

LADY BY REQUEST

BY HELEN R. WOODWARD

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THE STORY: The climax of many months' suspense in Diana's life is reached when the vicious, spiteful girl frames a meeting between Diana and her former employer, Sir Richard Thorpe. Diana, knowing Thorpe and Adela are having an affair, goes to his hunting lodge believing Adela is there. Stephen and Adela are together, a hurt and bewildered even though his marriage to Diana is temporary and one of convenience contracted to secure his \$2,000,000 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 blind wife of Richard, whom Diana believes Stephen loves; and where, Diana's triumphant Adela makes when her plot to discredit his wife with Sir Richard is worked. "I love him," snarled Diana, "and I'm going to fight for him!" Diana makes no attempt to explain, somehow feels that she is doing a favor for the man she has been reading for an important trip to South America, to leave things at home in charge of Diana.

DARK CLOUDS GATHER

CHAPTER XIX

ALL day Diana worked faithfully at Stephen's side. Sorted manuscripts, assisted Miss Todd with last-minute typing, helped Larkin sort Stephen's clothes. When Adela learned of Stephen's plans, she produced a well-developed case of hysteria. "Why do you have to go?" she stormed. "Of all the men in the world, they pick on you! You're too valuable a person to send into danger!" "Don't talk like a child!" Stephen said impatiently. "There is no danger in air travel today!" "Ships crash every day!" Adela cried. "What's to become of me?" "Diana is to take charge of things until I come back!" Stephen said it as calmly as possible, glancing sidewise to see how she took it.

Adela's sobs ceased abruptly. Her tear-streaked eyes were wide with horror and amazement. Her mouth became a tight line of defiance. "You mean that stenographer is—?" Stephen's eyes took on that look of blue ice. "Now look here, Adela, I don't want any opposition to my plans. I'm too busy to deal with hysteria. Diana is to be in charge until I return, and I want your promise here and now that you'll co-operate with her in every way!" Adela was breathing rapidly, furiously. "You'd put her above me! You've fallen in love with her!"

Stephen's busy hands stayed. She's not your wife!" Adela raged. "She never has been! Everybody knows that!" "Nobody knows unless you've told them!" Stephen said with sudden harshness. Then with an appealing gesture, he placed his hands on her shoulders. "Come, Adela, let's not quarrel. I'm going away. Do me the favor of giving me a cheerful goodbye. I'm sure Diana will meet you more than half way if you'll do your part. Now you'll have to run along. I've a million things to do!"

But after Adela had left the room, Stephen stood quietly by the hearth for some time, doing nothing. "I have fallen in love with her," he said to himself.

LATE that afternoon Stephen and Diana walked over to Peyton Square so that Stephen might bid Evelyn goodbye. They found Phil there and the four enjoyed a quiet cup of tea.

"It's wonderful that they place so much confidence in you, Stephen," Evelyn said glowingly. "And I promise I'll do my best to keep Diana from being lonely." Diana felt Phil's eyes upon her, questioning, and her cheeks flushed warmly. Surely everyone must guess how she felt about Stephen! Stephen glanced up, intercepted the look between Diana and Phil, did not understand it at all. He frowned thoughtfully.

A little later they walked over to see old Ellen Curt, then home together. The hectic evening passed, and it was dawn. A cold, apprehensive dawn. Diana and Adela, accompanying Stephen to the airport, shivered in fur coats. It was difficult to believe that only a few days ago it had been warm and balmy. Now murky skies defied the efforts of the sun to find an opening, and the wind whistled through leafless trees.

The great plane thrashed in readiness, all was hurry and bustle. And almost before they knew what was happening, the co-pilot said, "Better get aboard, Mr. Curt!" Stephen nodded and turned to the two girls. He took Adela in his arms, kissed her fondly several times. Then to Diana he simply extended his hand. "Remember your promise!" he said quietly.

Diana's eyes were on his, hungrily seeking. Was he not even going to take her in his arms now, in this moment of goodbye? She ached to feel his strength about her, to know the comforting assurance of his trust in her. But he only gripped her fingers hard and released them.

"I'll stand by," she said thickly. "Thanks. Goodbye!" He was gone! Through eyes heavily misted, Diana watched the great plane take off, rise gracefully and finally become a disappearing speck in the gray curtain overhead. Not being sure just how Stephen felt about her. More uncertain now than ever, in view of his casual leave-taking. He was willing to place an expanse of several thousand miles between them, without even taking her in his arms at farewell. Surely that proved that he was utterly indifferent to her.

She turned to join the sobbing

forlorn chairs, Diana's favorite magazine, and ordered the choicest foods prepared for herself. "When you're an old lady, my dear, you'll understand how necessary comfort is!" she explained, sighing luxuriously.

Diana wondered if there were others of Stephen's family, realizing how little she really knew of the man she had married.

ATHLETE'S FOOT

Only 30 per cent of athlete's foot is caused by fungus infections, research reveals. Nervous exhaustion and inability to relax cause other cases.

