

● SERIAL STORY
LADY BY REQUEST
BY HELEN R. WOODWARD

THE STORY: The climax of many facets aimed at Diana Curt by her sister-in-law, Adela, comes from a meeting between Diana and her former employer, aristocratic Richard Thorpe. Diana, knowing an affair, goes to his hunting lodge believing Adela is there. Stephen finds them together, is hurt and bewildered even though his marriage to Diana is temporary and one of convenience, contracted to secure his \$250,000 inheritance which he would not receive unless he married before the age of 35. Others in the story are Phil Bruce, Stephen's best friend who is strongly attracted to Diana; Evelyn Thorpe, beautiful billed wife of Richard, whom Diana believes Stephen loves. "Then somewhere, Diana," triumphant Adela asks when her plot to discredit his wife with Stephen has worked, "I love him," dashes Diana, "and I'm going to fight for him!"

PREPARATIONS FOR DEPARTURE

CHAPTER XVIII
IT was three days later that Stephen told Diana he must go away. He had been appointed by the United States government as the most capable man to investigate the operation of airways to South America for the Commerce Department.

His plan, he told Diana in that impetuous tone he had adopted toward her, was to fly by way of the Pan American clipper service to Cristobal, then changing to a large Sikorsky amphibian to complete the journey along the coasts of Ecuador and Colombia. He explained it all in detail, using that detached icy voice that had been apparent in all his relations with her since the night she had gone to Richard Thorpe's lodge.

"But won't there be danger?" she asked, her eyes wide with fear.

Stephen laughed shortly. "No more than on any air trip. It'll be great," he went on, forgetting his animosity for a moment in the contemplation of his adventure. "I've always meant to travel that route. It spells romance, excitement, and adventure to me. The Trail of the Conquistadores!"

"You'll be gone a whole month!"

Stephen's face sobered. "Yes, it can't be helped. I know what you're thinking—about the divorce. It wouldn't be fair to hold you much longer. And—and I had no right to judge you the other night. Your life is your own affair. But could you, as a special favor, hang on and look after things here until I return?"

Diana turned to the window and looked out and Stephen came to stand close behind her. His voice was low and a bit husky. His nearness all but destroyed the calm she was trying so hard to maintain.

"If this hadn't come up, things would have gone so smoothly. The divorce would have gone forward without a hitch. I hate to ask it of you—"

She turned to face him. "I am glad to stay, Stephen, as long as you need me. To help you in any way I can. I'm happy and comfortable here."

"Are you, Diana?"

"Yes, of course. When you come back will be quite soon enough to think of the—divorce."

SHE said it quite stiffly and primly, because her heart was behaving so tumultuously. She did not want to leave at all. She wanted to stay on forever with Stephen Curt, surrounded by his solicitude. Even in spite of Adela. She'd endure anything to be near him. Even in spite of his belief that she had gone willingly to Richard Thorpe, whom she despised with all the force of her being. Even if he considered her a Judas in her relations with Evelyn Thorpe! Yes, in spite of everything, she wanted more than he'd ever guess to stay right here. Somehow she'd make him believe in her again. Life couldn't be cruel enough to deny her that!

But Stephen had drawn back imperceptibly at her tone, thinking her disappointed, but resigned to the delay.

"Thank you," he said stiffly, then spoke utterly amazing words: "You will consider yourself the head of this household, then, while I am away."

Diana could scarcely believe her ears, knowing how furious Adela would be at any such arrangement. "Oh, but I couldn't—I'd rather not!"

He smiled a little bleakly. "As another special favor, then, Adela is irresponsible—needs a guiding hand badly. I wouldn't trust things to her alone. She's spoiled, always has had her own way so much that now she's lacking in judgment. You must promise me to look after her, Diana."

She stood silent for a moment, absorbing the irony of his request. At last she spoke slowly, "And you'd ask this of me, believing that—I'm having an affair with Richard Thorpe, the husband of my dearest friend?"

He flushed hotly. "I have only the evidence of my own eyes," he reminded her. "You have never troubled to make any explanation, you know!"

"I know. And I can't make any now. Except to beg of you to believe that I despise Richard Thorpe, and that I was there in his house that night—"

"Why, Diana?" It was a cry wrung from what might have been anguish.

She stopped suddenly. Would it after all be better, to say, "Adela is going to break Evelyn's heart?" Some inner voice told her "no."

"I PREFER not to talk about it," she said stiffly, knowing that with those words she had ruined whatever chance of reconciliation there had been before he went away.

"I see," he said, drawing himself up proudly, though he did not see at all. "I shall, however, expect you to do as I say about taking charge of my household!"

He was going to give her \$10,000 for this. He wanted her to know she had no right to refuse. In fact, at the moment he sat down at his desk and wrote the check, put it in her hand. She stood staring at it as if it were not real.

"I'll speak to Adela," he said firmly, "make her understand that I'm putting you in complete charge. I'll instruct the servants, too. After all," a little sternly, "you are my wife, you know. And I think it best you have your money before I go. If anything should happen—"

But Diana would not let herself think of that. Her hand holding the check for \$10,000 trembled.

