

SERIAL STORY

LOVE POWER

BY OREN ARNOLD

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YESTERDAY, Dr. Robert Hale, young scientist and his assistant, Leona Sorini, stand in awe of the modern miracle they have performed. Hysterically, they look their laboratory, plan to place a guard over their secret. Reaction: Dr. Hale has advertised for a secretary. At his office he finds Carolyn Tyler, beautiful, charming, salary is no item, but he warns her of the secrecy, the danger that must surround her work. He is not afraid. "But this," Dr. Hale continues, "is a position that will revolutionize the civilization!"

CHAPTER II

"THIS can be your desk. It's by a window. . . . Your typewriter needs a new ribbon. . . . Your notebook can rest on the desk arm, thus. . . . I can lower your chair, you are not as tall as I. . . . If I walk about as I dictate, don't be distracted, please. . . . You must weigh about 120 pounds, don't you, Miss Tyler?" It was Carolyn's first chance to get in an answer. He had been speaking in a monotone, getting her settled with meticulous attention to details.

"Only 118," she corrected. Then added, half amused, "Must I pass a physical test, too?" "Oh, no! I was just noting how becoming your street dress is. I am sensitive to all sorts of phenomena. It is unimportant at the moment. Immediately, we must hire a guard. Men, with guns. I have no idea where to get them!" Carolyn looked her surprise. She noted that he was gazing off now, frowning. Something inside her told her to take the initiative; here, maybe, was her chance to make good with him at once! An exceptional job with exceptional pay, the advertisement had said. Well, it meant she had to use her head, no doubt.

"I'll get them," she volunteered blindly. "How many men, Dr. Hale? And what salaries? And where—?" "Oh, why, any salary necessary. You must understand that money is no object here now, Miss Tyler! We are amply financed. There are something of transcendent importance. All former requisites, all of human thinking, must be reorganized so as to—"

"Goodness! Then, no doubt, we can buy the necessary guns. What kind? And how many?" "Why, a dozen men at least. On all sides of the main laboratory yonder to see that absolutely no one even approaches the place night or day."

"Whew!" "It is extremely important, Miss Tyler!" "I don't doubt it. Let me use the telephone."

ODDLY enough, he appeared how to forget he entirely. She noted the way he buried his nose in papers and charts at his broad desk. Plainly he had been willing to delegate a task to her, then assume that she would do it promptly and exactly right.

She was a trifle nervous about all this. And yet, she would try! She dialed a number. Ken Palmer answered, and instantly she spoke most earnestly to him, in somewhat hushed manner.

"Ken! Ken, this is me. This is I, I mean. Look here, Ken, listen carefully. I got the job. I am out at Dr. Hale's laboratory now, at work and—listen carefully, Ken—stop whatever you're doing and go buy me one dozen rifles and one dozen pistols. . . . No, Ken, no and no and no! Listen to me! Get a dozen of each and send them out here at once! Money is—no consideration. Send them C. O. D. or anything."

"And Ken, hire me some—I am NOT being funny, I tell you! Hire me a dozen trusted men to use those guns. I mean, to stand guard around a place for Dr. Hale. . . . Yes, guard, like—well, like soldiers or police or something. Men we know, or you know, Ken. Hurry!"

Something of her intensity must have slid over the wire to him. Ken Palmer became serious, as one does with any emergency call. A minute later Carolyn was back near her employer.

"It's taken care of," she announced. "They'll be here before hour night."

"That's fine. There's your dictation pad. A letter for Dr. P. D. Hines, University Hall, Detroit. "Dear Dr. Hines: Miss Sorini and I hasten to report that the experiment was a complete success. Of course, I shall withhold details until adequate tests can be run. Anything but absolute secrecy would be devastating now. Also, there has been no time to prepare the necessary shields. It happened only this afternoon. Measure of the radiation is impossible today but lead plates can be arranged within a week. In any event there is grave danger at this stage, as you will realize. Leona Sorini knows every step I have taken, so that if anything should happen to me before I can have detailed reports made out, then—"

Carolyn's eyes narrowed. She stole a quick glance at him, then had to keep her pencil flying. Fortunately, she was an expert at secretarial work. Two years with an energetic banker had helped. Dr. Hale was gripping both corners of his desk now, looking straight ahead and talking. He ended this letter and went instantly into a rather technical report, referring often to his own notes as he dictated.

