

GLORIA

THE FLAPPER WIFE

Gloria and Dick Discuss a Trip for Dick's Health.

THE STORY SO FAR
Gloria, Gordon's beautiful flapper, married Dick Gregory, a struggling lawyer. Her idea of marriage is fun and fine clothes and to do as she pleases. Dick borrows money to cook. But she refuses to learn to cook. She despises mother Gregory. Then Gloria leaves because of Gloria's wild parties.
Gloria hires Randolph Swanson, although Dick tells her they can't afford a maid. She swears Dick with debt, and demands a new automobile. Dick becomes dangerously ill with pneumonia. During the time of his recovery, Gloria asks Dick's secretary, Miss Susan Briggs, to give her \$200 of Dick's money. She explains that she needs it for the house, so Miss Briggs gives it to her. Then Gloria sends the money to Stanley Wayburn, an out-of-work actor with whom she is infatuated. Wayburn plans to use the money to go to New York to look up a job.
A few days before he goes, Gloria and he are out driving in her car, when they have an accident. Wayburn leaves Gloria lying under the wrecked car, goes for help, and disappears. His car is found lying under the car, and when Dick sees it, he goes to the hospital to see Gloria and forces a confession from her about her friendship with Wayburn.
Weeks pass. Gloria finds her life very stale without Wayburn. Then her friend, May Seymour, wife of Dr. John Seymour, tells Gloria there has been much gossip about her affair with Wayburn. Her friends begin to shun her.
May gives a party which includes Gloria. Jim Carraway, a man who is half in love with May, and some of his gay friends, Gloria leaves early. She is "blue" and depressed.

By Beatrice Burton
CHAPTER XL

MAY stopped dancing and shoved Carraway down into an armchair.
"Park yourself there for a minute, Jim," she said. "I want to talk to Gloria."

She came out into the hall, closing the door behind her as she came. She sat down on the bottom step of the stairs and looked up at Gloria with puzzled eyes.

"What's the matter with you, anyway?" she asked. "I've noticed that you've been singing the blues to yourself all day. You haven't had a bit of a good time, have you?"

Gloria shook her head.
"No," she confessed. "I haven't. I feel awfully 'blah,' somehow or other, today."

"You're worrying about that sap, Wayburn," May said with sudden business. "And you're a fool to do it. I've had his number ever since the night of your party when he made such a fuss over Myra Gail. He's some sheik. . . . At least, he kids himself that he is!"

Gloria looked intently at her friend.
"Stan's left town," she said at last. "So don't worry about him and me any more. . . . And I don't know what's the matter with me, May. Honestly."

But she did know.
She was terribly lonely without Wayburn.

"What's the use of pretending?" she asked herself on the way home through the streets, warm and sunny in the late afternoon quiet. "I'm homesick for Stan. That's what's the matter with me. That's all that's wrong with me."

Wayburn had filled her idle days with interest for months past.
When there was nothing else on hand he was always ready to go for a drive or a hike with her. He always had a new dance to teach her. . . . or the latest New York hit to sing to her.

Had a funny laugh, and a wealth of ready stories. He was amusing. Gloria had always called him her "one-man show."

Now that he was gone, time hung heavily on her hands. She didn't know what to do with herself all day long.

"I'm lost without Stan. That's about the size of it," she told herself, as she turned the corner of her own street.

The mother of the Donberg twins was just ahead of her, followed by her lovely off-spring on roller skates. Across the street two of the neighbors stood gossiping on the drive way between their houses. Gloria looked at them, curiously.

They seemed happy and contented in their placid, deep-bosomed maturity. . . . those two women.

"But I wonder if they really are," Gloria asked herself. "On are they sick and tired of married life, like I am?"

She quickened her steps and caught up with Mrs. Donberg.

"Hello, there!" said the twins' mother. "It's nice to see you around home again. I tried to get to the hospital to see you, but the twins were both sick in bed with bronchitis, and I never picked my nose outside the house for two weeks!"

