

LADY BY REQUEST

BY HELEN R. WOODWARD

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THE STORY: Stephen Curt kissed his wife, Diana, tenderly. "Don't forget yourself," she said. "That wasn't in our bargain, was it?"

TEA WITH ELLEN

CHAPTER XV A FEW days later Diana, downtown on a shopping trip, found herself crossing the small park on which she had looked down that snowy afternoon when she had first met Stephen.

Diana knew that if it had not been for Adela she would have been entirely contented in Stephen's house. But Adela was a person around whom turmoil always surged.

"HELLO! If you're thinking of buying some of that candy, I'll go in with you."

"She turned to meet Phil Bruce's smiling face and her own lit up with pleasure. 'Hello, yourself! How nice to see you!'"

"Of course," she answered gayly. "Any time!"

"It was a charming place, softly lighted, and with a decidedly Bohemian air of informality. The scarlet and chromium bar was crowded at this cocktail hour, but Phil steered Diana back to the more secluded tables.

"But won't it spoil your dinner?" Diana asked. He snorted disdainfully. "Gosh, no! Lady, you are gazing on a man who not only eats to live, but lives to eat!"

"I would be, I suppose, if it were not for the religious ceremonies I undergo every morning with dumb-bells and the like."

"Diana laughed. "Add long white whiskers, and you could double for Santa Claus!"

"Later she said curiously, 'You promised to tell me something of Evalyn Thorpe—how she happened to marry Richard.'"

"Phil's face sobered, took on the look of rapt adoration. Evalyn's name always called forth. 'To tell you the truth, I don't know quite how it happened. We three—Evalyn, Steve, and I—grew up together—were neighbors, you know. Evalyn's parents still live there in Green street a few houses below the Curts. There were winter week-ends here in town from school—parties, shows, lots of fun. Summers in camp. We never thought of Evalyn's handicap. She never let us. And we agreed at an early age that one of us should marry her—take care of her always.'"

"His voice trailed off for a moment, remembering. 'Then Steve and I went off to college—we only saw Evalyn during the holidays—and Richard Thorpe came to practice law in old Durbin's office. I guess he just swept her off her feet. We didn't like to think that Thorpe used Evalyn to insure his position in the community. We were relieved when we saw how considerate—how genuinely fond he seemed of her.'"

"Diana's fingers tightened on the slender glass before her. What would Phil and Stephen do if they knew about Adela's affair with Thorpe?"

"SHE decided suddenly to see Ellen Curt. She had not seen her for several days and had an idea the old lady might be lonely, though she would die rather than admit it."

"Dabney smiled her wintry smile and admitted Diana into the cozy living room."

"Presently Ellen came in, her small gray slippers tapping on the polished floor. She carried an ebony cane today and Diana thought her small round face looked strained with suffering."

"You're ill! I shouldn't have bothered you."

"Nonsense! Sit down. My arthritis is a little troublesome today." She seated herself on the stiff sofa. "Will you have a cup of tea with me?"

"Yes—if you're going to have it anyway. I just had a cocktail with Phil Bruce."

"Humph! Cocktail!" When the tea had been brought she asked sharply, "Do you like that young man?"

"Very much."

"I'd better warn you! He had the effrontery to tell me he intends to marry you himself when Stephen divorces you. I let him know that there was to be no divorce!"

Diana faltered, "You wouldn't want to keep us together if—we were unhappy?"

The old lady eyed her shrewdly. "You don't look unhappy! Is Stephen unhappy?"

"I—I don't know."

"You don't know! What has the world come to when a wife doesn't know whether her husband is happy or not. Is there going to be a child—soon?"

Diana felt her face flushing hotly. She wished she had not come here today. It was becoming harder and harder to parry the old woman's questions.

"No."

"And why not, madam? Are you one of these modern cowards? I thought better of you! What kind of a marriage is this, anyway?"

Diana rose and set down her tea cup. "Please," she said, "I didn't come to carry tales. I only came because I wanted to see you and know if you were well. And you mustn't worry about me and Stephen. We'll get along all right."

right." She stooped and kissed the old lady's rounded cheek. "I'll be late for dinner if I don't hurry."

Outside she breathed a sigh of relief. Without intention she had let Ellen Curt find out that all was not well with the marriage. "Well," she reflected, "she won't be so surprised when the break finally comes!"

(To Be Continued)

More than three million men, women and children have died of tuberculosis in the United States during the last 30 years. Over two million more would have died during that time if the mortality rate of 30 years ago had continued to prevail.

The annual death toll from tuberculosis in the United States would be more than 250,000 if the death rate of the early 1900's still prevailed. Under present mortality conditions, the annual death toll is about 60,000.

