

SERIAL STORY.

\$15 A WEEK

BY LOUISE HOLMES

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YESTERDAY, Clara wanted to get married, wishes she could find a man like Paul Hayden. She is amazed when Ann tells her of their marriage. Paul calls and the day is bright. Mrs. Pringle warns Ann not to marry a man who will pull her down to his level. Ann is determined to find her own way to happiness.

CHAPTER XII

PAUL called for Ann at 7. He looked extremely well dressed for a stock man at the 10-cent store. There was a definite air about him. His manner of greeting Ann and acknowledging her introduction to Neddy and Teddy was poised and self-confident. The twins immediately turned on their charms. Clara was arch and coy. The avalanche of attention left Paul untroubled.

Leaving the apartment, they met Florabelle. Dressed entirely in black, she gave the impression of smart sophistication. Ann presented Paul to her and her disdainful eyes changed marvellously. As they went together down the stairs, she made a few throaty comments. At the curb she stepped into a cab. Ann vaguely realized that a man sat in the cab. They had a blue plate special at the Toddle Shop and went on to the theater. The picture was clever and humorous. Afterward, they sat for an hour in a booth at the drug store. It took that long to really get acquainted.

PAUL began the conversation by saying, "Tell me about you, Ann. You're different. How do you happen to be living in a rooming house with Clara and What's-Her-Name and the two jitter-bugs?"

"Where shall I begin?" Ann asked, enchanted with the pleasantness of sitting in a booth with Paul Hayden.

"Begin just anywhere—work forward and back."

"Well—I lived with my mother and father until a year ago when they were killed in a fire."

He made a little sound of sympathy in his throat. "There was no money and I had to work. I've always been able to sew. I made a dress for mother when I was 10. It was funny." She paused to laugh. "I put in my name at an agency and got a job with Mrs. Pringle. I've been terribly lonely."

She looked down, describing little circles on the table with a straw. In a little rush she continued, "I guess the loneliness made me desperate—I guess that's why I answered a newspaper personal and went to the public library with a gardenia." She stopped, her eyes begging him to understand. Suddenly they were both laughing.

"Wasn't it crazy?" She sobbed. "You weren't very nice to me."

"I should have known that you weren't the regular run."

"And you had to be cautious—"

"That's about what it amounts to. Honestly, Ann, in spite of your convictions to the contrary I'm not convinced. Heaven knows I'm nothing to look at and Heaven also knows that I have nothing to offer a girl." He pounded the table softly with his fist. "I don't know what's the matter with the girls in this town."

"You said it the other night. They want to get married."

"That's it—and they don't care what they marry. What's the big idea? Have you been able to figure it out?"

"Not exactly. I tried to sound Clara out last night. It's something like this. The girls we know, the 10-cent store and bargain basement and elevator girls, the cashiers and waitresses, all those within the limits of a certain income, seem to live by a set rule."

"Yes," he said, watching her interestedly.

"They go to school as long as the law demands. They get a job, any job. They marry and keep on at the job. They have no ambition to better themselves, they ask for no pity. That's the thing that astounds me, they are perfectly satisfied." She spoke as if she were not one of the girls under discussion, or he one of the underpaid men.

"It must be fine to be satisfied," he mused. "It would save such a lot of wear and tear on the old nervous system."

"In a way I admire them," she went on thoughtfully. "Us, I suppose I should say. We are a thin layer just under the middle class. We are hard working, we are not dependent on any kind of charity. We make our little way and carry our own loads. It's something, isn't it?"

He nodded. "But not enough."

"TELL me your ambitions, Paul."

"I went to college," he told her. "Dad took out an insurance policy when I was born for my college education. No one knows what he and Mother went without to keep the policy going. He's a carpenter, my dad, and work has been scarce for many a year. I graduated on the last \$10 bill. I got a job as stock man in the 10-cent store. After a while I'll be in charge of the stock room at \$20 or \$22—eventually I may get on the floor—buyer—what else is there for me to do?"

"With a college education—" she began.

"Ann, college graduates are filling gas tanks—it's as common to have a diploma as it is to have your tonsils out. I may just as well discount my larnin'." He laughed on a note of bitterness.

"I don't feel that way," she argued. "I think everything we know is just so much to the good. My education was sketchy enough, goodness knows. I finally got through high school by fits and starts. But I learned other things. My father was a great student of

human psychology, that's how he made what he laughingly called his living."

"A professor?"

