inimical to the welfare of the public.

In many big cities throughout the country all the law-enforcing agencies have frequently combined to rid the community once and for all of all degrees of soothsayers whose stock-in-trade is the credulity of the gullible.

Because the desire of the many to delve into the hidden mysteries of the future will not be satiated, thousands of "fakirs," claiming to be Hindu charm-workers, have sprung up to become fashionable attractions at saloons, seances and society teas.

Such a condition is dramatically portrayed in "The Charlatan," the production now being shown at the Pine Tree theatre.

**AT THE LIBERTY**  
"The Branded Man" is Ray-art's newest contribution to cinema entertainment, directed by Scott Pembroke from Tod Robbins' story. Charles Delaney has the title role and June Marlowe the ingenue lead, with Lucy

Beaumont, Andy Clyde, Gordon Griffith and George Riley carrying the other featured parts. It is now playing at the Liberty theatre, where it is scheduled for a run of two days.

**AT THE ORPHEUS**  
Everyone's got to protect his reputation, even the bachelor partner in "Domestic Meddlers," starring Claire Windsor, and showing today at the Orpheus theatre. So when Lew is dancing with his partner's wife at a roof garden, while friend husband snoozes on the divan at home, and a buyer from St. Louis approaches begging by all the signs in the sign language to be introduced to the new queen, Lew invents a gentle tale about the lady's sleeping husband and the necessity of protecting her reputation.

**WATCH THAT BABY!**  
COLLINGWOOD, N. J., July 30—Curiosity brought serious injuries to Irene Koehl, 3, recently when she overturned a bottle of crocus and the liquid spilled on her face. Physicians at West Jersey Homeopathic Hospital believed the child will recover.

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