

SERIAL STORY

WAR AND A WOMAN

BY BETTY WALLACE

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Yesterday, Jimmy wired that he is flying to see Linda before reporting for sea duty. Linda realizes that if it is administration, not love, she feels for George. She refuses to go on a picnic with him, tells him she will be busy.

CHAPTER XI

"BUSY?" George cried, stunned.

"What could possibly—" Linda interrupted him swiftly by calling out, "Oh, Miss Rourke!" Her square figure had appeared for a moment in the doorway, and like a coward, Linda grabbed at the respite her presence would offer. "How is Daddy doing?"

"He's real comy. I'm not butting in, am I? I declare, I've had such a whirl this morning I've just got to sit down!" She plumped herself into a wing chair, as Linda had known she would.

George's stern face reddened. "No doubt we can discuss this matter some other time," he said stiffly, rising.

"Don't go on account of me," Rourke told him in an offended tone. "I can get up and go right out again." She stood up. The tension between them was evident to her now.

"Miss Rourke!" Linda clutched at her. "Really, we—I—Do stay!" She had invited her in. If George wanted to leave, wasn't that exactly what she had planned on? She loathed herself.

"Professor Cameron is a sort of doctor," she babbled, trying to put Miss Rourke at ease. "He's a scientist. His research with microbes and your work with them in the sickroom are rather close if you stop and think about it."

George broke in impatiently. "I've got to get back to the lab. Some cultures in the refrigerator."

Linda walked with him to the door. He was too proud to question her again about what was keeping her busy tomorrow. "I'll see you Monday," he said.

SHE went wearily back to the living room. Why had she put off the inevitable moment?

Miss Rourke's shrewd eyes searched her face. "You two were fighting, weren't you?" she asked outright. "He's kind of an uppity guy, in my opinion. Puts me in mind of these young internes who know all the answers and think old nurses like me ought to be retired. They're not so smart, those young ones! They know things out of books, but I know 'em out of life."

"Yes," Linda murmured. "Maybe this is none of my business, honey, but I do take a personal interest in my patients."

Your daddy's no fool! He's up there with his eyes closed, but he knows something's going on. Ah, there, colleen, now don't cry. Nothing's so bad that getting it off your chest won't make it better."

"I can't let Daddy know," Linda choked. "He mustn't have any shocks and—if he guessed that I—that I don't love George—it would kill him."

Rourke pursed her lips in a soundless whistle. "So that's it! And there's another man, I'll be bound!"

"Yes," Linda admitted miserably. "He's coming tomorrow. Oh, what shall I do? What shall I do?"

Rourke smoothed her starched white skirt. "Honey, when I was your age I was in love with a doctor. He was poor and I was poor and we couldn't get married."

Her face took on a shining, remembering look. "Five years we waited. Then he cut himself in the operating room and—and I lost him. All I can tell you is, if I had it to do over again, I wouldn't let anything stop me from taking my happiness when I could."

"But Daddy—" "Yes, You've got to wait, of course."

The tinkle of Daddy's bedside bell sounded. Rourke jumped to her feet, instantly professional.

Linda thought, dully, that Rourke didn't know the most important part. She didn't know that Jimmy was one of those aviators in the handsome uniforms. She didn't know that he was Marcia's betrothed.

LINDA stood on the flat, windy field and watched a silver airliner swoop gracefully down for a landing. This was the one from Washington. The only one Jimmy could have taken. She had sneaked out this morning, right after reading Daddy the highlights of the Sunday paper. Rourke was on hand, understanding and sympathetic to divert his mind if Linda stayed away too long.

Jimmy mustn't come to the house. That had been her first thought. But now, as the porter rolled up the stairs for the passengers to alight, she found herself trembling. Her heart was singing. In another instant she'd see him again! She hadn't expected to be happy. But she was.

"Linda!" "Jimmy!"

She was folded close in his arms. How tall he was. Taller even than she had remembered.

She looked shyly up at him. The curve of his lips, the way his nose was straight and his cheek

lean. . . . She wanted to touch his face with her hands. The hot blood surged upward, and she broke away from him, confused. In their greeting, she had forgotten what she must say to him. Now it would be doubly hard.

"We—we can't go home," she explained. "Daddy doesn't know. His condition is so precarious that any little shock may hurt him."

"Here's a cab. We can drive

around. I haven't very long, Linda."

They got into the taxi. Jimmy told the driver, "Just ride."

Then he said, "The Ranger's on the West Coast. I'm going in a naval ship that's being flown across the continent. I had a heck of a time getting the transfer, but I got it. What I want you to do is join me in San Diego."

"It isn't as easy as that, Jimmy," she said sadly. "We can't shove everything else aside."

"Linda, I didn't come all this way to hear the same arguments over and over." His smile took the sting out of his words. "You love me. You can't deny it. I love you. We didn't ask for it, but here it is. I know you've been all taken up with your father's sickness. Only tell me this—have you broken your engagement to George Cameron yet?"

