

SERIAL STORY BLACKOUT BY RUTH AYERS

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YESTERDAY, Mary awoke in a London nursing home...

MRS. TULLY, refreshed by her nap, stirred in bed...

Sitting up in bed, she reached under her pillow and drew forth a large square mirror...

Mary started to signal wildly to him. She tried to scream his name.

Mrs. Tully, leaning toward her, caught the excitement. "What's wrong? See anyone you know?"

Mrs. Tully, obviously not understanding, let the mirror slip from her hands...

Too late. Mary Carroll was staring in fascinated horror at her reflection.

AS Mrs. Tully tore the mirror from her hands, Mary was vaguely aware that the woman kept saying, "The very thing Dr. Lenox warned me about..."

The gabbling was lost on Mary as, crouched in her pillows, she saw Vincent's steps being him closer and closer to her bedside.

For a minute, the ward's shaded green light, the beds in even rows, seemed to drop away.

Vincent looked at her—a feeling, indifferent look—and walked on. There hadn't been a sign of recognition in his glance.

Mary buried her face under the sheets. Vincent hadn't known her! She hadn't known herself.

Mrs. Tully was trying to be comforting. "There's people coming in her all the time looking for survivors. Poor devils. Those of us that are alive have all been accounted for by now, I guess."

Mary remained motionless until she heard Vincent's familiar steps, slow and dragged now, return from his search through the ward.

A NURSE rushed quickly to her side. Soon, she felt the cool fingers of Dr. Lenox on her pulse.

Dr. Lenox ignored the woman and spoke quietly to Mary. "I'm sorry. I'd hoped to prepare you for it slowly. It seems pretty bad at first, but that's because of what you've been through."

"My face!" Mary struggled to make herself heard. "Tell me the truth." Her hands clutched his.

Dr. Lenox drew a chair to the bedside, his red hair subdued and ruffled in the shadows from the night light.

"This is going to be hard to take—but I think you can stand it. In time, I believe you are going to be all right."

Mary pressed her hand to her mouth to hold back a scream. Dr. Lenox went on, "Speech will come back gradually, I'm sure."

"Miss Winters?" Mary repeated stupidly. "Miss Winters?"

She stopped, more terrified than

eyes. The doctor had not understood what she was trying to say, but she knew, of a sudden, what had happened.

INSTANTLY, everything became clear. Anna Winters had dressed that night in Mary's red gown.

Yes, she was supposed to be Anna Winters. In the shabby black handbag was Anna's passport and visa, and the letter—"To Whom It May Concern."

Had it not been for the terrible disfigurement, Mary Carroll would have cleared it all up at once.

She closed her eyes. Dear Anna—Anna who had been so tragic and so beautiful in the flame red dress.

Dr. Lenox went on, "As long as you're an English girl, you can stay right here in London."

Mary nodded. Yes, she would stay in London. Perhaps Vincent would be here and when she was well again she could go to him.

The nurse brought medicine. The doctor was standing up, signaling for a nurse. "I've pulled you through so far, and I'm going to see you the rest of the way," he said.

The nurse brought medicine.

"Drink this and you'll feel better," she ordered briskly. Her crisp skirts rustled indignantly as she turned to Mrs. Tully...

(To Be Continued)



NEW JOB—Earnestly Lou Gehrig, former Yankee first baseman whose baseball career was ended by infantile paralysis...

Although safety plate glass may break under severe impact, the plastic binder holds the fragments firmly together.

OUT OUR WAY BY J. R. WILLIAMS. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man in a wheelchair and a woman.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE With MAJOR HOOPLE. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man at a desk and a woman.

RED RYDER. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man in a hat and a woman.

BY FRED HARMAN. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

FLAPPER FANNY By Sylvia. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a woman and a man.

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

BY HAROLD GRAY. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

YOUNG RULER. Crossword puzzle grid with clues for words like 'Answer to Previous Puzzle', 'Horizontal', and 'Vertical'.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

BY BLOSSER. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

WASH TUBS. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

BY CRANE. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

BY MARTIN. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

ALLEY OOP. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.

BY V. T. HAMLIN. Comic strip panels with dialogue about a man and a woman.