

GLORIA

THE FLAPPER WIFE

May Seymour Advises Gloria to Get a Divorce from Dick.

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 own housework and hires a maid. Dick has to let the maid go. Gloria has a fling with a man named Stanley Wayburn. She becomes infatuated with an actor, Stanley Wayburn. When he leaves town she follows him to New York. He gets a job as a chorus girl and fails. Finally she comes home to Dick. He takes her back, but refuses to live with her as his wife. Gloria begins to suspect that he is in love with his secretary, SUSAN BRIGGS. Dick stays out late one night, and Gloria is sure he spent the evening with Miss Briggs. One afternoon, while Dick was at the home of DR. JOHN SEYMOUR, who had shot himself because of a love affair between his wife, MAY, and JIM CAREWE. The breach widens between Dick and Gloria. Gloria packs up and leaves him. Finally, one afternoon, while Dick was at the home of DR. JOHN SEYMOUR, who had shot himself because of a love affair between his wife, MAY, and JIM CAREWE. The breach widens between Dick and Gloria. Gloria packs up and leaves him. Finally, one afternoon, while Dick was at the home of DR. JOHN SEYMOUR, who had shot himself because of a love affair between his wife, MAY, and JIM CAREWE. The breach widens between Dick and Gloria. Gloria packs up and leaves him.

By Beatrice Burton
CHAPTER LX.
GLORIA stood at the window watching for May to drive up in her little crimson car. But she came in a taxicab. And the driver followed two large traveling bags.

The instant she set foot in the house, Gloria saw that there was some subtle change in her. She was not the crushed and fearful May of a week ago.

The air of dash and impudence that had been her chief charm had returned to her. She had reddened her lips, and around the collar of her soft black dress was a row of little pearls.

"Don't look so surprised," she said to Gloria as she sank into Dick's chair. "I told you 'way last week that I was going to shake the dust of Indianapolis from my shoes, didn't I?"

"Yes," Gloria nodded, "but I had no idea that you were going so soon..."

"Why should I stay here?" May asked. "There's nothing for me in this burg that I can see! Nothing but a lot of friends who've stopped speaking to me, and a story that I'll never be able to live down..."

"Where are you going?" Gloria asked.

May threw out her hands with a vague gesture. "New York, London... Paris... Bombay. You know," she asked, "Thank heaven, I have enough money to keep me going! Going, going... that's the only way for me to keep from losing my mind, I guess."

She stopped speaking, and stared out of the window, as if her eyes were filled with long distances already.

"Why don't you go with me, Gloria?" she asked suddenly. "That's what I came here to ask you... You know, you'll never go back to Dick now that you've actually left home, don't you?"

Gloria nodded, with a word. "Well, then," May went on, "tell him you want some money and come along with me. I'm going to stay at a hotel tonight, and take a car to the train in the morning. You could get ready to go by then, couldn't you?"

GLORIA looked at her thoughtfully. The idea tempted her. What was this dull town to her, now that she had lost Dick? For two pines... for two little rusty, bent pines... I'd go with you, May," she said slowly. "But somehow or other, I just can't do it."

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long as Dick's here... I've got to stay I guess... "What I can't understand," May answered, with a little frown on her face "is how Dick ever happened to let you pick up and leave him."

"Oh, I guess he just got tired of me," Gloria said with a break in her voice. "He wanted a home-keeping wife. And I wasn't one. I bored him."

"Bored him? Never! Not with that face of yours!" May exclaimed. "Oh, blah! Men get tired of nothing but a woman's looks," Gloria told her. "You can get them with your beauty. But you've got to hold them with something else..."

Brains, for one thing. And love and care. "Love and care! You talk about them as if they were babies!" May laughed.

"Well, and so they are! They're only grown-up children," Gloria went on, with that new wisdom of hers. "When life bangs them on the head, they want someone to rub the bump, and tell them not to mind."

"And they want their food right in the dot, poor things, just as baby does!" She stopped and shook a solemn forefinger at May.

"And you flip it from the Flapper, that the wife who wins is the one who mothers her man," she said. "I used to think that what Dick wanted was a playmate. And all of the time he wanted someone to take his troubles to... someone to mother him!"

May's red lip curled. "Don't kid yourself that you were ever Dick's playmate, dearie," she said sarcastically. "All the playing around you did was with Stan Wayburn, it seemed to me..."

GLORIA flushed. "I know it," she admitted. "I know I wasn't... anything to Dick. I just fell down on my job. No wonder he doesn't want me any more..."

She burst into tears. May looked at her thoughtfully. "Well, if you're sure Dick's through with you, what are you sticking around for?" she asked.

"Believe me, I'd go to see a lawyer so fast it would make your head swim!" "Go to see a lawyer?" Gloria echoed faintly. "What do you mean?"

"I mean... get a divorce," May answered. "What's the use of being tied to a man who doesn't care a snap of his fingers about you? You say Dick doesn't."

Gloria put her head on one side like a weebie. "Well, I don't know, May," she mused. "Divorce has always seemed a terrible thing to me..."

"No more terrible than the way you're living now!" May answered briskly. "You're neither married nor single!"

Gloria sighed. "I'm awfully lonely," she said sadly. May got up to go. "Oh, you make me sick!" she exclaimed. "If I could about a man I'll bet I'd make him care about me... or know the reason why! Why don't you go to Dick and tell him you're going to divorce him? That'll bring him 'round, fast enough!"

"Nothing will do that," Gloria answered. "I tell you he's through with me! I know Dick... when he says he's through he means it!"

She sat staring into space while May telephoned for a taxicab to take herself and her bags down to the hotel.

She drew a long breath of pure relief when May had gone, and she stood alone in the house once more... the dear, familiar house.

Gloria hated to leave it. She had told May it was "spooky." It was not "spooky"... except that it was haunted with memory. Gloria could almost feel Dick with her in the empty room.

She ran out into the back yard and picked a bouquet of roses. She put them in a vase on the table beside Dick's chair. She drew his little smoking stand up beside it. There was dust on it.

Gloria wiped it off with her clean handkerchief. "Where have you been all day?" her mother asked her when she walked into the hot little kitchen at 6 o'clock that night.

"Oh... I don't know. Gadding around town," Gloria answered. "I know I'm dead tired." She dropped down on a chair beside the kitchen table.

Her mother's voice roused her from her dream. "Oh, I forgot," she said in her slow, soft voice. "A letter came for you this afternoon while you were out. I guess it's from Dick."

(To Be Continued)

JOANNA says: Men that only women like usually are rotters. That goes too for women that only men like. Read Joanna's story starting in The Times Nov. 3.

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