"No," she confessed, faintly. "No."

"Why didn't you?" "Why didn't you tell Marcia straight out, instead of having yourself ordered away before the wedding?" she asked desperately. "It's the same thing. I—I just couldn't tell him."

"I know," he said quietly. "It takes a lot of courage. But with Marcia—she's a girl. I'd be jilting her. I thought if I let it fall off—if I didn't write, and she—"

"That's still cowardly," Linda told him honestly.

"Marcia's more wrapped up in Bill Brooks than she thinks she is. I've seen them together and he's head over heels in love with her. Only he knows she's engaged."

"You want that to happen. It would make it easier for you and me." That quality of relentless honesty in her didn't permit her to fool herself, or him.

"Linda, we haven't much time. I don't know when I'll be able to

come back here, once I report for duty on the Ranger. Promise me that you'll marry me! Promise me, Linda!"

Carried outside himself by the strength of his love, Jimmy gathered her into his arms unmindful of the cab driver's eyes in the little mirror. "Promise me, darling. We must be married. We must be!"

(To Be Continued)

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP)—Carl Huffman drove up in front of police headquarters and beckoned to a policeman.

He would have come in, he told the officer, except he didn't have any pants.

He said they were stolen after he parked his car in a cemetery to take a nap. Also missing:—\$6.50 and two rings worth \$50.

Wreck Hero



En route to the West Coast for a lecture engagement, Dr. E. A. Betts, Pennsylvania State College professor, did yeoman work among the injured of the steamliner wreck at Carlin, Nev.

FLAPPER FANNY

By Sylvia

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"An' you deserve a hangover!—mixin' root beer and ginger ale!"

GENOESE NAVIGATOR

HORIZONTAL

1 Genoise navigator, Christopher

8 History—him with discovering America.

13 Spoken.

14 Caterpillar.

16 Tanning substance.

17 Coffin stand.

19 Wine cup.

20 Recompense.

21 Courtesy title.

22 Snaky fish.

24 Pastry.

25 Obscure.

27 Preposition of place.

28 Room recess.

29 Spain.

31 Cubic.

32 Far away.

33 To weep.

35 Formal call.

36 Oleoresin.

37 Formally neat of.

39 Small horse.

40 To prosper.

42 Adam's mate.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SUN PLANETS ORA
APODA DON ORBIT
SOON AVIA BOOT
LEND AGATE TEEM
UT ESSE ITEA SE
MACE SAC AMA A
MINNATE ARENAS
N ADAPT SALT Y
OD ELI YE TR
URNS C RARE
SUE HA E CAD
PAPAL EPOS
DEPOT LIGHT

VERTICAL

1 Company.

2 The eye socket.

3 Beasts' home.

4 Rubber tree.

5 To subist.

6 Russian mountain.

7 Total.

8 Calcium.

9 To add to.

10 Deceased.

11 Indian.

12 Forward.

13 Kinsmen.

14 Courier.

15 He first landed on Island San

16 Spike of corn.

17 His men rebelled or —.

18 On fire.

19 Pertaining to the poles.

20 Common viper.

21 To implore.

22 Adult males.

23 Bay window.

24 Mortise tooth.

25 To perforate.

26 Things steeped.

27 To attend.

28 Pear-shaped instrument.

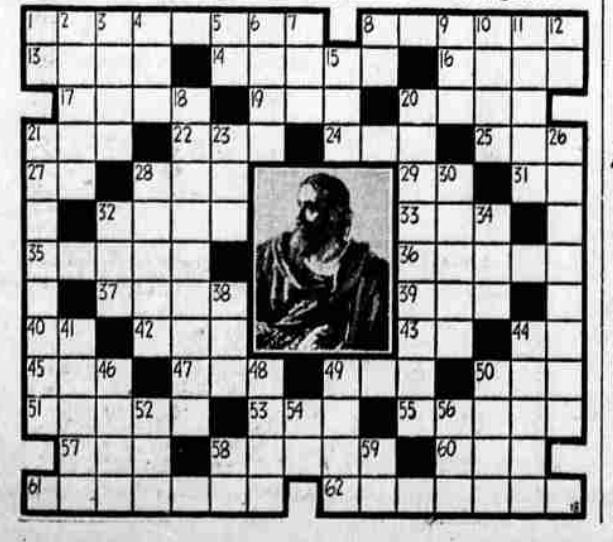
29 Street-boy.

30 Egyptian deity.

31 Uncie.

32 Compass point.

33 Negative.



OUT OUR WAY

BY J. R. WILLIAMS



RED RYDER



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



WASH TUBBS



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



ALLEY OOP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE With MAJOR HOOPLE



BY FRED HARMAN



BY HAROLD GRAY



BY BLOSSER



BY CRANE



BY MARTIN



BY V. T. HAMLIN

