

SERIAL STORY

HIS CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY ADELAIDE HAZELTINE

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THE STORY: The terms of Andrew Dearborn's will specifying that his secretary Carol, and five other employees, shall judge whether or not his playboy son Andy is running the business according to his father's policy of "service to the people," put Carol, who has loved Andy since girlhood, in a difficult spot. Although the will has not been found, Carol knows its terms, and her heart sinks when Andy, currently involved with sleek Linda Jaltan, turns management over to unscrupulous Mr. Herrick, whose only idea is to make money. She knows that unless Andy shows more of the heart that has made him so kind to her, she will have to give up her job. To do this, he will lose the store to charity by vote of the strange "jury" he will call. Carol has decided to help Mr. Herrick to get the store back, but she will stand Andy in good stead when the will is found.

AN ACCIDENT

CHAPTER VIII

THE day before Christmas was always queer in the store. There were late shoppers frantic for gifts. There were employees too busy with their own exchange of gifts to give the usual attention to customers. It took close supervision to reconcile the two. But Mr. Dearborn accepted it as a part of the Christmas pageant.

He didn't resent the inertia that set in during the last few hours before the holiday. He understood it and sympathized.

Not so with Mr. Herrick. He came to Carol's office now, muttering his resentment of the last minute let-down. "You'd think yesterday was Christmas," he complained. "Everybody's looting on the counters. Go around and wake them up, Carol."

Carol stared at him. Why was he asking her, when that was the job of girls in his own office? He looked nervous, too.

Of course. She'd be glad to go. Yet she couldn't help wondering why he had chosen her. "Where's the boss?" he asked as she started to leave.

"Out in the store somewhere. Shall I find him for you?" "No. Never mind. Just get after the girls for me."

She had covered the upper floors and had reached the basement when she heard the scream. It was followed by running feet and the appearance of a girl crying. "Quick! Somebody, quick! The toyland elevator's fallen!"

Andy, Bill and a dozen men were struggling to open the shaft. They were prying the big iron doors free now. Voices of the trapped children rose in terror.

Mr. Herrick, standing near Carol, cursed. Andy crawled down to the car as soon as he could squeeze through the opening in the doors. The elevator rested on the bottom of the pit and the children were piled on top of one another, so panic-stricken they couldn't unangle arms and legs.

Andy was talking to the children, soothing them. One by one he began lifting them up. Bill leaned down and took them from his arms, setting them on their feet in front of Carol.

THE doctor came and examined them. They were badly frightened yet none seemed seriously hurt.

But when they were almost all out, Carol heard Andy say sharply, "Get another man, Bill. We can't manage this one alone!"

He was bending over the figure of a boy lying on the floor of the elevator. The boy clutched a little girl in his arms. Andy loosened his hold and lifted the child away. Then he picked up the boy.

Nicky's eyes were closed and he was murmuring. "She was so little—I didn't want her—to get hurt."

They had him out of the pit at last and Andy was holding him again. "Get an ambulance, Bill," he ordered. "Nicky fell on his back with the weight of the other children on top of him."

Bill hurried off. Andy spoke briefly with the doctor and together they tried to make their way through the crowd with Nicky. Mr. Herrick rushed up to Andy and Carol heard him say, "That elevator should have been reported to me, Andy. Bill's been running it at relief hours. He ought to know it needed repairs."

Carol seethed. Mr. Herrick was trying to blame Bill. He would do anything to save his own skin. It was a shame. She'd go to Andy herself and tell him about that interview Bill had with Mr. Herrick.

She suggested to Bill that they go together and take each child to the proper place.

He gratefully agreed and within an hour they had delivered each one to his mother, explaining that the doctor had examined him and found him unharmed.

Then, while Bill returned to the store, Carol went toward the hospital to see about Nicky.

"JIMINY-GEE, Miss Carol," Nicky said. "I didn't 'spose you'd come so quick. Mr. Andy 'list left."

They had fixed him up in a plaster cast but he seemed cheerful. "Of course I'd come, Nicky. How do you feel?"

"My back hurts but the doctor says it's O.K." "That's fine. I'll bet you were going up to toyland to see that electric train Mr. Andy promised?" "Uh-huh." His small face clouded. "Guess I'll be here for Christmas now. You can't have much Christmas in a hospital."

"Don't you worry about that," she assured him. "Sometimes hos-

pital Christmases are the nicest of all." And she determined to make it so.

She spent the balance of the afternoon searching for a small tree and tiny ornaments to match it. She bought a lot of little gifts and wrapped them separately in bright tissue. It would be fun for Nicky to open them.

When she finished she went to look for Bill. Carol wanted him to go with her and Mary to the hospital in the morning.

