

# GLORIA

## THE FLAPPER WIFE

Gloria Returns Dick's Money and Tells Him She Is Going to Work.

THE STORY SO FAR  
Gloria Gordon, beautiful flapper, married Dick Gregory, a struggling lawyer. She refused to do her own housework, and hired a maid. For Gloria has swamped him with debts for her clothes and a new automobile.  
She became infatuated with an actor, Stanley Wayburn, and follows him to New York. But he spins her. Then she tries to get a job as a chorus girl and fails. Discouraged, she comes home with a broken heart.  
Gloria begins to suspect that he is in love with his secretary, Susan Briggs. When he works late she accuses him of being out with Miss Briggs. And the breach between the two widens daily. Finally Gloria makes up her mind to be a good wife to Dick. She tries to get a job to keep the house clean. But she does a poor job. Then she insists that Dick should do the housework. When he refuses, she leaves him. She goes back to her father's home, and is very lonely and unhappy. One day she visits her own house and finds a shocking sight.  
That night when she goes home, her mother gives her a letter from Dick. In it is a check for \$50. Gloria decides that she won't take money from Dick. But she will go to work. She goes to the office with the money.  
(NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY)

By Beatrice Burton  
CHAPTER LXII

GLORIA turned then, and looked straight at Miss Briggs. "I want to talk to my husband. Will you please leave us alone?" she asked meekly.  
The secretary did not meet Gloria's eyes. But she walked slowly out of the office. The door closed behind her.  
Gloria opened her handbag and laid the check Dick had sent her, down upon his desk.  
"There's your money, I've brought it back to you," she said. "I don't want anything from you, Dick."  
She raised her questioning eyes to his face. "What was the big idea in sending it to me?" she asked.  
Under her eyes, Dick flushed darkly. Gloria could see that he was embarrassed.  
"I thought you understood that I was going to take care of you," he said. "I told you that if you lived with your folks, I'd see that you had plenty of money. . . . I'll send you \$50 every week, just as I said I would."

Gloria shook her head. "No, you won't," she contradicted, "because I shan't take it. I'm going back to work this morning. I'll earn my own money. . . . So you can keep yours to pay off some of the debts I piled up for you!"  
She couldn't resist saying that. The memory of Dick's sermons about debts was still a thorn in her flesh.  
"I'll send you a check for \$50 every week, just as I said I would," Dick repeated firmly. "So long as you're my wife, I'm going to support you. And I don't want you to work in some office with a lot of men."

Gloria interrupted him with a laugh. "I'm not your wife any more," she cried. "The law may say I am, and you may say so! But I'm not!"  
Her face was white, and hard with rebellion. "And another thing. . . . I'll work anywhere I please! And I'll take more than you to stop me!" she added.  
Dick was speechless. As he stood there looking at her, without a word to say, she began to cry.

TEARS reddened her eyes and coursed down through the rouage that was thick on her cheeks. Her mouth trembled.  
"Dick," she began huskily, "I've been so lonesome. And to work in some office with a lot of men. . . . She held out her hands to show him the burns and cuts on them.  
"See, I've been trying to cook," she sobbed. "Dick please let me go home again. . . . I can't stand being away from you. I can't stand it!"  
Her voice rose on a high note of hysteria.  
"Sssh!" Dick hissed, frowning. "Be careful or Miss Briggs will hear you! Hush!"  
Gloria sank down on the floor and laid her head on the seat of Dick's swivel chair. "What do I care if she hears me or not?" she said thickly. "All I care about is getting home, again!"  
"Please, please don't treat me like this," she sobbed.

Dick lifted her to her feet. "For Lord's sake, get up!" he said sharply. "And don't come here again, until you can control yourself, Gloria! . . . What are you trying to do? Put on a one-act play for Miss Briggs' benefit?"  
His sharpness brought Gloria to her senses. She stood up and dried her eyes.  
"All you think about is Miss Briggs, isn't it?" she asked, choking. "And what is she, anyway? Nothing but a little old maid! I wouldn't care so much if I'd lost you to a ravine, tearing beauty. . . ."  
Her voice broke again.

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SHE almost ran out of the office.  
The women's dressing-room was on the floor below. Gloria hurried down to it.  
Two pretty office girls were there, chatting as they combed out their fluffy bobbed hair, as they rouged their lips. . . . preparing for the morning's labor.

They looked at Gloria's tearstained face curiously, as she came in. She bathed her red eyes and hot cheeks with icy water. Then she carefully powdered her face, added a touch of color to her cheeks.  
In the mirror she could see the two girls looking at the expensive bead bag and gold vanity case she had laid on the marble shelf below the mirror.  
"Don't envy me," she wanted to say to them. "I'm just a working girl like you are. Only I'm out of a job."

Out in the street the sun was high, and shinning with a white, blistering glare. It was 10 o'clock.  
The army of office girls had disappeared from the street. . . . and those other workers. . . . the home women, were abroad in their crisp wash dresses and white shoes.  
"I was one of them once," Gloria thought regretfully. "But I didn't know my luck when I had it!"  
She was furious with herself for going to Dick's office.