ABOUT 4 he paused to dismiss politely the other girls who had come hoping for a job. Carolyn felt a definite sympathy for them. At 5:20 she and Dr. Hale were interrupted again by a knock on the office door. Carolyn answered, glad of another moment of rest.

"Ken!" she greeted a tall young man. "You—you brought them?" He nodded. "Nearly \$700 worth. And C. O. D., if I may be so bold as to—"

Dr. Hale didn't even hesitate. He just wrote a check and gave it to Ken Palmer. Together the three went outside. Twelve men were waiting, mostly young men of excellent physiques.

"Happens the police department keeps a waiting list," Ken Palmer explained. "Up to 100 applicants for jobs on the force. Men who have passed rather rigid tests already. I was able to get a dozen in a hurry. I'd do anything Carolyn asked, Dr. Hale! I hope you treat her right out here."

"Hush, Ken! And thank you ever so much!" They stationed the guard at Dr. Hale's direction. It took half an hour more. Soon after 6 o'clock, though, Carolyn and Robert Hale were back in his office at dictation again, which surprised her.

Things had moved with incredible swiftness since she nervously came out here at 3 o'clock, one hour ahead of her appointment. She had no idea what to expect next. A sense of excitement, too vague to understand but too emphatic to ignore, charged the air around this great laboratory and office here on the outskirts of town. Curiosity in Carolyn was at the steaming point, too, so that she had some difficulty maintaining a business-like poise.

At 7 p. m. Dr. Hale was droning on, using more and more scientific terms in his dictation. Her fingers were growing tired. Then all at once he surprised her again. "Who is this Mr. Palmer?" he asked.

"Ken!" she looked up and smiled. "Oh, Ken's just a boy in love with me."

Dr. Robert Hale, scientist, slowly frowned. "Astonishing."

"Astonishing that a boy should be in love with me?"

"No, no! I meant, it is astonishing how your—your eyes distract one. The, uh, pigmentation is—"

Carolyn squelched a quick little smile of amusement, tucked in her lower lip. Her distinguished employer was more than a scientist, she realized; he could be intensely interesting. And human.

(To Be Continued)

American Mother



Mrs. Dena Shelby Diehl, Danville, Ky., is the American Mother of 1941, selected by the American Mothers' Committee of the Golden Rule Foundation as "representative of the best in motherhood." Mrs. Diehl, mother of four daughters and greatest granddaughter of first Kentucky governor, is speaker, writer and teacher.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



THE ONE-HORSE WAGON

OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople



BURKE GETS SOME TIPS ON DAME FASHION

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



ANSWER: More correctly, it is polyandrous

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

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BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



WASH TUBBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



ALLEY OOP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople



By Martin



By Crane



By Blosser



By V. T. Hamlin

MAP PUZZLE

Map puzzle grid with crossword clues and answers. Includes a small illustration of a man in a hat.

- 1 Peninsula in North America
8 It is rich in land.
12 To court.
13 Molding.
15 Paddle.
16 Emmets.
17 To refund.
18 Flat round plate.
20 Theater guide.
21 To soak flax.
22 Aforesaid thing.
23 To arrange cloth.
25 Hour (abbr.).
27 You and me.
28 To say again.
32 Yellow bird.
33 Fragments of lava.
34 Right (abbr.).
35 Parisian.
36 Ascended.
37 District.
41 Hops kiln.
42 Glossy silk.
46 Ascetic.
47 Helmet-shaped part.
49 Deliverer.
50 Sea god.
51 Consumers.
52 Vehicle.
53 Most of its people are of.
54 Plunderer.
55 Barley.
56 As well.
57 Red flower.
58 Male bee.
59 Past due.
60 Packers.
61 Playing.
62 British.
63 Kind of fabric.
64 To bake.
65 Part in drama.
66 Epochs.
67 Circular arrangement.
68 Spore sacs.
69 Wild duck.
70 In reality.
71 Gat.
72 Viper.
73 Enticement.
74 Formerly.
75 Convulsive tic.
76 This land is under the or jurisdiction of New Foundland.
79 Temperate.
82 Makes deeper.
84 To chat.
85 To decay.
89 Hole.
90 Biblical priest.
91 Wing.
93 Sheens.
95 Kind of fabric.
96 To bake.
97 Part in drama.
98 Epochs.
99 Circular arrangement.
100 Spore sacs.
101 Wild duck.
102 In reality.
103 Gat.
104 Viper.