

LADY BY REQUEST

BY HELEN R. WOODWARD

COPYRIGHT, 1941, NEA SERVICE, INC.

THEY STORY: Lovely Diana Tucker and Stephen Curt, famous writer and commentator, arrange a marriage of convenience when she is fired by lawyer Richard Thorpe...

out. "She's gone, Miss Diana—with Mr. Richard!" Was it possible that Essie hadn't before suspected the sordid affair?

ADELA STARTS TROUBLE

CHAPTER XVI

NEXT morning, feeling the need of contact with someone of her own, Diana took the shining coupe and drove 20 miles to spend the day with Elsa.

Before they reached Elsa's, Diana stopped and bought a thick steak, lettuce, tomatoes, and a loaf of twisted French bread.

"I wish I could see him!" Evalyn said, and buried her face in his soft white neck, thus winning the undying affection of young Bill's mother.

They left Evalyn holding the baby while Diana helped Elsa prepare lunch. Elsa added flaky mashed potatoes and a perfect custard pie to what Diana had bought and when Bill, Senior, came they all did adequate justice to the meal.

Diana watched Elsa and Bill a little wistfully. Bill was tall and good-looking and confident, and adored his wife, his baby, and his home. He worked hard for them and gloried in doing it.

They will be—if they keep love," she thought. "It's a sort of insurance against loss of happiness."

BILL returned to work after a cordial invitation for them to come again and the promise to bring his family to see Diana soon. Diana and Elsa washed the dishes and then the three women spent a pleasant, idle afternoon gossiping comfortably as women do, while Bill, Junior, took his afternoon nap in a pink-lined bassinet.

"This has been one of the happiest days I ever spent," Evalyn assured Diana. "And every night since I've known you, darling, I've given thanks for you!"

As she put the coupe in the garage, snow began to fall in large white flakes and Diana was glad of the shelter of home. The drawing room with its shaded lamps and crackling wood fire was warm and inviting, and she stopped to warm her hands before going on up to her room. A sound behind her caused her to turn. Stephen stood there smiling.

"I was afraid you had run away," he said, and Diana's heart absurdly skipped a beat. "I went down to Elsa's—took Evalyn with me," she explained, a little breathlessly. "We had a nice day." Then she added, "I didn't think you'd want—need me."

"Did you think that, Diana?" he asked quietly. She did not know that her cheeks were pink as the wind; that her eyes were glowing like stars. Stephen came to her, took her two cold hands in his warm ones, held them tightly. Diana felt that again he might be going to forget their "bargain." Surely he was going to take her in his arms.

"Stephen!" They both turned. Adela stood in the doorway, her face distorted with rage at the tableau she had witnessed. She quickly controlled her features, said petulantly, "You promised to help me go over some of my accounts, Stephen. Can't you do it now?"

Stephen pressed Diana's hands hard, then dropped them and, without a word, followed the triumphant Adela from the room.

DIANA was dressing for dinner an hour later and heard the hum of a motor in the driveway below. Hardly knowing why, she stepped to the window and, looking down, caught a glimpse of Adela getting into a car which backed swiftly out into the street and disappeared around the corner.

She was conscious of a savage gladness that Adela was gone for the evening, until a few moments later Essie, the middle-aged maid who had served the Curtis since childhood, knocked timidly on the door. Diana could see that she was greatly troubled, was finding it difficult to speak.

"Well, Essie?" "It's Miss Adela!" Essie blurted

haps I'll be back early." She saw the look of disappointment on his face, but he had never questioned her comings and goings. "I'll work until you return, then," he said. She smiled brightly, managing to hide her real concern. "Thanks," she said. "I shan't be long." (To Be Continued)

Initials Shown In X-Ray Photo

BAYONNE, N. J., Dec. 12 (AP)—Bayonne hospital technicians found the letters "F.D.R." in an x-ray picture of 3-year-old Gloria Kosko's interior. The child, who lives at 348 avenue C, had swallowed a bar pin. Physicians said surgery would be unnecessary.



AT CHRISTMAS TIME CREDIT

MEANS MORE THAN EVER

Remember—You can buy all your men's wear needs on our easy credit plan... and you don't pay one cent extra!

OREGON WOOLEN STORE 8th and Main

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



IN EARLY-DAY BASKET-BALL GAMES, IT WAS NECESSARY TO USE A LADDER TO REMOVE THE BALL FROM THE BASKET AFTER EACH GOAL!

ODDING ODDS WHEN THE WATER LEVEL OF A POND GOES DOWN, IT DRIES UP, SAYS WILLIAM B. NEALLEY, BANGOR, MAINE.

FLIES SEEM TO LIVE FOREVER... BUT THEIR LIFE SPAN SELDOM EXCEEDS TWO MONTHS.

NEXT: This way to Purgatory.

COMEDIAN

HORIZONTAL Answer to Previous Puzzle 1.5 Pictured comedian. 10 Mother's sister. 14 Monster. 15 Touch. 16 Genus of cetaceans. 17 Yacht. 18 Revolt. 19 Soothing. 20 Look over. 22 Lowest in rank. 23 Thick and spreading. 25 Plural (abbr.). 26 Male child. 28 Each. 30 Great Lake. 32 International language. 33 Make secure. 34 Within. 35 Encountered. 36 Doctor (abbr.). 37 Encourage. 39 Latin diphthong. 40 Little.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-62.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



RED RYDER



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



WASH TUBBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



ALLEY OOP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoopie

