

GLORIA THE FLAPPER WIFE

Gloria Sees Dick and Susan Briggs on the Street Together.

THE STORY SO FAR
Gloria Gordon, beautiful flapper, married Dick Gregory, a struggling lawyer. Her idea of marriage is fun and fine clothes. . . but no work, or children.
She refuses to do her share of 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 her debts.
She becomes infatuated with Stanley Wayburn, an actor. When he leaves town to go to New York, Gloria follows him. But he scorns her. Then she tries to get a job as a chorus girl, and fails. She begins to realize how lonely she is for Dick.
When she comes home to him, he takes her back, but not as his wife. Gloria wonders how she can love with his secretary, Miss Briggs. Dick stays out late one night. Gloria is sure that he is with Miss Briggs. But the next day she learns that he spent the night at the home of Dr. John Seymour, who had killed himself because of his wife's love affair with Jim Corcoran.
The breach between Gloria and Dick widens. Gloria goes to a good school of housekeeping and fails. At last she makes up her mind to leave Dick. The morning she decides to go, May Seymour comes to see her. She shows Gloria a clipping from a newspaper, and bursts into tears.

By Beatrice Burton
CHAPTER LVIII

Gloria unfolded the little clipping, curiously.
"Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Millbrook of N. Meridian St. announce the engagement of their daughter, Margaret, to Mr. James Neale Carewe, formerly of Boston. The wedding will be an event of late October," it read.
"Jim Carewe engaged!" Gloria cried aloud. "Why, did you ever hear of such a thing! And who's the girl, for goodness sake!"
May looked up at her with wet, red-rimmed eyes. "She's a little cousin of Myra Gail's," she said. "A young thing just graduated from school this month. She can't be more than 20. . . and Jim's 36; if he's a minute! Talk about cradle robbing. . ."

Gloria shook her head slowly. "But May," she said, "you never cared a snap of your finger about Jim. I've heard you say so a hundred times. It was always Jim who was wild about you."

"I know it," May answered. "But Jim's like all men. He wants to be respectable. He'd never marry me in a million years since this . . . this scandal about John's. . ."

She pressed her handkerchief hard against her lips for a moment. Then she went on bravely: "This girl can give Jim just what he wants. Respectability, a houseful of friends, youth. . . everything clean and new and shining. Perhaps he still does care for me, but he's too going to marry a scandal! He's too selfish to do a thing like that! He thinks too much of himself!"

She took off her black hat and tossed it down on the hall table. "You haven't any coffee on the stove, have you?" she asked. "I haven't had any breakfast."

"I haven't any, either," Gloria answered. "Come out into the kitchen. I won't promise to cook anything for you. But Dick left some coffee on the stove, and there's jelly and rolls."

She stopped and looked hard at May for a minute. "Well," she said, "I guess we're both out of luck, but dear Jim leaving Dick this morning. We've agreed to disagree. And I'm going back home to my people."

They stood there looking at each other with empty eyes. Neither had a word to say.

It flashed through Gloria's mind that they were like moths dancing around a light. They had flown too close to danger and had had their wings singed and broken. . .

But Stanley Wayburn and Jim Carewe were safe enough! One married, the other engaged to be married! They had escaped. Men always did.

It was the woman who took all the slurs, the snubs, and the pain. The man went scot-free from one love affair to another. . .

"Gloria," May said suddenly. "Let's get out of this town! Let's go away where nobody knows us, and start over again. . ."

But Gloria shook her head. "No," she said, "I tried that once. . . The time I went to New York. And I almost died from homesickness. I. . . I wanted Dick."

May stared at her. "Well, you poor little fish, why are you leaving him, then?" she asked. "If you care anything about him?"

"It's Dick who wants me to go," Gloria answered. "He. . . he's through with me."

"Oh, you're crazy," May answered. "You might tell that to some people, and get away with it! But I know Dick Gregory. . . and he's in love with you, and always has been!"

AFTER May had gone Gloria thought over what she had said. Was it possible that Dick still loved her?