The closing bell sounded as she reached toyland. For a swift moment she remembered that this marked the end of another Christmas shopping season. A strange nostalgia swept her. Another year was quickly drawing to a close. Too quickly! It meant there were only ten brief days for Andy to prove himself.

Bill was sitting on his tinsel throne when she found him. He had his head in his hands. "Bill!" she exclaimed as she rushed up to him. "What in the world is the matter? Surely you're not worrying about that accident—"

He looked up at her, his eyes weary and disillusioned. "Santa Claus?" A cynical smile played havoc with his mouth. "Mr. Herrick just gave me my Christmas present. A yellow slip!"

"Fired, Bill?" she gasped. "Yes. Fired. He wasn't man enough to come up and tell me. He had to send a printed note. Fired me as if I were no more than a Christmas extra!"

"He's planning to blame you for

the elevator accident," Carol blurted out. "I heard him say as much to Andy this afternoon. It's unfair. I'm going to tell him just what happened!"

Bill rose heavily. "No, Carol. Thanks just the same. If Andy's too blind to see what's going on he won't take our word for it. He'll have to find Mr. Herrick out some other way."

(To Be Continued)

The modern motor engine demands the highest type of spark plug performance, and an intense spark is essential for its best operating efficiency.

Tire rims that have bent edges are evidence of the driver's carelessness in regard to keeping the tubes properly inflated.

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THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

THE SUN'S SCIENTISTS HAVE JUST DISCOVERED, IS 100,000 MILES FARTHER AWAY THAN THEY HAD THOUGHT.

I'M DISILLUSIONED!

QUOTING ODDS SEND IN YOUR "ODDS" FOR US TO QUOTE!

A FEW WATER HYACINTHS, CARRIED FROM SOUTH AMERICA AND CARELESSLY THROWN INTO THE ST. JOHNS RIVER, IN FLORIDA, SPREAD SO RAPIDLY THAT THEY OBSCURED NAVIGATION.

A GOSLING, GROWING UP, GROWS DOWN! Says EDGAR A. MACE, FOX, OKLAHOMA.

NEXT: Where the United States and Central America meet.

AN ASIATIC PREMIER

- HORIZONTAL Answer to Previous Puzzle 15 New Far East premier. 9 He is a leader in — 14 Economics (abbr.). 15 Aid. 16 Proverb. 17 Loan. 18 Main point. 19 Heavenly body. 20 Baseball penalties. 22 Tree. 24 Single thickness. 26 Session. 27 Shine. 30 Unit. 31 Advertisement (abbr.). 33 Lament. 34 Company (abbr.). 35 Footless. 37 District Attorney (abbr.). 38 Entrance. 40 Short sleep. 42 Nothing. 24 Pertaining to place. 25 Positive pole. 28 Officially examine accounts. 29 Repasts. 32 Put on. 35 Near. 36 Father. 39 Reflections. 41 Powdery substance in flowers. 42 His country's native name is — 43 Nickname for Lemuel. 45 Perform. 46 It is (contr.). 47 Afresh. 50 His foreign minister is — 52 Cavity. 53 Kind of chicken. 55 In debt. 60 Paradise. 61 Over. 62 Otherwise. 63 Watch. 64 Restore.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-64 and a small portrait of a man.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams

Comic strip 'OUT OF THE DUSK' showing a man in a 'MACHINE DEPT.' office talking to a woman.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoopla

Comic strip 'OUR BOARDING HOUSE' showing a man in a military uniform talking to a woman.

RED RYDER

Comic strip 'RED RYDER' showing a man in a cowboy hat talking to a woman.

By Fred Harms

Comic strip 'OUR BOARDING HOUSE' showing a man in a military uniform talking to a woman.

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

Comic strip 'LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE' showing a man in a suit talking to a woman.

By Harold Gray

Comic strip 'OUR BOARDING HOUSE' showing a man in a military uniform talking to a woman.

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

Comic strip 'BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES' showing a man in a suit talking to a woman.

By Mart

Comic strip 'BO-O-OTS!' showing a man in a suit talking to a woman.

WASH TUBS

Comic strip 'WASH TUBS' showing a man in a suit talking to a woman.

By Cran

Comic strip 'BO-O-OTS!' showing a man in a suit talking to a woman.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

Comic strip 'FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS' showing a man in a suit talking to a woman.

By Bloss

Comic strip 'BO-O-OTS!' showing a man in a suit talking to a woman.

ALLEY OOP

Comic strip 'ALLEY OOP' showing a man in a suit talking to a woman.

By V. T. Ham

Comic strip 'BO-O-OTS!' showing a man in a suit talking to a woman.