"I'll show you where I keep my column material," he went on. "I have sent in enough for several weeks and I'll mail more back. You'll see that the editors get it. Diana, this means a great deal to me. Promise me that no matter what happens you'll carry on for me until I get back."

Diana was silent for a long moment. She wondered if Stephen had any idea of what he was letting her in for. She was sure to find Adela hard to handle. She would undoubtedly do her best to make Diana miserable.

"You needn't worry, Stephen. I'll stay. I promise."

His hand closed hard over hers.

"Good!" She could see that her promise lifted him from worry, filled his eyes again with that seeking look of adventure.

"When do you go?"
"Tomorrow morning, early. There's a lot to be done. Will you help me?"
"In any way I can."
"By this time tomorrow he'd be gone!"

(To Be Continued)

We must divide the economic pie fairly enough to make all people and groups producing the ingredients for the pie continue in their effort of production.—Albert W. Hawkes, president, U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

Had is the past tense of money.

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

THE CALIBER
OF A NAVAL CANNON IS THE DIAMETER OF ITS BORE, BUT IF WE SPEAK OF A FOURTEEN-INCH CALIBER OF ARTILLERY CALIBER, IT HAS A DIFFERENT MEANING...
NAMELY, A CANNON WHOSE BORE IS FOURTEEN INCHES AND WHOSE LENGTH OF BARREL IS FORTY-FIVE TIMES FOURTEEN.

6.6 REPP,
COLORADO DEER HUNTER, RELEASES CARRIER PIGEONS TO CARRY HOME MESSAGES TO HIS WIFE WHEN HE IS FAR OFF IN THE MOUNTAINS.

QUINING ODDS
WHEN I STRING BEADS I PUT THEM ON A STRING, WHEN I STRING BEANS I TAKE THEM OFF A STRING.
GAVE MRS. GRACE ELLIS, SPRINGFIELD, MO.

NEXT: A nose with a droop.

U. S. OFFICIAL

HORIZONTAL
1 Pictured U. S. government official.
11 Harvest.
12 Ex officio (abbr.).
13 Part of "be."
14 Native compounds.
16 Baseball player.
18 Everlasting.
20 Punitive.
22 Diner.
23 Myself.
24 Drive.
26 Winter toy.
28 Either.
29 Articles.
31 Standing room only (abbr.).
32 Egyptian goddess.
33 Advertisement (abbr.).
34 From.
36 Ice rain.
38 Work with a spade.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
ELMER LAYDEN
TRAP BEEN ENOS
SEEN PESTS CRAG
TR DEED SULA ILL
UN EEM SPESICIA
M GRETE SPIAHLIM
BOA RELATION LEO
L PAPER TRIAL SO
ERS F LAYDEN
ROT F LAYDEN
SAVE F LAYDEN
MAR LAYDEN
INS

VERTICAL
40 North America (abbr.).
41 Merit.
42 Funeral pile.
43 Tibetan monks.
44 Daughter of Phorcus (myth.).
45 Mountain hats (abbr.).
46 Domestic.
47 Beverage.
48 Indian army (abbr.).
10 Closer.
11 Symbol for rubidium.
15 South latitude (abbr.).
17 Parent.
19 Each (abbr.).
21 Nominal.
23 Idiot.
24 Wash.
25 Restrain.
27 Artifice.
30 Perched.
35 Collapse.
37 Make beloved.
38 Electrical energy machine.
39 Metallic element.
42 Turn.
44 Mimicked.
45 Note of scale.
46 Against.
47 Observed.
48 Suffix.
50 Morindin dy.
51 Monkey.
52 Rest.
53 Transpose (abbr.).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15
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54 55 56
57

OUT OUR WAY By J. R. Williams

ANNE! OH, ANNE! BRING THE SCISSORS UP HERE—THE HEAVY ONES! I'LL FIX THESE SOCK SABERS! LOOK AT THAT! NO WONDER I NEVER HAVE ANY LEISURE!

GOOD GOSH! I WAS GONNA CUT 'EM, BUT YOU NEVER GIVE A GUY NO TIME FER NOTHIN'! ALLUS RUSHIN' A FELLER AROUND!

BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON

RED RYDER

IF YOU KILL ME YOU'LL BE HUNTED FOR MURDER, BANJO BILL!

A POSSE CAN ONLY HANG A FELLA ONCE—

—AND THEN ONLY IF THEY CATCH HIM!

RED RYDER WILL GET YOU!

