

# GLORIA

## THE FLAPPER WIFE

Dick Again Warns Gloria Against Extravagant Buying.

THE STORY SO FAR  
Gloria, a beautiful flapper, married Dick, a successful lawyer. Her idea of marriage is fun and games. She refuses to do her own housework, and hires a maid. But Dick has to let the maid go, because he can't afford her wages. Gloria has swamped him with debts for her clothes and a new automobile. She becomes infatuated with an out-of-work actor. When he leaves town to go to New York she follows him. But he spurns her. Then she tries to find a job as a chorus-girl but fails. It is only then that Gloria begins to realize how much she cares for Dick. She is terribly lonely for him. But she is afraid to go home. At last, however, she does it. Dick takes her back, but not as his wife. Gloria begins to wonder if he is in love with her. She has a long talk with Miss Briggs and writes from her a letter that Dick was at the home of Dr. John Semgus, who had killed him. Dick, because of his wife's love affair with Jim Carver, tells Gloria to tell him about the burglary. But he is in a hurry. She has a long talk with Miss Briggs and writes from her a letter that Dick was at the home of Dr. John Semgus, who had killed him. Dick, because of his wife's love affair with Jim Carver, tells Gloria to tell him about the burglary. But he is in a hurry.

By Beatrice Burton  
CHAPTER LIII  
DICK frowned. His eyes looked straight ahead of him under their bent brows.

"No, I'm not 'crazy'—as you call it—about any woman," he said liberally. He walked to the open window and stood, with folded arms, looking into the fragrant darkness beyond.

"When you say that do you mean me, too?" Gloria asked. There was an agony of entreaty in her voice. "Do you mean that you don't care about me, any more?"

Dick turned slowly toward her, without answering. The movement brought him face to face with her. She looked at him narrowly, at first only with curiosity; then with a kind of terror. His eyes were cold and without light.

Gloria felt as if some curtain had dropped between them. A curtain that she could not pull back. She stepped back and put her hand in a little defensive movement. "You don't love me any more!"

She answered her own question. And then she burst into hysterical tears. Through her eyelashes, she gathered into little wet points, she could see Dick looking at her curiously, as if he had never seen her before.

She watched him drop into his chair and pick up a book. He set it up between them, like a barrier, and began to read.

The clock in the hall struck eleven. And, as if the sound of it freed some blocked movement in Gloria's brain, she pulled herself together and went upstairs.

As she went she heard Dick strike a match, for his cold pipe. He was calmly settling down to a quiet evening. No doubt he was glad she was gone!

"I WILL get back!" Gloria said fiercely to herself the next morning when she awoke. She had set her alarm clock for seven!

"I will get back into Dick's life! I belong there. He can't put me out of it!"

She bathed and dressed herself in one of the bungalow aprons that Ranghild had worn for her morning work. Then she tiptoed downstairs and brought in the milk and the paper from the back porch.

She lit the gas stove and took the coffee tin from the kitchen.

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When Dick came home that night, the table was neatly set. There was an appetizing odor of frying steak in the house. And Gloria, in a clean white dress, came out of the kitchen to meet him.

"Dinner will be ready in two minutes," she greeted him cheerfully. "And when you go upstairs to wash your hands, take a peek at the surprise I have for you up there."

On the bed in Dick's room was spread Gloria's "surprise"—a purple silk house-coat lined with scarlet. "Holy suffering cats!" Dick said to himself. "Does she think I'd wear a thing like that?"

He went down to dinner in his suit. Gloria's face fell when she saw him.

"Aren't you going to put on your new housecoat?" she asked. Dick shook his head. "You know I never wear bright colors like that,"

**Puzzle a Day**  
A diver cut a hole in the submerged submarine 8-51 in an effort to release the men trapped within. This hole is oblong in shape, and is three times as long as it is wide. If the hole had been cut one foot larger each way its area would have been increased thirteen square feet.

What are the dimensions of the hole?  
Last puzzle answer:  
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on cupboard. She stood looking at it helplessly. How did you make coffee?

There were no directions on the gray wrapper around the tin, and Gloria didn't own a cook book.

Then suddenly she remembered that Dick knew how to make coffee. She would run upstairs and ask him how it was done.

"Thanks," His eyes took her in—the bungalow apron, the rolled-up sleeves, and the coffee tin in her hand.

"What do you think you're doing?" he asked. An amused smile flickered over his face.

"Making coffee for my husband!" Gloria answered pertly. "Only, I don't know how to make it. Aside from that I'm getting along fine!"

Dick's smile broadened into a grin. "I suppose you're after my recipe," he said. I use a tablespoon of coffee for each cup, and an extra one for the pot."

Gloria's spirits lifted at his good humor. And something in her breast that had been like a lump of ice, seemed to melt.

She was sure that he hadn't meant his harshness to her last night. He hadn't meant what he had said.

She put up her lips for him to kiss. "You aren't peevish at your Gloria, are you?" she asked. She laid her hand on his cheek, and came a step nearer.

Then, with a little sigh, she put her head down on his shoulder. It was good to be there with Dick, friends once more. Like the solution of a problem.

