

# GLORIA THE FLAPPER WIFE

Gloria, In a Repentant Mood, Once More Returns to Dick.

**THE STORY SO FAR:**  
GLORIA GORDON, beautiful flapper, married DICK GREGORY, struggling lawyer. Her idea of marriage was fun and fine clothes. . . . But to work or children. She refused pointblank to do her own housework, and hire 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, STANLEY WAYBURN. When he leaves town to go to New York, Gloria follows him. But he scorns her. Then she tries to find a job as a chorus girl and fails. It is then that Gloria realizes how lonely she is for Dick. But she is afraid to go home. . . .

But at last she does go. Dick takes her back, but not as his wife. He suspects that he is in love with his secretary SUSAN BRIGGS. While Dick is on his way home, the house is robbed. Gloria is sure Dick spent the evening with Miss Briggs. But next morning she learns that he was at the home of DR. JOHN SEYMOUR, who has killed himself because of his wife's love affair with Jim Carey. . . .

The breach between Gloria and Dick widens. Gloria learns that Miss Briggs is in love with him and begs him to discharge her. He refuses. Finally Gloria makes up her mind to leave Dick. She goes home to her mother, who tells her to return to Dick. . . .

By Beatrice Burton  
Chapter LV.  
THE doorbell rang loudly through the little house. "That must be your Aunt Dorcas," said Mrs. Gordon. "She said she'd stop in for me on her way to the hospital to see Lulu's baby. . . ."

Gloria groaned. Aunt Dorcas was a born gossip. She told everything she knew for the pure joy of seeing the look of surprise and interest down in her listeners' eyes. . . .

"Now, Mother, please don't tell her anything about this trouble between Dick and me," Gloria begged. "If you do, it'll be all over town by dark!"

But she knew it was useless to ask her mother not to tell Aunt Dorcas anything. She was wax in the hands of Lulu's mother. . . .

Aunt Dorcas was large and blond. She had the nose of a Roman senator, and the blue, inquiring eyes of a child. She turned one of her cheeks to Gloria to be kissed. "Well, my dear," she said briskly. "Lulu beat you to it, having a baby! And she's a year younger than you are, at that!"

Gloria laughed. "She's been married for two years, though," she said. "And I haven't been. . . . And anyway I should think you'd be furious with her for making you a grandmother at your age. . . . only forty-four! And you don't look a minute over thirty-five, does she, Mother?"

Aunt Dorcas beamed. "Wouldn't you like to come along with us to see the new baby, my dear?" she asked, flattered. "I would. . . . I'd love to," fibbed Gloria, "but I've got to go home. . . ."

She ran upstairs to get her hat and over-night bag. "Been here all night?" Aunt Dorcas asked sharply. Her eyes were fixed on the little bag. . . .

"No," Gloria answered reluctantly. She shot a warning look at her mother. . . .

"Gloria and Dick had a little quarrel," Mrs. Gordon said blandly. "And I've been talking her into going home. 'Bear and forbear' I say. That's the only way to get along with a man, isn't it?"

Aunt Dorcas shook her head. "Well, I don't know whether it is or not," she replied. "I never did think much of this young Gregory. I may as well tell you I always thought he was somewhat of a snob. . . . and if I were Gloria I wouldn't take any back-chat from him! She's just as good as he is any day in the week!"

"I haven't taken any back-chat from him," said Gloria. "The whole thing's been my own fault. . . . And it isn't anything that matters, anyhow. A tempest in a teapot!"

Her aunt snorted. "No, I guess nothing's the matter when you pack up and come home," she exclaimed. "I should say that something was very much the matter! . . . Well, are we ever going to start for the hospital, Libby?"

Mrs. Gordon hurried upstairs. "There's a pie in the pantry shelf, Gloria," she called downstairs. "Tell Dick I sent it to him." . . .

Gloria tucked the pie carefully into one side of her bag. "I'd



She lifted the red-hot pan from the stove in her bare hands.

love to stay here and visit with you, Aunt," she said, "but I've just got to go home. . . ."

"I think you're very foolish to go home. If you've quarreled with your husband make him come here after you!" Aunt Dorcas spoke her mind. "You take my advice. . . . I'll bet your mother's been telling you to knuckle down and go home. That's the way she's been all her life. . . . afraid to say 'Boo' to a goose! But what's it ever got her, eh? Nothing, so far as I can see!"

She tapped her foot angrily on the floor. "She thinks she has a great deal," Gloria said softly. "And she and Dad really are happy in their way. . . ."

She kissed her aunt on her florid cheek where a tiny network of veins was beginning to show. She drew a sigh of relief when she escaped, at last, from the house and from Aunt Dorcas. . . .

