

# GUILET Y LIPS

Author of "MAD MARRIAGE"  
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by LAURA LOU BROOKMAN

BEGIN HERE TODAY

Pretty NORMA KELLY, 20-year-old secretary in a law office, marries MARK TRAVERS, son of F. M. TRAVERS, 50, a wealthy man. It is the day after the father has sworn to cut Mark out of his penny if the marriage takes place.

Norman has known Mark only a few weeks and does not know his mother's courtship that he was a millionaire's son.

The story opens in Marlboro, middle western metropolis. CHRISTIAN SANDBERG, a young man, has an apartment with his boy friend, BURLY HART, Chris' employer. They are witnesses at the wedding.

Before this, Norma has refused to marry BURLY HART, young lawyer of the town. It is for this reason that Mark sells his expensive roadster to get Norma. He and his boy friend, and Norma go to the fashionable Blue Room where the young man takes delight in many of the most expensive luxuries.

On the afternoon of the wedding, Mark introduces Norma to HOLLIS STONE, an old friend. It is evident from the girl's discomposure that she is not too fond of him. She excuses herself and goes to her room. Mark believes Norma is ill.

She is not ill, but she is suspense and mystery, but when she sees Stone again he is perfectly normal and makes no mention of their previous acquaintance.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN (Continued)

PERHAPS the girl was envious because Halloran and the other golfers had kept Mark from her for two entire half days. At any rate, as the luncheon progressed, she decided she did not like Clint Halloran.

Mark, on the contrary, seemed to find him most companionable. Halloran knew friends of Mark's, had been at school with Ted Patterson, who, said Mark, was his closest friend. It was clear that Mark never had heard Patterson's name mentioned before.

The two men left golf to talk of other individuals who were unknown to her. As they talked, even Mark seemed almost a stranger. He was discussing school pranks, sporting events, places and people who meant nothing to Norma.

They were all familiar enough to Clint Halloran. Both men laughed frequently. Oh, they were having a great time!

Their table was the one Mark and Norma favored regularly—at the side of the dining room, near the right wall. Sunlight and air reached them from south as well as east windows. Mark's chair stood so that his back was toward the center of the room.

A shadow hovered over the table for an instant. Norma raised her eyes.

"Oh, of course." But what is she going to think about me?" she was wondering.

MARK told her how excited his mother had been over Alicia's marriage two years before. Alicia lived abroad and her husband boasted a title. He was Count Jules de Lautrec, a Frenchman.

The count and countess lived in a historic chateau where the plumbing and heating equipment were almost as antique and uncomfortable as the much-admired furnishings. Alicia was two years older than Mark.

"That's another thing that burns me up!" he grumbled. "When a girl's flat broke he's got to celebrate, hasn't he?"

Norma had found her voice.

"Mark—here, sit down. You're tired. It's so late."

He would not take the chair she thrust toward him. Instead he started across the room. There was a slight unsteadiness in his gait. Suddenly he turned, straightened.

"Who's going to stop me from taking a drink if I want to?" he demanded. "What'd you expect me to do when the money was gone?"

Mark wanted to know.

The girl's lids fluttered faintly. "Mr. Stone," she said. "He's just come in to lunch."

Halloran turned his head. "Stone?" he repeated, "Don't believe I've met him."

"He's from Marlboro," Mark explained. "Hollis Stone. Relative of mine in a way, but we don't see much of him. What was that you were saying about Aguia Callente?"

Norma did not hear the rest. Was Hollis Stone keeping a watch over everything she did? Until the end of the meal she was preoccupied.

After Halloran left them, Mark and Norma went outside to linger in the lazy afternoon sun. It was the hour when the inn was at its quietest. Those with plans for an active afternoon had disappeared. Others were reading or resting.

Norma's discordant mood vanished. With Mark beside her everything was as it should be.

"Feel like strolling over town?" he asked. "There's nothing to do around here."

Norma agreed. As she swung into step beside him she said, "You know, Mark, we've been married almost two weeks and you haven't really told me about your family."

"Those people we were talking about to Mr. Halloran were all strangers to me. All I know is that you have a mother and father and a sister."

"Well, you married me—not the family. Oh, they're all right as families go, I suppose! What is there to tell you about 'em?"

"Tell me about your mother."

Three fine creases appeared between Mark's eyes. "I thought I'd have a letter from her by this time," he admitted. "Can't understand why."

"You don't mind, darling?" he inquired as an afterthought.

"Not in the least."

How she did mind later, alone, she looked out on the moon-drenched lawn and heard the melancholy, sighing wind! She was in their rooms. Too proud to let others know she was spending the evening

alone.

She tried to question him about this, found him impatient, even cross.

Thursday night they did not join the dancers after dinner. Mark had been on the links with Halloran all afternoon. He said something about a "little game with the boys."

"You don't mind, darling?" he inquired as an afterthought.

"Not in the least."

How she did mind later, alone, she looked out on the moon-drenched lawn and heard the melancholy, sighing wind! She was in their rooms. Too proud to let others know she was spending the evening

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She could not keep the tears back. They had started suddenly without her meaning in the least to give way.

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