DEBUNKED

You can't burn yourself with dry ice. The sensation is that of burning, but actually it is a quick-freezing process that takes place when dry ice touches your skin.

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THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



The PROBOSCIS MONKEY, OF BORNEO, HAS SUCH A LONG, DROOPING NOSE THAT HE HAS TO HOLD IT OUT OF THE WAY WHILE EATING!

BICYCLE VELOCIPEDS AT ONE TIME WERE CALLED "SWIFT WALKERS."

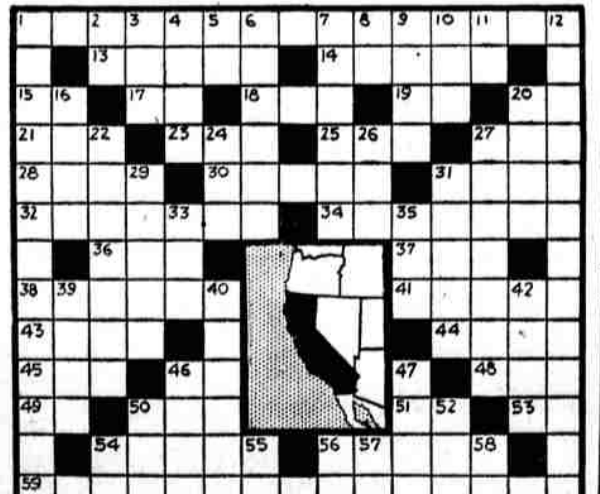
WHAT MEN WERE CALLED THE "BIG FOUR" DURING WORLD WAR DAYS!

ANSWER: Woodrow Wilson, Lloyd George, Clemenceau, and Orlando.

NEXT: Can a person murder himself?

MAP PUZZLE

- HORIZONTAL**
- 1 Depicted is the _____ of _____
 - 13 Agent tending to restore normal tone.
 - 14 Swift.
 - 15 Male parent.
 - 17 Musical note.
 - 18 Age.
 - 19 Type measure.
 - 20 Drunkard's ailment (abbr.).
 - 21 Partook.
 - 23 Drone bee.
 - 25 Lair.
 - 27 Enemy.
 - 28 Lease.
 - 30 Musical instruments.
 - 31 Sigm.
 - 32 Songs of praise.
 - 34 Breeze from the sea.
 - 36 Clear.
 - 37 French article.
 - 38 Looked askance.
- Answer to Previous Puzzle**
- LEON HENDERSON
REAP TO HIS ORES
BASEMAN ETERNAL
PENAL T EATER
OR LEON RIDE SLED
NUT AD SRO
OF HENDERSON SLEET DIG
NA EARN PYRE
LAMAS R DEINO
ALPINES SERVANT
LE TEA IA OM R
ADMINISTRATOR
- VERTICAL**
- 1 Quality of being separable.
 - 2 Near.
 - 3 Small child.
 - 4 Girl's name.
 - 5 One hundred and one (abbr.).
 - 6 Sour tastes.
 - 7 Decreases.
 - 8 Note in music.
 - 9 Unclosed.
 - 10 Edge.
 - 11 North Dakota (abbr.).
 - 12 In the manner of alternatives (Egypt).
 - 20 Sour.
 - 22 Beg.
 - 24 Uncle.
 - 26 Compass point.
 - 27 Agitate.
 - 29 Follows the second.
 - 31 Precipitous.
 - 33 City in Holland.
 - 35 High mountain.
 - 39 Self (pl.).
 - 40 Keep back.
 - 42 Angered.
 - 46 Chimney passage.
 - 47 On.
 - 50 Attorney (abbr.).
 - 52 God of war.
 - 54 Prefix.
 - 55 Street (abbr.).
 - 56 Musical note.
 - 57 Toward.
 - 58 Cloth measure.



OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams

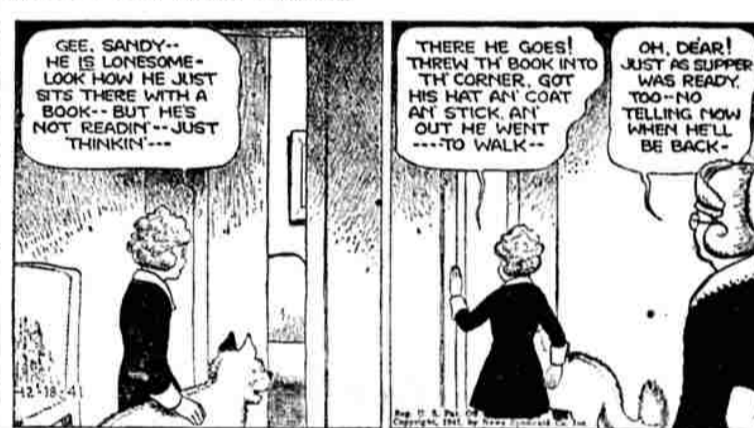
OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople



RED RYDER



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



WASH TUBBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



ALLEY OOP

