

GLORIA

THE FLAPPER WIFE

THE STORY SO FAR
Gloria Gordon, beautiful flapper, marries Dick Gregory, a struggling lawyer. He has little money and fine clothes, but no work or children. She pities her friend, Lola, because she has no babies and does her own housework.

Gloria refuses pointblank to do her husband's housework, but later Dick lets the maid go, because he can't afford to keep one. Gloria has given him a new job for her clothes and a new automobile.

She becomes associated with Stanley Wayburn, an actor. He and Gloria with May Seymour and Jim Carewe, make a foursome.

Dick, when he recovers, Dr. John Seymour, who is a doctor of 77, sends him away for a long rest.

Gloria refuses to go along, because Dick is a doctor, who is a hussy.

When she comes home Dick takes her into the room where he and his wife, May, are staying.

One night while he is working late with his secretary, Susan Briggs, the housekeeper, Lola, comes in.

Gloria goes to Mother Gregory to complain that Dick left her alone half the night while he was out with Miss Briggs.

By Beatrice Burton
CHAPTER XLIX

IDON'T believe for a single second that Dick was out half the night with Sue Briggs or any other woman!" Mother Gregory said with spirit. "I'd have to see that with my own eyes to believe it!"

"Well, then, where was he until 2 or 3 o'clock last night?—No place where he had any business to be!" Gloria cried. "He certainly wasn't working until then!...Don't try to tell me that!"

Mother Gregory's fine black eyes flashed.

"Why don't you ask him where he was?" she asked quietly.

Gloria laughed unpleasantly. "That's just it! He didn't give me a chance to ask him anything!" she answered. "He sneaked away this morning before I woke up."

"My poor child," Mother Gregory's voice was soft with sudden pity. "Can't you trust your husband out of your sight? Don't you know by this time what sort of man Dick is?"

Gloria shook her head.

"I certainly don't!" she said. "I thought I did once. But Dick's changed so, lately. He's getting to be a regular crossword puzzle. I can't make him out. What do you suppose he did the night I came home from New York?"

"Tell me."

"He put me out of our room!" Gloria said. "He moved all my things into the spare room. He doesn't



"Where is Mr. Gregory?" she asked, turning to Miss Briggs.

I want me for his wife any more, I suppose. And that was his gentle way of breaking the news to me."

Mother Gregory knitted her brows.

This was more serious than she had supposed—this breach between Gloria and Dick.

"My dear," she said. "How did you happen to go to New York in the first place? There's a story around town that you went there with that actor of yours. . . . What was his name? Westfield? Wakefield?"

"Wayburn," Gloria helped her out. "But I didn't go to New York with him. He went two weeks before I did."

"But did you go because he was there?" Mother Gregory asked.

Gloria was all ready to say "No." But she had a feeling that Mother Gregory's eyes could see right down into her very soul!

"Yes," she whispered. Her lips quivered.

MOTHER GREGORY sat down heavily on the edge of her great four-poster bed. The springs creaked under her weight.

"Ah—ah!" she said, then "You expect Dick to take you back with open arms? When you've shown him you love another man?"

"I don't love Stan Wayburn," Gloria answered sullenly.

"You don't like Dick, that's sure!"

Dick's mother said.

"And he doesn't love me!" Gloria came back at her. "If he did he wouldn't leave me alone in the house all night to be frightened to death! . . . He doesn't care a darn for me any more!"

"I hope he doesn't, Gloria," Mother Gregory said solemnly. "I'd hate his marriage to wind up the way poor John Seymour's did, last night."

"Dr. John!" Gloria cried. "Why, what's happened to Dr. John?"

A curious, cold fear seemed to take hold of her heart. . . . to squeeze it. She could hardly breathe. Mother Gregory's voice seemed to come from a long way off, when she spoke again.

With a great effort, Gloria shook her head. Her thoughts flew to May. What terrible trouble was she in? What had happened to Dr. John?

"He shot himself," Mother Gregory said. There was a long silence. Then Mrs. Gregory arose and called down the stairs to Maggie.

"Maggie, bring up the paper, please?" she asked. In a minute she came back into the room, shaking off the rustling sheet.

"Dr. John Seymour. . . . she began to read. But Gloria stopped her.

"No, no," she said. "Don't read it! I must go to May! She hasn't any body but me. . . ."

Puzzle a Day

Regardless of all that has been said about the uselessness of patent medicines, many people use them daily, and save their pennies to buy more.

In one village medicine can be purchased not only for cash but also for trade coupons. For this reason, these are carefully saved. Mr. Stump, who had twice as many coupons as his wife, asked her for two of her coupons. "No," she said, "If I do that you would have three times the number of my coupons. But if you will give me four of your coupons we will both have the same amount, and can each buy a bottle of medicine."

How many coupons are needed to buy a bottle of medicine?

Last puzzle answer:

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