

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

—By Ahern

OUT OUR WAY

—By Williams

The MELODY GIRL

by RUTH DEWEY GROVES

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CHAPTER FORTY-SIX

BERYL started with surprise, spilling a few drops of the chocolate on her party dress. The accident did not distress her. Beryl felt she would be glad when all the things the Velvet Girl had bought were gone. They reminded Beryl too painfully of past glories.

Her nervousness was a different matter. She was distressed over it, for it was growing so noticeable that people were beginning to comment. Beryl felt she could not stand the prying eyes that followed her.

Tommy hadn't seemed to notice. He was too startled at the peremptory summons.

Beryl went to answer the doorbell and her hand shook visibly when she took the telegram that was delivered to her by a young man who said he'd wait to see if there might be an answer.

Beryl asked him to come in out of the bitter wind that was howling across the porch. The telegram was for her mother.

It would be from Irene, of course, and in all probability it was a commonplace message, but who could receive a wire in the middle of a stormy night and not have premonitions of evil?

Beryl told herself she was silly to feel this way about it. Nevertheless she was reluctant to take the message to her mother who was calling down the stairs to know what the matter was.

"It's a telegram," Beryl said and handed the envelope over unopened. Her mother, leaning down the stairs, took it eagerly.

Beryl went up the few remaining steps and waited. Her mother had good eyes and it was not necessary for her to put on glasses before she could read the message.

She was not filled with foreboding, as was Beryl, but neither was she on the verge of nervous prostration.

Besides she had reason to suppose the telegram might be the fulfillment of her greatest wish—word of Irene's reconciliation with Gaylord.

She read it hastily. Suddenly Mrs. Everett shrieked.

Every one came running, even to the messenger boy. Beryl caught her mother in her arms as she collapsed, but she could not have supported her for long had not Mrs. Everett come to her aid.

Tommy halted near the head of the stairs, just behind the messenger boy, and stood waiting until Mr. Everett and Beryl had got the woman into her room.

"Gee, do you suppose somebody's dead?" the messenger boy whispered. "I knew it was bad news—I was told to wait for an answer but, gee, I hate deliverin' them death notices!"

TOMMY did not answer. Presently Beryl reappeared to pick up the telegram. Her mother's outcries had not made clear what news it contained. Beryl read the message aloud to Tommy, and then she wanted to laugh.

The impulse horrified her. How could she laugh when her sister was hurt?

"Beryl, don't!" Tommy said sharply. He could not stand the sounds of her crying—crying that was prompted by a desire to laugh. To Tommy who never had witnessed real hysteria—only Irene's raging imitation of it—this was a horrible thing.

"They sometimes give 'em a good slap," the messenger boy advised him, but Tommy was deaf to such advice.

He took Beryl by the arms and shook her—not because he thought it was the best thing to do but because he wanted to make her listen to him. His action was instinctive, the force it is natural to exert in a moment of desperation.

It quieted Beryl. After a minute or two she said, gasping, "I'm sorry. Get me a glass of water."

Tommy got the water. Beryl drank it in sips, as though her throat were choked.

"You nearly scared me to death," Tommy told her. "What made you do that?"

Beryl bit her tongue to keep from laughing again.

FINALLY, the messenger boy remained that he was waiting for an answer, and Beryl, with Tommy's help, composed one which they addressed to Irene at the hos-

HORIZONTAL

1 Kentucky

2 Church

3 Price.

11 Documents.

13 Discussed.

15 To conciliate.

17 Stranger.

18 The Greek "H."

20 Flower leaf.

21 Elk.

22 Trap.

24 Chest bones.

25 Urgent.

27 Longfellow

was a famous

28 Told.

31 To join again.

33 Muscle.

38 Common-

place.

39 Visage.

41 Weird.

43 Prophet.

VERTICAL

1 — in the lion's cage?

2 Church off-

3 A knife.

4 Honey

5 Primped.

6 Queerer.

7 Bird of the night.

8 More fastidious.

9 Radio howls.

10 Valley.

12 To pierce.

14 Desert train.

15 Damp.

16 Age.

17 Gaze.

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