

NOBODY'S GIRL

STANNE AUSTIN author of the PENNY PRINCESS COPYRIGHT 1928 BY NEA SERVICE

THE SUMMER she is 16, SALLY FORD is "farmed out" to CLEM CARSON, prosperous farmer. She leaves the State orphanage, the only home she has known since she was four. At Clem's farm, Sally finds a friend in DAVID NASH, athlete and student of farming, who is working on the Carson farm. David plainly prefers Sally to Clem's daughter, Pearl. This annoys both Pearl and Clem. When Carson makes insulting remarks about Sally, David sends him crashing to the ground. David and Sally run away and come upon a carnival train. Sally finds in the carnival troupe EDDIE COBB, former inmate of the Orphan Home. Eddie tells WINFIELD BYBEE, manager of the carnival, of their night and a place made for them. David is put in the cook's car and Sally becomes "Princess Lalla," Turkish crystal gazer. The midget, "PITTY SING," asks Sally to carry her to the car for supper and she trips along with the little woman, she catches sight of the headlines on the midget's newspaper, the story of David's fight with Carson is told in big headlines. Sally runs to show David the headline that he is being published. He leaves the kitchen she runs into Winfield Bybee and his wife. They ask her to join them at supper. Sally tells Mrs. Bybee all she knows about her mother and that she lived at one time in Stanton, the town they are now in. Mrs. Bybee agrees to go scouting the next morning to see what she can learn. NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER XVII
HOURS more of "crystal-gazing," of giving lavish promises of "long journeys," success, wealth, sweethearts, husbands, wives, bumper cars and wheat crops, babies—until 11 o'clock and the merciful dwindling of the carnival crowds permitted a weary little "Princess Lalla" to slip out of the "Palace of Wonders" tent. Pitty Sing, the midget woman, crawled in her arms like a baby. For Pitty Sing had promptly adopted Sally as her human sedan chair, uncompromisingly dismissing black-eyed Nita, the "Hula-Hula" dancer, who had previously performed that service for her. "I don't like Nita a bit," the tiny treble voice informed Sally with

That Stomach of Yours!



Perry's Studio

Mrs. Ina Waldschmidt
"I was terribly rundown in health. I had indigestion and gastric stomach trouble. My food did not digest, would just seem to lie in a lump, gas would form, causing distress. I was anemic, grew thin and pale and weak—had no strength nor ambition. I took medicine but got no better. My druggist advised me to take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and it helped to make good red blood, relieved me of indigestion and stomach trouble and I have had no trouble from these ailments since."—Mrs. Ina Waldschmidt, 439 Poplar St., Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Many druggists advise the use of "Golden Medical Discovery" in either liquid or tablet form, because it is reliable. Write Dr. Pierce, President Invalids' Hotel in Buffalo, N. Y., and send 10c for trial pkg. of Discovery tablets.—Advertisement.



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Hobart C. Walton, 501 Summer St., Hammond, Ind., says: "My kidneys seemed sluggish and the eliminations were irregular and painful. I had headaches and dizzy spells, too. My back felt lame and stiff and I was tired all the time. I was told about Doan's Pills and decided to try them. They made me feel fine again and I am glad to recommend them."

Mrs. J. W. Robbins, 425 S. 15th St., Terre Haute, Ind., says: "There was a soreness across my kidneys and sharp pains seized me when I stooped. Headaches were a daily occurrence, I had a tired feeling and was annoyed by dizzy spells. Sometimes I had to give up my work. Doan's Pills helped me in fine shape and I have been well since."

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great definiteness. "I do like you, and I shall compensate you generously for your services. Nita has no proper respect for me, though I command—and I say it without boasting. I hope—twice the salary that that indecent muscle-dancer does. And she always joggled me," the midget added aggrievedly. "Poor Pitty Sing!" Sally soothed her, as she picked her way carefully over the grass stubble to the big dress ten which also served as sleeping quarters for the women performers of the "Palace of Wonders." "Haven't you anyone to look after you?" Anyone belonging to you, I mean?" "Why should I have?" the indignant little piping voice demanded from Sally's shoulder. "I'm a woman grown, as I've reminded you before. I've been paying Nita five dollars a week to carry me to and from the show tent for each performance. Of course there are a few other little things she does for me, but if you'd like to have the position I think we would get along very nicely."