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

HE SEEMS SO ABSENT-MINDED—AS IF NOBODY ELSE WAS AROUND—

TISN'T ABSENT-MINDED, HE IS—IT'S TOO MUCH ON HIS MIND—MEMORIES, I GUESS—LISTEN! ANNE—BEFORE HE GETS BACK—

DON'T GO AWAY—STAY HERE—YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH YOU BEING HERE HAS DONE FOR DOCTOR—TALKING TO YOU—IT'S QUIETED HIM, SOMEHOW—I CAN TELL—JUST STAY HERE—HE'S A LONELY MAN, DOCTOR IS—

OH, ME! I'M ONLY A PIECE OF FURNITURE TO DOCTOR—I WAS HIS FATHER'S OFFICE URSE—I STAYED ON—KEPT THE HOUSE—IT WAS IN THE WILL—IT WAS A LIVING—

BUT YOU, ANNE—YOU'RE NEW—ALIVE—HE LIKES YOU—ANYONE WOULD, YOU'RE SO SWEET AND FRESH—

FRESH! HAT HAT! HOPE IM NEVER TOO FRESH!

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

YES, JEFF, I'M HERE

ME, TOO—OOGSONY!

SIT DOWN! WE'RE LANDING

FASTEN YOUR SAFETY BELTS, PLEASE

STANDING BY FOR CAPTAIN CARROLL'S ARRIVAL—LANDING ON MAIN RUNWAY FROM THE EAST—ALL CLEAR—COME IN

I TALK TO PILOTS

WASH TUBBS

HURT?

I DON'T THINK SO... ANYWAY, I GOT THE LAST BOMB OUT, DIDN'T I?

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

BUT, DADDY, GOING TO THE BLUE ROOM IS POSITIVELY MONUMENTAL! DON'T YOU WANT ME TO LOOK NICE?

SURE—... BUT DO I HAVE TO BUY FOR THE MONUMENT?

IS THAT A DRESS?

MY GOSH—... TWO PIECES OF VERY LITTLE, HELD TOGETHER, BY NOT MUCH OF ANYTHING!

I'M NOT SAYING I'M BUYING IT ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN!

WELL, YOU'D BETTER GO OUT AND BUY THE OTHER INSTALLMENT!

THE CURRENT FAD, OF COURSE, IS TO DRESS IN SOMETHING THAT MATCHES YOUR HOSE— DO YOU WEAR HOSE?

ALLEY OOP

TO ARMS, GUARDS!! WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!!

LORLUMMA, WE'RE TRAPPED!

BOY, THE BARONS SURE CARRAN' OUT HIS PART OF OUR PLAN! LOOKIT THOSE LADS BOLLIN' DOWN FROM THE HILLS!

NOW HAVING LED THESE BLACK-SHIRTED DUESIES INTO THIS MESS, I'LL JUST GIVE MY PAIS A HAND AT WIPIN' 'EM OUT!

OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople

UNCLE AMOS, THIS IS GUS JONES FROM THE ORPHANS' HOSPITAL. YOU REMEMBER HIM— HE USED TO GELL PAPERS TILL HE GOT SMACKED BY A TRUCK!

I'LL BE BACK IN BUSINESS SOON, THE DOC SAYS—ALVIN'S TAKING ME OVER TO WATCH THE KIDS SKATE!

EGAD, GUS, I READ OF YOUR MISHAP! YOU WERE RUN DOWN WHILE RESCUING A STRAY DOG! ... JOVE, LAD, YOUR TYPE OF COURAGE GETS MY OLD SOLDIER HEART AGLOW!

HA! THE VERY THING! WHY NOT LAUNCH A MAMMOTH TURKEY RAFFLE TO PURCHASE THE ORPHANS A MOUNTAIN OF YULETIDE GIFTS?

MAJOR HOOPLE HAS A SANTA CLAUS BUILD, ANYWAY!

By Fred Harman

IF WE DON'T ACT FRONTO, SHE'LL NEVER STEP OUT OF THAT GRAVE!

By Harold Gray

OH, ME! I'M ONLY A PIECE OF FURNITURE TO DOCTOR—I WAS HIS FATHER'S OFFICE URSE—I STAYED ON—KEPT THE HOUSE—IT WAS IN THE WILL—IT WAS A LIVING—

BUT YOU, ANNE—YOU'RE NEW—ALIVE—HE LIKES YOU—ANYONE WOULD, YOU'RE SO SWEET AND FRESH—

FRESH! HAT HAT! HOPE IM NEVER TOO FRESH!

By Martin

STANDING BY FOR CAPTAIN CARROLL'S ARRIVAL—LANDING ON MAIN RUNWAY FROM THE EAST—ALL CLEAR—COME IN

I TALK TO PILOTS

By Crane

AW, WELL, WE'VE DONE IT FOR OUR COUNTRY, BUD! JUST FORGET IT!

MEANWHILE: I'LL BID TWO HEARTS

HEY! I THOUGHT I HEARD AN EXPLOSION!

HE'S ALWAYS HEARING EXPLOSIONS

PLEASE SIT DOWN, DEAR, IT'S YOUR BID!

By Blosser

THE CURRENT FAD, OF COURSE, IS TO DRESS IN SOMETHING THAT MATCHES YOUR HOSE— DO YOU WEAR HOSE?

By V. T. Hamlin

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