

SERIAL STORY

LOVE POWER

BY OREN ARNOLD

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YESTERDAY Carolyn found safety, after plunging through the storm. Somehow, she shakes off the parachute harness, she sees a road, stumbles toward it. A motorist stops. When she asks if he has heard an explosion, he thinks she is delirious.

BOB LANDS SAFELY

CHAPTER XIX

IN the village of Blair, Ariz., Carolyn and her rescuer found one light burning. It was in a large house that seemed to be a combined residence and store. An efficient-looking woman in night robe answered immediately when Carolyn ran to the door and knocked.

"Hello! I—Have you a telephone? May I please call for help? If I can just telephone Boulder Dam, I might—"

"Come in, honey!" The woman interrupted Carolyn's frantic talk, appraised her quickly. "Look here, honey, is your name Tyler, and did you drop outen a airplane?"

"Yes! Oh!"

"Well, I'm that glad it's you! They've been already phoning about you. They's men out already on a search. Now ain't this just dandy!"

"Come in, child. You look be-draggled. Ain't you cold? They've already phoned about you from Boulder. I expect it's been on the radio, too."

"Law, I expect they're a-tearing around every whichaway, for one as young and sweet as you! Now you just phone 'em back right now as quick as you can, and I'll get you something warm and dry!"

The good woman, not one to be overly excited, was plainly excited. Carolyn grabbed her.

"What about Bob? Dr. Hale? Tell me! He must be safe or nobody would know where I—Is he? Who called?"

"Honey, set down a minute! He's safe. Him and the man flying him both is safe. It was a Mr. Hale that called me. He said—"

That was all Carolyn needed. She called Boulder Dam—specifically, Boulder City, Nev., the town near the great dam. The operator there couldn't get Bob for her at the moment but did get the local airport, and the field official told her that Bob and the plane had come in safely.

Bob was about crazy, the official admitted, worrying about her, and he would get word to Bob at once and call off the search. He talked some more, but Carolyn didn't hear it. If the kindly woman here hadn't come quickly, Carolyn would have slipped right down to the floor.

It was the first time in her life Carolyn Tyler had ever fainted, but even a young and healthy girl can stand only so much.

It took Bob Hale a week to quit begging Carolyn's forgiveness. Almost pitifully he apologized, over and over, berating himself and humbling himself before her. He had honestly felt that her life depended on that parachute jump. She understood that.

But when he had gone to tell the pilot, preparing to jump out himself, the pilot had taken command. The storm danger was indeed real but the pilot had steadfastly refused to abandon ship. His refusal had, in turn, made Bob decide to stay. Bob had tried to weigh the dangers both ways and in the end the presence of the X-999 had decided him. The pilot, Bob knew, could not be made to realize the extreme potency of that substance in the box. A forced chance landing, bumpy and rough, might set off the greatest explosion in the history of man. But even so, Bob elected to stick with the pilot and their freight. He felt directly responsible for the X-999. Bailing out now would be cowardly running away, and at least Carolyn had a fighting chance.

When it all ended happily he was like a boy released from some hideous dream and it took him days to calm down again. For her part, Carolyn was back to normalcy after a long sleep, a bath, fresh clothing and a hearty meal.

"Nothing boring about being your secretary, at any rate," she told Bob, laconically. He was still serious.

"I have raised your pay, Carolyn! As I told you, the Schoenfeld Laboratory is abundantly endowed, and, of course, with the X-999 we have absolutely unlimited means at our command, so—"

"So I'm still just a stenographer overpaid already, and that's that!" she declared flatly. "Please get right down to your work, Bob. The serious work, I mean."

THERE was much to be done. That first day, while she slept,

he had bought a station wagon, and would have carried the boxed X-999 to his mountain retreat alone, but she insisted on joining him.

Together they drove the priceless stuff through the canyons to Blair, thence branched onto the rougher trail that led to the abandoned Copper King mine in Tonto Mountain. There they were met by Bob's workmen, who already had erected temporary tents and

shacks, reconditioned the narrow gauge ore track into the mine shaft, and brought in provisions.

When the X-999 had at last been deposited nearly three-quarters of a mile inside the mountain itself, Bob showed visible relief.

"Now, for the first time, I can breathe easily," said Bob. "Now it is safe, and no one's life need be in constant danger. Thank heaven for that!"

She liked that streak in him. That reverence, that feeling of humility and selflessness, despite the fact of his brilliance as a scientist and his fame. It was another reason for loving him.

Loving him? She contemplated that again. Of course she loved him, more profoundly than ever. And with the rush of physical excitement subsiding, she would give full thought to that problem of making him love her.

MEANTIME, Carolyn knew, Leana Sorini was a lurking, insidious danger. She "knew" it largely through intuition, but it was definite even so.

Leana's eyes had revealed it. Leana's way of looking at Bob. The little things Leana had let slip back home. The peculiar circumstance of that first explosion, the hint contained in the telegram to Leana, and the fact that a train was robbed! They all added up too much to be mere coincidence.

"I've been terrifically lucky," Carolyn whispered to herself, in apprehension again. "She's not likely to miss any bits next time!"

Leana would be brought here to the mountain retreat in a few days, Carolyn knew, because there was a great work facing her and Bob—harnessing X-999, adapting its unprecedented power to engines, inviting other distinguished

scientists here for consultation, re-making the whole world of engineering!

But Carolyn knew that somewhere in this rush Leana Sorini would strike again. And soon! "Flee? Run away? Chuck this crazy job forever and go back to the city and its safety?"

"I could never do that," Carolyn told herself. "It would leave Bob helpless, alone!"

(To Be Continued)



Yuriho Takagi, daughter of Viscount Masaanari Takagi, strolls in Tokio garden. Soon she'll marry Prince Takahito Mikasa, youngest brother of Emperor of Japan.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



RED RYDER



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



WASH TUBBS



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



ALLEY OOP



OUR BOARDING HOUSE, with Major Hoople



By Fred Harman



By Harold Gray



By Martin



By Crane



By Blosser



By V. T. Hamlin



THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



NOTED AUTHOR

- Horizontal: 1. Author of 'A Doll's House.' 10. Annelid. 11. Cuts grass. 12. Pulp fruits. 14. To brag. 16. To putrefy. 17. Three-toed sloth. 18. Cat's foot. 19. Merindin dye. 20. Every. 21. Electrical unit. 23. You. 24. Woman hater. 27. Greedy. 31. Nose. 32. Female relative. 33. Moisture. 35. Footed vase. 36. Brinks. 37. Exists. 39. To fish. 41. Cover. 42. Northeast (abbr.). 43. Tree fluid. Answer to Previous Puzzle: 13. Fodder pits. 15. He died early in the century. 20. Helped. 22. Decorous. 24. In the middle of. 25. Antelope. 26. In old time. 27. Convent dweller. 28. Neuter pronoun. 29. Amount. 34. Scheme. 36. To fit up. 38. Sparoid fish. 40. Meat pie. 41. Ocean steamer. 42. Mother-of-pearl. 44. Breakwater. 46. By. 47. Brood. 48. Half goat, half man. 49. Theme. 52. Hurray! 53. Roof finial.