"Oh, I'm sure of it!" Sally exclaimed, laying her cheek for an instant against the flaxen, marcelled hair of the girl. "Thank you, Pitty Sing, thank you with all my heart!" "Please don't call me 'Pitty Sing,'" the little voice commanded tartly. "The name does very well for exhibition purposes, but my name is Miss Tanner—Elizabeth—Matilda Tanner."

"Oh, I'm sorry!" Sally protested, hurt and abashed. "I didn't mean—"

"But you may call me Betty," the treble was suddenly sweet and sleepy like a child's. One of the miniature hands fluttered out inadequately to help Sally part the flags of the dress tent, which was deserted except for the fat girl, already asleep and snoring stertorously. Sally knelt to enable the midget to stand on the beaten down stubble which served as the only carpet of Sally's new "dormitory."

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steepled and kissed the little faded, wrinkled cheek and set about the difficult and unaccustomed task of removing her make-up. Beside her cot bed she found a small tin steamer trunk, stenciled in red paint with the magic name, "Princess Lalla." She started at it incredulously for long minutes, then untwisted the wire holding duplicate keys.

When she threw back the lid she found a shiny black tin make-up box, containing the burnt-sienna powder Mrs. Bybee had used in making her up for the first day of her performances; a big can of theatrical cold cream; squares of soft cheese-cloth for removing make-up; two new towels; mascara, lip rouge, white face powder, a utilitarian black comb and brush; tooth paste and tooth brush.

"Oh, these kind people!" she whispered to herself, and bent her head upon the make-up box and wept grateful tears. Then, smiling at herself and humming a little tune below her breath, she lifted the tray and found—not the tell-tale dresses which Pearl Carson had given her and which had been minutely described by the police in the newspaper account of the near-tragedy on the Carson farm—but two new dresses, cheap but pretty, the little paper ticket stiched into the neck of each showing the size to be correct—14.

She was still kneeling before her trunk, blinded with tears of gratitude, when a coarse, nasal voice slashed across the dress tent:

"Well, strike me dumb, if it ain't that little Nita!"

"Thank you, Betty," Sally interrupted gently, as she knelt beside the midget to help her with the lid of the trunk. "But David isn't my friend, you know. He's—he's just a friend who helped me out when I was in terrible trouble. If Nita likes David, and—likes her—"

"Don't be absurd!" the midget scolded her, setting herself on a tiny stool to take off her baby-size shoes and stockings. "Of course you're in love with him, and he's crazy about you—a blind person could see that. Will you untie this shoe-lace, please? My nightgown is in the tray of the trunk, and you'll find a nightcap there, too. I wear it," she explained severely, on the defensive against ridicule, "to protect my marcel. Heaven knows it's hard enough to get a good curl in these hick towns, and the rubes gape at me wherever I go. Then please get my basket—a little green leather book. I'm reading 'Hedda Gabler' now. Have you read it?"

"Oh, yes," Sally cried, delightedly. "Do you like to read? Could I borrow it to read between shows? I'll take awfully good care of it—"

"Certainly I read!" Miss Tanner informed her severely, climbing with Sally's help into her low cot-bed. "My father, who had these little books made especially for me, was a university professor. I have completed the college course, under his tutelage. If I had not died I should not be here," and her little eyes were suddenly bright with loveliness and resentment against the whimsy of a Providence that elected to make her so different from other women.

Sally found the miniature book, small enough to fit the midget's hand, and gave it to her, then

out, as Nita swung into the tent, her grass skirts swishing like the hiss of snakes. "Furthermore, you're Pop Bybee's blue-eyed baby girl! And—you're the baby-faced little she-devil that stole my graft with that little midget! Well, Princess Lalla, I guess we've been introduced proper now, and we can skip formalities and get down to business. Huh?" And she bent menacingly over Sally, evil black eyes glittering into wide, frightened blue ones, her mouth an ugly, twisting, red loop of hatred.

Sally backed away, instinctively, from the snake-tongues of venom in those black eyes. "I'm sorry I've offended you, Miss—Nita—"

"If you're not you will be! Want me to tip off the police? Well, then, if you don't, listen, because I want you to get this—and get it good, all of it!"

(To Be Continued)

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"I took medicine, but didn't seem to get any better. My mother told me to try Black-Draught, which I did, and after a few doses I felt much better. Now I take it as soon as I feel the least bad, and don't get down. I certainly can say that it has done more for me than any other medicine I have ever taken."

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