No, May was wrong. Dick couldn't love here any more or he wouldn't let her go this way, would he?

All morning as she made the beds and washed the dishes Gloria listened tensely for the phone to ring. . . There was just a bare chance that Dick would call her from the

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And beside him was Susan Briggs

office to ask her not to go away from him.

But no, Susan Briggs was at the office. And Dick was completely under her sway. He was probably not even thinking about his wife at home. His wife, packing her trunks to leave his house forever!

Hadn't Dick said that Miss Briggs was the one person in the world who gave him sympathy and understanding? A man didn't talk that way about a woman unless he was in love with her, Gloria told herself dejectedly.

She locked her trunks and presently the expressman came for them. There was nothing more to do. Gloria lingered in the house that had been the House of Dreams for her and Dick. . .

House of Dreams? Heartbreak House was more like it! Gloria laid the key to the front door down on the hall table where Dick would be sure to find it. She picked up her little handbag and went out. The door closed behind her. It closed on a chapter of her life. . .

THE Sunday after Gloria's return to her father's house, Aunt Dorcas came to dinner. She brought Uncle Henry along with her. . . a small, silent man. He had been married to Aunt Dorcas for twenty-four years. And he showed it.

"I told you that Gloria had left her husband, didn't I, Henry?" Aunt Dorcas asked between bites of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.

Uncle Henry made a tired sound in his throat. "And a very good thing it was, too," Aunt Dorcas went on. "A very good thing!"

Gloria raised her eyes to her aunt's large, florid face. "Why is it a good thing for a woman to leave her husband?" she asked.

"That's not what I said," Aunt Dorcas answered, sharply. "But in your case it was. When a girl. . . a poor girl. . . marries the son of her parents, and they treat her as the Gregorys treated you, the best thing she can do is to clear out!"

Gloria looked down at her plate. "They've been very nice to me. . . both Father and Mother Gregory," she said. "They gave us the money for our honeymoon, you know. And Mother Gregory gave us the family silver for a wedding present."

Aunt Dorcas raised one hand like a traffic policeman. "A-ah!" she cried. "But that was for their son. . . What did they ever do for you?"

Did old Mrs. Gregory ever give a party to introduce you to all their

Puzzle a Day



One of the Woolworth heiresses was robbed of \$50,000 worth of jewels. The thief left the gems in New York and then traveled through the country shown on the map, until he finally landed in Buffalo, N. Y. The strangest thing about it was that although he passed through every city once, he did not travel over any one road more than once. For your convenience the towns between New York and Buffalo are numbered.

Can you trace the burglar's path? Last puzzle answer:

The father of Mr. Aldrich was 76 years old at the time of his son's birth (87 years—11 years). When Aldrich junior was 19 years old, Aldrich senior was 76 years older or 95, five times his son's age. Aldrich senior would have to have lived to the ripe old age of 114 years to be three times as old as his son, who would then be 38 years old (38 plus 76 years equals 114 years).

high-and-mighty friends? Not she! She left you right out in the cold, as far as I can see!"

Aunt Dorcas folded her hands on her magnificent chest, and looked around, daring anyone to deny what she had said.

No one did. The meal came to an end at last.

Gloria followed her father and Uncle Henry out on to the front porch, leaving her mother and aunt to clear away the dishes.

There were times when she couldn't stand Aunt Dorcas in large doses. . . Today was one of them.

SHE sat down on the front steps, and looked through the Sunday paper. Suddenly the photograph of a house in the advertising section caught her eye. It looked like their house. . . Dick's and hers. It was their house!

"Owner must sell," read the cutting beneath the picture. "Six-room house, with finished attic. Everything in good condition. Good terms if buyer takes furniture. Call Mr. Gregory, Consolidated Bldg."

So Dick was going to sell the furniture, too! Everything that had been theirs. . . the friendly yellow lamp in the living room, the cunning white kitchen table, the gold-colored Chinese rug that had laid like sunlight on the floor of the dining room.

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