With the naked hills, the nude trees and the bare limbs, it's no wonder the corn is shocked.

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THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

POP CORN WAS INTRODUCED TO THE ENGLISH COLONISTS BY AN INDIAN NAMED QUADEQUINA, WHO BROUGHT THEM A DEER-SKIN BAG OF IT. NOT ALL EGGS ARE EGG-SHAPE! SOME OWLS LAY PERFECTLY ROUND ONES. ANSWER: Potatoes will sink . . . the others float.

MOVIE STAR

Answer to Previous Puzzle HORIZONTAL 1.5 Pictured actress. 10 Spill, as a liquid. 11 Toward the mouth (zoo). 13 Consternations. 15 Official proof (law). 17 Rave (Scottish). 18 Stout cords. 19 Concerning. 20 Roman road. 21 Electrical term. 22 Nickel (symbol). 27 Senior (abbr.). 30 Mineral rocks. 33 Prevent. 36 Eight (comb. form). 38 Third sign of the zodiac. 40 Nonpoisonous ptomaine. 42 Prominent. 43 Bounding. 44 Satiated. 45 Profits. 46 Wire again. 47 Species of poplar (pl.). VERTICAL 1 Gather after a reaper. 2 Domineered. 3 Protective covering. 4 Time long past. 6 Make a mistake. 7 Automaton. 8 Vinefruit (pl.). 9 Consumer. 10 Narrow strip of leather. 12 Dais. 14 Musteline mammal (pl.). 16 Far East. 22 Device for straining. 25 Theater boxes. 26 Descendant of Shem (Bib.). 28 Shield. 29 Habits. 31 To mar again. 32 Tendon. 34 And (Latin). 35 Former Russian monarchs. 36 Suppose. 37 Colors slightly. 39 Compass point. 41 Morindin dye.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-47 and a small portrait of a woman.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams

Comic strip panel showing a man talking to a woman. "NO, I'LL WAIT OUT ACROSS THE STREET HERE FOR YOU—LAST TIME I WAITED INSIDE SHE ASKED ME ALL ABOUT MY MUSIC, HOW GOOD MY TEACHER WAS, AND HOW MUCH HE CHARGED! NOW IF SHE ASKS ME TO SEND HIM OVER, YOU'LL BLAME ME FOR HAVING TO TAKE MUSIC LESSONS!"

OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople

Comic strip panel showing a man on a horse. "PUFF-FUFF! EGAD! THERE'S THE TRUCK, LEANDER! PUFF-FUFF!" "IF THE DRIVER OBJECTS TO MY RANGLING HIS CARGO, I'LL TELL HIM I'M A STATE RUBBISH INSPECTOR, LOOKING FOR JAPANESE BEETLES!" "YOU'RE A CHAMP, UNCLE BULGY! I THOUGHT ALL THOSE YARNS ABOUT WINNING OLYMPIC GAMES WERE SOAP BUBBLES, BUT YOU SURE CAN OUT-STEP THIS PONY!"

RED RYDER

Comic strip panel showing a man in a hat. "RED RYDER EARLY NOISE OUT IN SPOOK CORRAL!" "WELL, I'LL BE BANNED! BILL AND THE GIRL!" "I'VE STRUCK SOMETHING HARD, BANJO!" "IT'LL BE THE GOLD—DRAG IT OUT, BEAUTIFUL!"

By Fred Harman

Comic strip panel showing a man in a hat. "SO THIS IS THE GOLD YOU CACHED BEFORE YOU WENT TO PRISON?" "YEAH! YOU AND ME ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT KNOW I'VE GOT IT—AND—" "AND ONE CAN KEEP A SECRET A HEAD BETTER THAN TWO?"

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

Comic strip panel showing a man and a woman. "I KNOW ANNE'LL MAKE OUT FINE HERE—WHEN SHE GETS WELL AND YOU GET TIRED OF HER—JUST SHIP HER ON TO THE SLAGGS—" "SURE—WHEN WE GET TIRED OF HER—IN A HUNDRED YEARS OR SO—" "OF COURSE I WON'T BE AWAY LONG, MYSELF—THESE NEW BOMBERS OF OURS MOVE MIGHTY FAST—AS SOON AS I GET BACK I'LL COME FOR ANNIE—" "THAT TERRIBLE MAN STARRING IN HERE—WHO IS HE?" "OH! ANNIE MET HIM THE NIGHT OF THE ACCIDENT, BUT SHE DIDN'T KNOW IT—THAT'S 'DOCTOR' ELDEEN—" "OH! THAT'S THE GUY WHO SHOT THAT SLEEPY STUFF INTO MY ARM, EN?" "I'LL REMEMBER HIM—" "HA! HA! AFTER THE WAY THE ASP AND PUNJAB HANDLED HIM, I DOUBT IF HE'LL EVER COME NEAR YOU AGAIN, ANNIE—" "OUR CAR WILL BE HERE IN A MOMENT—SAHIB—WE ARE READY—"