"Perish the thought. He was a gambler and a gambler must know how to outsmart the other fellow. He taught me French and a little music. I know how to dance and skate and ride and ski. I also play an elegant game of poker." She laughed at her accomplishments.

"You're a strange girl." Not once did he take his eyes from her vividly lovely face. When she said nothing, he continued. "Can we be friends, Ann?"

"I think so. I need friends."

"Without sentiment?"

"I'm no more anxious to lose my head, and at the same time my perspective, than you are," she told him.

"I'll be honest with you," he said. "Marriage is not my goal. It may work into my scheme sometime, but not now. I'm smart enough to know that people can fall in love and, for that reason, I've shielded clear of girls. I've got to get somewhere in this old world and I've got to be free."

She interrupted gravely. "I want to be free too, Paul."

He held out his hand. "Friends," he said.

"Always," she answered.

ANN gradually made changes in Clara's apartment. She suggested that the artificial flowers be put away safely for another winter; she rearranged the kitchen and made slip covers for the old chairs. Little by little, it became a room of shabby charm. Ann's appetite returned, the miserable dream was a thing of the past, as was the loneliness.

It was Friday night of the second week since Ann had moved in with Clara that Florabelle swayed across the hall. Florabelle never seemed to walk. She glided or un-

dulated or swayed or trailed her diaphanous garments. "Ann," she said, "how would you like to go on a party tomorrow night?" (To Be Continued)

How an Ex-Senator Runs for Congress



The campaign button pictured above should make a hit with baseball fans. It boasts candidacy of Walter Johnson (top) famed former pitcher for the Washington Senators, who is running for Congress in Maryland.

OUT OUR WAY BY J. R. WILLIAMS



RED RYDER



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



WASH TUBBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



ALLEY OOP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE With MAJOR HOOPLE



BY FRED HARMAN



BY HAROLD GRAY



BY CRANE



BY BLOSSER



BY MARTIN



BY V. T. HAMLIN



FLAPPER FANNY

By Sylvia



NOTED AUTHORESS

HORIZONTAL		Answer to Previous Puzzle		13 Age.	
1.7 Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."	JOHN CABOT	1.7 Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."	JOHN CABOT	13 Age.	13 Age.
2. Beecher.	SALIC	2. Beecher.	SALIC	14. Kettle.	14. Kettle.
3. Prima donna.	ELMS	3. Prima donna.	ELMS	15. Mystery.	15. Mystery.
4. Sugar.	BE	4. Sugar.	BE	16. Uncle Tom, a slave known for loyalty or	16. Uncle Tom, a slave known for loyalty or
5. Marries.	ASITIA	5. Marries.	ASITIA	17. One who names.	17. One who names.
6. State of bills.	NAVIGATOR	6. State of bills.	NAVIGATOR	18. Inlet.	18. Inlet.
7. Suspicious.	ION	7. Suspicious.	ION	19. To think.	19. To think.
8. To load.	LEGATES	8. To load.	LEGATES	20. Neither.	20. Neither.
9. By means of.	ATOM	9. By means of.	ATOM	21. Roman calendar day.	21. Roman calendar day.
10. Over.	NUMEN	10. Over.	NUMEN	22. Fish.	22. Fish.
11. Very high mountain.	FEEN	11. Very high mountain.	FEEN	23. To.	23. To.
12. Fabulous bird.	LET	12. Fabulous bird.	LET	24. Attitudinize.	24. Attitudinize.
13. Electrified particle.	OFF	13. Electrified particle.	OFF	25. Category.	25. Category.
14. Blood money.	CANADA	14. Blood money.	CANADA	26. Slave.	26. Slave.
15. Occasion.	TESTED	15. Occasion.	TESTED	27. Toilet box.	27. Toilet box.
16. Secret.		16. Secret.		28. To exist.	28. To exist.
17. Information.		17. Information.		29. Part of a shaft.	29. Part of a shaft.
18. Small mark.		18. Small mark.		30. Money lent at interest.	30. Money lent at interest.
19. To discuss.		19. To discuss.		31. Consumer.	31. Consumer.
20. Capuchin monkey.		20. Capuchin monkey.		32. God of war.	32. God of war.
21. Noun ending.		21. Noun ending.		33. Rigid.	33. Rigid.
22. Is undecided.		22. Is undecided.		34. Sun.	34. Sun.
23. Blood.		23. Blood.		35. Before Christ (abbr.).	35. Before Christ (abbr.).
24. To scan.		24. To scan.		36. Myself.	36. Myself.
25. Meteors.		25. Meteors.			
26. To add up.		26. To add up.			
27. And.		27. And.			