"We've quarreled long enough. . . . you and I. Kiss me!" she said.

But as she spoke, she knew she was making a mistake. She could feel Dick draw away from her.

Her hands dropped at her sides, and she went downstairs without another word.

She made the coffee, according to Dick's campfire recipe, and put it on the stove to boil.

When he came downstairs to breakfast, it was more than ready. "I'm sorry there isn't toast," Gloria said as she poured it for him, "but there wasn't so much as a crumb of bread in the house. I'll stock up today."

She tried to drink a cup of her coffee. But she had to admit to herself that it was too bitter to drink. She didn't dare to offer Dick a second cup of it.

"Will you be home tonight for dinner?" she asked as he got up from the table.

She hoped that he would at least offer to kiss her goodbye. But he didn't.

"Yes, I'll be home," he said colorlessly. "I think I'll take your car today. You don't seem to drive it any more. . . . do you mind if I do?"

Gloria shook her head. There was a lump in her throat. She watched Dick drive down the street, her vision blurred with tears. She wiped them away, angrily.

"What's the matter with me?" she asked herself. "Am I falling in love with the poor simp?"

Was she? . . . Or had she always been in love with him? And had it taken her jealousy of Miss Briggs to unveil the fact to her? . . .

THE thought of Miss Briggs down in Dick's office was a torment to her. She stopped in the middle of her work a dozen times that morning to wish that Dick had a man secretary instead of Susan Briggs.

"He's just got to fire her!" she kept telling herself. "I just won't have her down in that office with him. That's all there is to it!"

Soothing and sympathetic, was she? Well, Gloria would show Dick that she, herself, could be soothing and sympathetic. If that was Miss Briggs' method of "vamping" Dick, that would be Gloria's game. Two could play at any old game.

The sight of Dick's shabby old house-coat hanging in his closet was an inspiration to Gloria. She would buy him a new one. Goodness knows he needed it!

And it wouldn't be a dull gray one like this. . . . It would have some pep and dash about it. . . .

WHEN Dick came home that night, the table was neatly set. There was an appetizing odor of frying steak in the house. And Gloria, in a clean white dress, came out of the kitchen to meet him.

"Dinner will be ready in two minutes," she greeted him cheerfully. "And when you go upstairs to wash your hands, take a peek at the surprise I have for you up there."

Gloria, he said, "although it is a doggone nice coat. Thanks."

"What'll I do with it?" Gloria asked pathetically. She looked as if she were going to cry. "Take it back?"

"You didn't pay cash for it, did you?" Dick asked.

"No—no," Gloria faltered. "I charged it to you."

"And how much was it?" Dick's voice had grown stern.

"Not very much. . . . only \$50," Gloria replied. "It really was a bargain. It had been \$75. . . . awfully good silk in it."

Dick sat down at the dining room table.

"Now look here, Gloria," he said. "I've told you a dozen times that you're not to go downtown and run up bills. Without asking me about it. . . . And in spite of it, you charge a \$50 house-coat to me in a store where I owe money as it is!"

Gloria felt a frown growing between her eyebrows.

"Well, what do you want me to do. . . . take the thing back?" she asked. "I'm going to be terribly ashamed if I have to, let me tell you!"

"I'll take it back," Dick answered. "I've told you a dozen times that you're not to go downtown and run up bills. Without asking me about it. . . . And in spite of it, you charge a \$50 house-coat to me in a store where I owe money as it is!"

Gloria shook her head. "I can't understand you at all, Dick," she said. "Suppose you do owe a few bills? Everybody does. Nobody ever has every dollar paid right up on the first of the month."

Dick was silent. He made little dots on the tablecloth with the tines of his fork.

"I. . . . I suppose you'll have a fit if I mention the word 'clothes' to you," Gloria went on, after a minute. "But I haven't a single summer dress. You know you promised me I could have some, before you went away on your trip. Remember?"

"Yes," Dick answered quietly. "But don't you think it's more important for us to get some of our old bills paid off, first?"

"No!" Gloria cried, angrily. "I'm just about at the point where I could go to jail for debt, cheerfully, like Mr. Micawber. That is, if I could have a few clothes. . . . I'm in rags!"

Dick's lip curled. "Pretty costly rags, I'll say," he remarked. "You bought three \$100 dresses just a few weeks ago. I'll bet my mother never had one dress in all her life that cost that much. And Dad could buy and sell me a dozen times over. . . ."

"It's just terrible that you have to support a wife, isn't it?" Gloria asked with fine sarcasm. "I feel sorry for you!"

"You should!" Dick answered. "All I hope is that you'll feel so sorry for me that you won't buy any more \$50 hats for a while!"

Gloria moved irritably under his angry gaze. "You think of every penny. . . ."

"I've got to think of every penny!" Dick answered. "And you must, too, for a while, until I get on my feet again. That sickness of mine knocked everything in the head. . . . There's just one way of looking at this thing. Our marriage has become nothing but a business partnership—and a one-sided one, at that."

"Oh, is that so?" Gloria cried. "So that's the way you've come to feel about it. . . . Well, thanks, I don't care for any! If that's all I mean to you, I'm through! See? All through!"

(To Be Continued)

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