She sighed. "It's just one thing after another for a woman, isn't it?" she asked. "Now it's the spring sewing, and then the canning season will be here, and after that the fall cleaning and sewing! . . . My goodness!"

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Dick groaned despairingly as he dropped into this armchair.

ness, I don't get time to do half the things I'd like to do!"

Gloria looked at her intently. Was this little, bright-eyed smiling woman discontented like herself?

"What would you like to do, really?" Gloria asked her.

Mrs. Donberg laughed.
"Well," she said, "I've had three cans of blue paint up on my broom closet shelf for three months," she said, "and I know it sounds silly to say it, but I just can't seem to find time to paint the twins' bedroom set with it! That's what I'd really enjoy. Fixing up my house so it would be pretty, like yours, Mrs. Gregory."

Gloria's interest flagged.
She certainly had nothing in common with the little "hausfrau" beside her!

She said goodbye to her and walked on.
DICK was in the side yard transplanting some cannas around the house.

"Hello, where have you been all day?" he greeted her.
"At May's house," Gloria answered briefly.

Dick ran up the front steps and opened the door for her. He followed her into the house.

He asked her how May was. He told her that Mrs. Gordon had telephoned an invitation to spend the day with her tomorrow.

But Gloria knew that that was not what he had come into the house to say.

He said it leaning up against the newel-post at the foot of the stairs, nervously tapping the trowel he still held, on the polished wood.

"Doc Seymour thinks I ought to go away for a rest," he said. "How would you like to go with me to French Lick for a couple of weeks or so? It would do us both good."

Gloria's eyes narrowed.
"Is your mother going along, by any chance?" she asked, biting off the words like little bits of ice.

"We'll, Doc Seymour thinks she ought to go along," he began. "She's not getting over her operation as well as he hoped. . . ."

Gloria interrupted him snappishly. "Is she going?" she asked sharply.

"Now, don't hedge, Dick! She is going, isn't she?"

"I don't see how I can very well tell her you don't want her with us," he said. "After all, she's my mother, Gloria."

"Well, go with her, then! But count me out!" Gloria cried passionately. "I wouldn't go to the most wonderful place on earth with your mother, Dick! I can't stand her!"

Angry tears sprang to her eyes. But she brushed them away with the back of her hand and ran upstairs.

She went into the little tattered room that had been hers since the beginning of Dick's illness. She locked the door behind her.

In a moment Dick was there, rattling the knob.
"Open the door, Gloria," he pleaded. "What's the use of this thing over me? . . . What's the use of your taking it this way? Even if mother goes with us, you won't have to see much of her. . . . Open the door, please!"

"Oh, dry up and blow away!" Gloria answered crossly. "I'm not going to talk about it any more! You go with your mother!"

"Puzzle a Day"

This is a reducing and limbering exercise given to the girls at Barnard College. Five weights are placed each five yards apart. Each girl must pick up the weights, one at a time, walk along the dotted line and place them in the basket, five yards from the first weight.

What distance should each girl walk?

Last puzzle answer:
I am "spark." Headed I equal "park." Cut off my tail and I am "spar." Take away my first two letters, I am "ark." Take away my last two letters, I equal "spa." Take away my first and last letters, I am equal "par." Take away my first two and last letters, equal "ar."

Gloria nodded. She patted the bandage across her aching shoulder. "I should say we have!" she answered.

"By the way, what's become of Wayburn?" Dick asked. "I still have that cigarette case of his. I ought to give it to him."

"You can't," Gloria answered. "He's left town."

The moment she had said it she could have bitten off her tongue for her stupidity.

"Hm!" Dick mused, "that's so. . . . A letter came for you from New York today. I told Randolph to put it on your dresser. Did you get it?"

"Yes, Gloria faltered. 'I did.'"

"Who writes you letters from New York?" Dick asked.

(To Be Continued)

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