

# LAB GIRL

By Rene Ryerson Mart

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## "I BELONG HERE, KEN"

CHAPTER XII  
KNOWING the truth didn't change essential values. Barbee knew she couldn't go to Ken and say, "It isn't because you're a civilian that I'm ashamed to present you to my family. It's because you're illiterate, because you haven't had my advantages, because we don't belong to the same world."

No, there was nothing to be done about the hurt she had dealt Ken. Barbee decided after a sleepless night. They'd had a couple of dates together, they'd gone overboard about the other without stopping to think first—at least she supposed Ken had, too, or else why would her snubbing have hit him so hard? But there was nothing to be done about it. Nothing.

It was a stifling day, heavy with an oppressive heat. One of those bad summer days that breed uneven tempers, poor concentration, and accidents. Barbee heard the siren of a rapidly approaching ambulance as she turned in at the guard house gate. She pulled to one side and let it pass. By the time she had parked her car and returned to the guard house to check in for the day's work, the ambulance had picked up its burden and departed.

"Who's hurt?" Barbee asked anxiously.

"Ken Carter," someone answered. "A drum of carbon dropped on him in the furnace room."

Barbee stood there for a moment with the world blacking out around her.

THE guard told her that he'd been taken to Riverview Hospital. It wasn't very far in distance, but it seemed like an eternity in time before she was parking the car before the hospital steps and flying up them to the broad door marked ENTRANCE.

It was an hour and a half before they let her go up to the room where they had taken him. She tiptoed in fearfully. Ken, his brown face looking incongruous against the white pillow, seemed to be asleep.

"How is he?" Barbee whispered to the nurse in attendance.

"His left leg is badly crushed," the nurse told her. "The doctor thought at first that he'd have to amputate—but he's going to wait a day."

"Oh, no—no—not that—" Barbee cried.

There was a movement on the bed. "Cut it off—no good anyway—can't get in the Army—can't fight—" Ken's voice was heavy with the anesthetic.

Barbee bent over him. "Oh, don't say that, Ken—don't say such things—" She was crying bitterly.

Ken's vague eyes focused slowly upon her. "Barbee—what are you doing here?"

"What am I doing here?" trying to still her sobs. "I'm here because I belong here, Ken."

"What was she saying?" It was madness. But she couldn't fight it any longer—this wayward love. She and Ken might belong in different worlds, but she loved him. Nothing could change that.

Consciousness quickened in Ken's face. Anesthetic or no anesthetic he could understand that. "Say it again, Baby. Say it again!"

"I belong here, Ken. I love you."

LATER they talked more calmly. The doctor had been confident and reassuring.

"Do you want to write to your grandmother?" Barbee asked softly. "She ought to know."

"No." Ken was emphatic. "It would only upset her. She wouldn't believe that I'm getting along all right, and she couldn't come to see for herself."

"Why—why not?"

"Because, she's paralyzed—didn't I ever tell you?"

"Oh—Ken—"

"What are you looking at me like that for?"

Her voice was small and ashamed. "I've got to tell you, Ken. Even though you'll probably hate me for it, I'm a snob—an awful snob. I—I thought—that is, you said—your grandmothers couldn't write, and I thought you meant she was illiterate. I—I thought you were poor white trash from the south."

It was his turn to stare. "So that's why you didn't want me to meet your family!"

She couldn't meet his eyes. "And I thought you were ashamed of me because your brother was in the Army, and I wasn't."

"I guessed that yesterday," she admitted.

Suddenly he began to laugh wholeheartedly.

"I don't see anything so funny—" He tried to explain between chuckles. "Don't worry, honey. I can read and write. Maybe I don't talk so correctly—you know southern schools are easy-going, but I've had two years of college. I expected to go to night classes while I worked. That's why I

took a room in the University district. But I had to put in too much overtime on the job. A fellow can't work 10 and 12 hours a day and study engineering at the same time. So the engineering will have to wait until the war's over. Does that make it okay now?" There was nothing wrong with his arms. He drew her close to him.

"Oh, Ken," Barbee was half crying.

She held him off for a moment. "Ken, I'm glad I told you that I loved you before I knew this. Remember, you said once you wanted to be loved for yourself."

He drew her face toward his. "You've got something there, Baby." Then he kissed her very, very satisfactorily.

THE END

Yes, you can crochet your own compact case, or one for a friend, making it square or round . . . any size you choose. Decorate it with bright military insignia . . . crocheted separately. Here's a multi-colored miser's purse . . . and a hankie case in pineapple design, too! Pattern 7603 contains instruction for novelties; list of materials.