By Harold Gray

Comic strip panel showing a man and a woman. "PLEASE! I WANT TO HELP IN ANY WAY I CAN." "BUT—" "WANT! IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME— I THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW THE REASON FOR THE YOUNG CARVEL'S RECOVERY!" "BY ALL MEANS, COME ALONG! WE MAY NEED YOU—BADDY!" "OH, THANK YOU, YOUNG LINDY— I'D GATHER UP MR. CARVEL'S KNOW OF HIS EXPERIENCES. HE MIGHT NOT LIKE IT!"

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

Comic strip panel showing a man and a woman. "HOT DARN!" "GOOD MORNING! BEFORE MR. CARVEL COMES OUT, COULD I GO WITH YOU?" "BUT— MY DEAR YOUNG LADY—"

By Martin

Comic strip panel showing a man and a woman. "HEY! I THOUGHT ALL THE WORKMEN WERE SAFELY OUTSIDE!" "SOME WOULDN'T LEAVE—INSISTED ON LOOKING FOR BOMBS! REALLY AMERICANS, THOSE FELLAS! GOT FAMILIES, TOO!" "GOTTA WORK FAST, VICKI! GET THE COPS IN HERE— THE FIREMEN— EVERYBODY! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THOSE BOMBS! HEY! I HAVE IT! HERMAN'S THE ONE WHO PLANTED 'EM—WE'LL FORCE HIM TO TELL WHERE HE HID THEM!" "GORRY! HERMAN'S THE ONE WHO'S DEAD!"

WASH TUBBS

Comic strip panel showing a man and a woman. "EVERYTHING OUTSIDE IS UNDER CONTROL, EASY— SIX SABOTEURS, INCLUDING KLOPP, WERE NABBED TRYING FOR A GETAWAY— ONE DEAD, TWO WOUNDED— HOW GOES IT HERE?" "BAD, VICKI! FIGHTING FOR TIME—AT LEAST EIGHT BOMBS UNACCOUNTED FOR!" "HOT DOG! HERE'S ONE!" "HERE'S ANOTHER VUN!" "FINE! GREAT!"

By Crane

Comic strip panel showing a man and a woman. "BETTER TAKE IT, LARD—55¢ IS 55¢, AND THAT'LL BUY THE SALAD!" "I'M STILL 83¢ SHORT! LET'S BRING IN THE OTHER STUFF!" "BOTTLES PAPER-R" "I'LL GIVE YOU 83¢!" "OKAY, BUT I'M BEING CHEATED! WHY, THIS IS THE VERY STOVE THAT COULDN'T KEEP GEORGE WASHINGTON WARM AT VALLEY FORGE!"

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

Comic strip panel showing a man and a woman. "I'M GOING TO A DINNER DANCE, MR. OATY, AND ITS GONNA COST FIVE BUCKS! SO GIVE TILL IT HURTS!" "IF I AM GIVING YOU 55 CENTS FOR THESE PAPERS, I AM CHEATING MYSELF— SO I WILL CHEAT MYSELF!" "ONLY 55 CENTS? GOSH, THAT HURTS ME! I WANTED IT TO HURT YOU!"

By Blosser

Comic strip panel showing a man and a woman. "I'M GOING TO A DINNER DANCE, MR. OATY, AND ITS GONNA COST FIVE BUCKS! SO GIVE TILL IT HURTS!" "IF I AM GIVING YOU 55 CENTS FOR THESE PAPERS, I AM CHEATING MYSELF— SO I WILL CHEAT MYSELF!" "ONLY 55 CENTS? GOSH, THAT HURTS ME! I WANTED IT TO HURT YOU!"

ALLEY OOP

Comic strip panel showing a man and a woman. "VEZZIR, TH' SUCCESS OF MY PLAN T'HELP THE ENGLISH BARONS DEPENDS ON ME LOOKIN' SO MUCH LIKE WOPPO THAT HIS OWN MEN WON'T KNOW TH' DIFFERENCE! SO I GOTTA HAVE THIS LANCE!" "AHH!"

By V. T. Hamlin

Comic strip panel showing a man on a horse. "VEZZIR, TH' SUCCESS OF MY PLAN T'HELP THE ENGLISH BARONS DEPENDS ON ME LOOKIN' SO MUCH LIKE WOPPO THAT HIS OWN MEN WON'T KNOW TH' DIFFERENCE! SO I GOTTA HAVE THIS LANCE!" "AHH!"