"I suppose it tickled Briggs to death when I came out, crying," she said to herself between clenched teeth.  
Then, with her chin up and her head held high, she went into the real estate office of Forbes, Forgan & Fargo.  
She found her knees trembling, and her breath coming fast with nervousness as she followed an office boy into the presence of Ulysses X. Forgan.  
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HE was a man growing elderly. Rather sparse brown hair streaked with gray, two hard brown eyes with wrinkles under them, a high nose, and a mouth like the slot in a gum machine. . . . that was Ulysses X. Forgan.  
He had a mind like an adding-machine. He seldom thought of anything but figures. They were to him what talk and laughter were to other men.  
The one quality he had that made him human was his love of beauty. . . . He loved it in the impersonal way that the Greeks worshiped it.  
And Gloria with her amber eyes, and tremulous mouth was beautiful that morning. Ulysses X. Forgan looked at her as he might have looked at a painting in a museum.

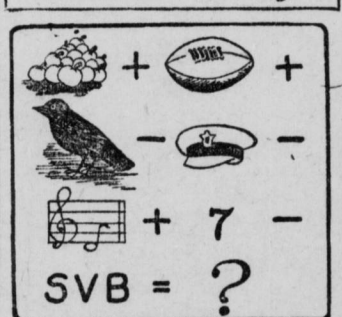
"He hired her. 'Worth looking at even if she can't typewrite,' he said to himself. 'And she probably can't. The good-looking are all dumbbells.'"  
But as the days went by, he realized that Gloria knew her business. And she began to study him. She would slip just the paper he happened to be looking for under his nose just when he wanted it.

"I may have been a failure as a wife," she told herself Saturday, when she took her pay envelope from the cashier, "but I've always been a crackjack business woman! . . . Maybe it's the thing I was cut out for, after all!"  
She had a vision of herself in the coming years, growing large and sharp-eyed and efficient. . . . a successful business woman with nothing to live for but a job!

It was a gray and dreary outlook. . . .  
When she went home that afternoon she took a leisurely bath and curled up on her bed for a nap. It was 6 o'clock when she awoke.  
Her hair was damp with perspiration and it curled around her ears and forehead. Her cheeks were flushed and her eyes were starry as a baby's when it awakens from its afternoon sleep.  
She looked in the glass. . . . No, she wasn't the type of woman to be unmarried, to live alone. She was too beautiful for that.  
. . . Down in the kitchen she could hear her mother at work, getting supper. She dressed herself in aingham house frock and went down to help her with the meal.

GLORIA filed the cold veal loaf and quartered lemons for the pitcher of iced tea. She made a plateful of lettuce sandwiches. "Thank goodness we aren't having anything hot to eat," she said cheerfully to her mother. "It's sweetening, isn't it? . . . Look at those sandwiches! I'm getting to be some housewife, eh what?"  
She laughed brightly. But her thoughts were anything but cheerful. . . .  
This was Saturday night. Carnival for everybody! . . . The end of the

## Puzzle a Day



Here is a pictorial problem. To solve this puzzle simply add and subtract the articles in the order they are shown in the illustration. When you have finished you should not have a numerical sum, but a sum of letters, which should spell a seasonable name.  
Can you discover the answer?  
Last puzzle answer:  
Seventy-two can be divided into four parts: from the first two can be subtracted (18 minus 2 equals 16); to the second two can be added (14 plus 2 equals 16); the third can be divided by two (31 divided by 2 equals 15); the fourth can be multiplied by two (8 times 2 equals 16); in each case the answer is the same; or you can add two to the last part (8 plus 2 equals 10) getting the number of manufacturers turning out the greater part of the cars (18 plus 14 plus 32 plus 8 equals 72).

long week's work. . . .  
All over America girls were waving their hair, and dressing themselves in their best bib and tucker to go out "stepping." Wives were hurrying with the supper dishes, so that they might not make their families late for the "movies."  
Everybody, everywhere, had something special to do.

"Everybody but me," Gloria said to herself, as she sat out in the porch swing, after supper.  
She stared out into the gathering dusk. The stars were coming out, like polished pin points in the sky above the tree tops.  
A Ford car drove up before the house next door, and a man jumped out and ran up the steps. Gloria heard a screen door slam. . . .  
Presently he came out again, with the girl who lived there. . . . little Peggy Quin.

"My stars! She can't be more than 16. . . . and having a beau already!" Gloria exclaimed to herself. "But then, that's not so bad, when I'm only 21, and married and—"  
She stopped suddenly. She had almost said "divorced."

With a pang of loneliness, she listened to Peggy Quin's gay voice, as she climbed into the little car and took her seat there. It chugged away down the street. . . .  
Then her mother and father came out of the house. They were going out to do their regular Saturday night marketing.  
"Better come along," Mr. Gordon advised her. "We'll probably wind up at a movie. We must always do." But Gloria shook her head. "No."

JOANNA says: Any woman knows what another woman thinks about a man. Read Joanna's story, starting in The Times Nov. 3.

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\$1.99 and \$2.99

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thanks, darlings," she said, "I'm too comfortable to move. . . .  
SHE watched them go down the street together. What children they were, starting off on their innocent spree! . . . After all, it wasn't what you did that made life interesting. It was the people with whom you did them, who counted!

Her mother and father. . . . they were happy because they had each other.  
Inside the dark house, the telephone rang.  
Gloria quivered. Who could it be? Dick, perhaps? . . . But no, it was only Aunt Dorcas, very likely, or Cousin Lulu.

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THE SHOE MARKET  
109-111 S. Illinois St. NOW TWO STORES 346-48-50 W. Washington St.

"Hello," she said languidly, into the receiver.  
A man's crisp voice answered her. "Miss Gordon?" It asked.  
(To Be Continued)

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