ON HER way home Gloria stopped in at a store on College Ave. and bought herself a house dress. It was a soft, pretty thing with frills around the neck and sleeves. . . .

She had a sudden vision of herself in it when Dick should come home that night. He would think that she had gone. . . . and there she would be, with dinner ready, the table set, the house clean! Wouldn't he get the surprise of his life, though!

Unless he had a heart of granite, that certainly ought to melt him. . . . And let's see, what would she have for dinner? Dick liked lamb chops and fresh peas. She'd have them, she guessed. . . . No, even Mother Gregory had said that it was quite a job to shell peas. . . .

Gloria bought canned ones and a can of beans. And she saw some potato salad in a delicatessen she passed. So she bought that, too. It would save her going to the bother of cooking potatoes. . . .

Then there was the pie her mother had given her. Why, she wouldn't have anything to cook but the meat! Anybody could warm up canned vegetables. . . .

"How long do you fry lamb chops?" Gloria asked the butcher as he wrapped them up for her. "About fifteen minutes, lady," he said. "Depends on how you like 'em, rare or well done." . . .

How did Dick like his meat cooked? . . . Gloria didn't know. Well, she guessed she'd take a chance and fry them slowly for twenty minutes. . . .

At 6 o'clock that night she put them on the stove. The peas and beans were in their kettles. The potato salad was heaped high in a bowl on the dining-room table. . . .

Gloria's heart swelled with honest pride as she looked around the house. It was in what she called perfect order. There was a roll of dust, like a gray mouse, here and there in a shadowy corner. . . . but no one would notice that she was sure. . . .

She went upstairs to her room to put a little powder on her nose. She

## Puzzle a Day

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GLORIA sniffed the air. . . . "What was that queer smell? . . . The meat! The chops were burning!"

She flew down the kitchen. It was filled with smoke. The sputtering fat in the pan had caught on fire. It was blazing. . . .

"Here's where the house goes up in smoke!" Gloria thought with terror. She lifted the red-hot pan from the stove in her bare hands. . . .

Then she ran out doors with it, and threw it down on the grass. It hissed fiercely as she turned a spray of water from the garden hose on it. . . .

Gloria was so excited that she did not hear Dick drive into the yard. It was only when she turned to go back to the house that she saw him watching her from the driveway. . . .

"What have you been doing. . . . having a bonfire?" he asked. Gloria burst into tears. She ran over to the car to show Dick how she had burned her hands. . . .

"No," she sobbed. "I just burned up all the chops. . . . and I'm all blistered, too! . . . Oh—oh! I meant to have such a good dinner, too. . . ."

"I didn't expect to find you here at all," Dick said calmly. "You said you were going to leave me, last night, you know." . . .

Gloria hung her head. "I know I did," she said in a tone so low that Dick divined rather than heard her words; "but I changed my mind." . . .

Dick studied her for a moment with half-lowered lids. Gloria thought she even detected a gleam of amusement in his eyes. . . .

"Well, never mind about that," he said. "Run upstairs and get your hat and I'll take you downtown for dinner. I'll wait here for you. Hurry!"

Gloria put the fire out under the vegetables on the stove and took the potato salad away. . . .

She made a paste of baking soda and water to smear on her burns. In the old days Dick would have done it for her without doubt. He would have been filled with distress and pity. . . . and he probably would have kissed the blistered hands. . . .

Now he didn't seem to care. He was utterly indifferent to her. And the thought was all the harder to bear because Gloria knew that she had brought all this on herself. . . .

Dick's indifference and aloofness. She had helped to build the wall that rose between them, mountain high. . . .

HE put on a sage green sports hat and went out to the automobile. "Darn shame about your hands," Dick muttered as she got in beside him. Gloria said nothing. . . .

"Where do you want to go to eat?" he asked. . . .

Some demon in Gloria's brain prompted her answer. "Let's go to the restaurant where you and Miss Briggs eat," she said wickedly. "By the way, how is Miss Briggs behaving herself these days?"

"As usual. . . . perfectly," Dick said. . . .

"Hasn't she told you she loves you yet?" Gloria raised her eyebrows in feigned surprise. "I thought that would be the first thing she'd do!" . . .

Dick didn't answer. But he drove the car down Pennsylvania St. to the little restaurant. . . .

It was a silent meal that they ate at the little corner table where the two of them and Susan Briggs had dined only a few days before. . . .

The waiter had set their coffee down before them before either spoke. . . .

"What's become of your rings?" Dick broke the silence that had hung, like a smoke-screen between them. "Your wedding ring and your diamond?" . . .

Gloria felt herself reddening. "I—

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