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ANSWER: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. NEXT: Does war bring rain?

WHERE'S ELMER?

Private Elmer

SULFANILAMIDE, THE SAVER OF COUNTLESS LIVES IN THIS WAR, WAS THROWN AWAY FOR YEARS AS USELESS WASTE.

HOLD EVERYTHING! SUPPLY SERGEANT

"I'll have a putter, please—I seem to have left mine at home!"

"He won't be bothered now with salesmen and bill collectors till next month!"

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## Alumina Plant May Be Located in NW

PORTLAND, Aug. 17 (AP)—Donald Nelson, chairman of the war production board, will recommend locating an alumina plant in the Pacific northwest if the manpower situation does not interfere.

So asserted Rep. Homer Angell (R-Ore), quoting a letter from Nelson: "No final decision has been reached regarding this project although it is our present hope to be able to find some suitable location which will allow for the utilization of the advantages of placing this plant in the Pacific northwest without incurring further manpower difficulties."

Humanity has made the world what it is. Our present chaos is the failure not of the goodness of God but of the sanity of man.—Dr. Carl C. Rasmussen of Gettysburg (Pa.) Lutheran Theological Seminary.

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## Out Our Way

By J. R. Williams



## Red Ryder

By Fred Harmon



## Freckles and His Friends

By Blosser



## Wash Tubbs

By Crane



## Boots and Her Buddies

By V. T. Hamlin



## Allep Oop

By Martin



## Little Orphan Annie

By Harold Gray



## TIMELY NOVELTIES YOU CAN CROCHET



by Alice Brooks

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## THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE													
1	Picture	MAURICE	CECOSTELLO	11	Crawls	12	Scottish	13	Garments	14	Native of	15	Latvia
2	actress	ERNE	ERODE	NEAR	garments	16	Native of	17	Latvia	18	British god of	19	the under-
3	Railroad	SC	DENS	OARS	18	Native of	19	Latvia	20	Antennae	21	Symbol for	
4	(abbr.)	SHY	ATE	RMS	19	Latvia	20	Antennae	21	Symbol for	22	germanium	
5	Horse's pace	ED	HE	10	21	British god of	22	the under-	23	world	24	Antennae	
6	Mental image	RAI	ER	11	22	the under-	23	world	24	Antennae	25	Symbol for	
7	Measure	TRAMP	COSTELLO	TRAILS	25	Symbol for	26	Tread down	27	Circles	28	Afternoon	
8	Lubricate	LO	TR	12	26	Tread down	27	Circles	28	Afternoon	29	parties	
9	East (Fr.)	ODE	ARRI	RED	27	Circles	28	Afternoon	29	parties	30	Pints (abbr.)	
10	Uncooked	RE	FREE	EARN	28	Afternoon	29	parties	30	Pints (abbr.)	31	Feathered	
11	Babylonian	EMIR	NEVER	OMEN	29	parties	30	Pints (abbr.)	31	Feathered	32	Established	
12	daily	SILENT	FILM	STARS	30	Pints (abbr.)	31	Feathered	32	Established	33	Back of the	
13	At sea	22	23	24	31	Feathered	32	Established	33	Back of the	34	neck	
14	Impetuous	24	25	26	32	Established	33	Back of the	34	neck	35	Ages	
15	Weight	26	27	28	33	Back of the	34	neck	35	Ages	36	She is a	
16	allowance	28	29	30	34	neck	35	Ages	36	She is a	37	of Brooklyn	
17	Turn aside	30	31	32	35	Ages	36	She is a	37	of Brooklyn	38	41	
18	Legal point	31	32	33	36	She is a	37	of Brooklyn	38	41	42	Allots	
19	Snare	32	33	34	37	of Brooklyn	38	41	42	Allots	43	Native of	
20	She enacts	33	34	35	38	41	42	Allots	43	Native of	44	Morocco	
21	the role of	34	35	36	39	42	Allots	43	Native of	44	Morocco	45	49
22	queen in	35	36	37	40	Allots	43	Native of	44	Morocco	45	49	
23	tease of	36	37	38	41	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
24	her pictures	37	38	39	42	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
25	Green	38	39	40	43	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
26	vegetables	39	40	41	44	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
27	To the inside	40	41	42	45	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
28	of	41	42	43	46	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
29	Wander	42	43	44	47	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
30		43	44	45	48	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
31		44	45	46	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
32		45	46	47	50	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
33		46	47	48	51	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
34		47	48	49	52	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	
35		48	49	50	53	49							