

LEAP YEAR BRIDE

BEGIN HERE TODAY
CHERRY DIXON, 18 and pretty, falls in love with DAN PHILLIPS, newspaper reporter. Dan's parents have forbidden her to see him. When Cherry learns Dan is a newspaper reporter, she runs from home. Her father discovers this and threatens to send Dan away. Cherry defies him and he orders her to leave.

She goes to Dan, tells him what has happened. A justice of peace performs the ceremony of marriage that night in an apartment, but Dan is discouraged to find them so expensive. Dan works late one night on a tip that "TONY" is in town. "I'm a gangster," is coming to Wellington.

Cherry unconsciously gives Dan news to the newspaper. The other paper gets the story and Dan's boss threatens, "One more slip and you're out."

DIXIE SHANON, movie critic, helps Cherry find an inexpensive apartment. She goes to Dan, tells him what has happened. A justice of peace performs the ceremony of marriage that night in an apartment, but Dan is discouraged to find them so expensive. Dan works late one night on a tip that "TONY" is in town. "I'm a gangster," is coming to Wellington.

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NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN
CHERRY'S laugh was not as convincing as it should have been. She could feel the hot color in her cheeks.

She said, "How do you do, Mr. Pearson. I've heard Dan speak of you." Lowered lashes covered her confusion.

"I'm glad to know you," Pearson said. "Great boy, Dan. But of course you know that. He's to be highly congratulated."

"Isn't he?" Dixie chimed in gaily. "Too bad you missed the party, Max. We had a real celebration the night of the wedding. You should have heard Beach and Pat Warner warbling. 'Oh, Promise Me!'"

Dixie's chatter relieved the tension. When Cherry looked at Pearson again, she wondered what could have made her imagine there was anything unusual about him, anything at all except the pleasant manner of an extremely good-looking young man.

Why hadn't Dan told her Pearson was so handsome? He was as tall as Dan, more solidly built, though not an ounce of that weight seemed superfluous.

Cherry admired the way he carried his shoulders, too. Straight as a soldier. She remembered Dan had said Pearson was an ardent pacifist and thought it amusing that she should have considered him solidly.

She glanced at him again. It was the dark eyes with their flashing brilliancy as he talked that gave so much distinction to his face.

The other features were well modeled, particularly the chin which was rounded, yet forceful. His hair, beneath his hat brim, looked almost black.

Pearson was saying to Dixie: "Well, I see another of your Hollywood friends has slipped off the marital shackles."

"Marital shackles? What a way to take when Cherry here is a bride!"

"Oh, excuse me." He turned to the other girl. "But of course the Hollywood variety of marriage does seem a little different than—er—those that are made in heaven."

Was he laughing at her? Cherry could not tell. Dixie went on confiding gossip about the film star's divorce and the marriage to follow as soon as legal obstacles had been cleared away.

"Have you ever paid this place a visit before?" Pearson asked Cherry as they turned in before the impressive stone entrance of the New Building.

"No, I haven't." Before she could say more she felt a hand on her arm and turned.

"Dan!" Cherry exclaimed.

He stood before them, smiling. "Hello, folks. I see that my wife's in good company. Thought it was you ahead of me, Cherry, but I couldn't be sure. What have you been doing all day?"

PEARSON excused himself and disappeared. Dixie and Cherry together told Dan about the apartment from which they had just come, about terms and arrangements that could be made with the present tenants.

"Well, if you like it so much, honey, why didn't you take it? You're the one to be satisfied."

Cherry insisted Dan should see the place also. The discussion ended with another telephone call to Mrs. Clark. That evening Cherry and Dan climbed the long flight of stairs together and knocked at the Clarks' door.

When they departed half an hour later, a deposit on the first \$50 rent had been paid and it was

agreed the new tenants should move in Monday morning.

For the next three days Cherry was unusually busy. She set forth on her career as a housewife by investing in two huge and impressive cook books, a smaller volume which she found on the same counter in the book store entitled, "The Budget Book or How to Operate a Home Economically" and a becoming pink and white apron.

There was packing to do and though it was only her own clothing and Dan's, it was an enormous task. It was not finished until Sunday, when Dan came to her rescue and by the simple process of tossing everything in sight into two large suitcases, sitting on them and thus forcing the edges together so the buckles could be cinched, the packing was completed.

They stood together on the threshold of the room, they were about to desert. It was littered with papers, discarded odds and ends, and looked dinger and uglier than ever.

"Somehow I hate to go," Cherry said regretfully. "We've been so happy here."

"If you think I'd unpack all that junk—" She laughed. "Oh, of course, I don't mean it. Not really. The new place is going to be ever so much nicer. Only I'll always remember this room, Dan."

He drew his arm close about her, kissed her. "The cab will be waiting," he said. "We'd better go down."

Cherry's trunk had been sent ahead to the new address. The rest of the baggage was stowed into the taxicab beside Cherry and Dan. It seemed a short ride to their new dwelling.

The janitor answered Dan's ring and helped carry the bulky suitcases up the stairs. Then, as soon as the new tenants had received their keys he departed.

Dan said, "Sorry I can't wait to help unpack, dear. See you to-night."

"5:30?"

"As nearly as I can make it. Bye."

THE door closed after him. Cherry stood in the middle of the floor and surveyed her new home. Oh, it was going to be lovely here! It was so much nicer than she had remembered. The worn furniture, the cheap, makeshift decorations took on new attractiveness because she thought of them as her own.

The day dreaming ended abruptly as Cherry remembered that there was much to be done. She took off her hat and coat, inspected the single clothes closet and hung them away, bringing up her trunk.

When it arrived, Cherry persuaded the janitor to linger and help her get the bulky suitcases open. He was amiable and asked if there was anything else with which she needed help.

Cherry said no and the man left. Somehow the baggage seemed to fill the entire room. It wasn't as large a room as she had thought.

Where and how to begin?

There didn't seem to be much choice. Cherry remembered the pink apron, got it out and tied it around her waist. Then she pushed up her sleeves and set to work.

She forgot time in her eagerness to put the new home to rights. At last she straightened from the suitcase over which she had been bending.

Her back ached and she rubbed it. Cherry looked at the watch on her wrist.

Almost 2 o'clock! Good gracious, it was so late as that? She realized she was tired and sank into a chair with a sigh. She had been working steadily since early morning. Dan's things had all been unpacked and put away. Most of her own hung in the closet.

"I'm hungry," Cherry thought, "and there's nothing to eat."

She arose and went to the kitchen. Praise be! There on the shelf of plates was a small tin box

11 Nut. 13 Streamlet. 14 Dreads. 15 Oppressive. 17 Meadow. 19 Absurdly. 20 Colorless aromatic liquid. 21 Males. 24 Alleged force. 25 Ludicrous. 26 To harden. 29 Outward appearance. 31 Harmony. 33 Tree. 36 XI. 37 Surfeited. 39 Chest bone. 40 To depart. 42 Constellation. 43 Monetary unit of Turkey. 45 Saucy. 50 To affirm. 51 To peel. 52 Bird. 53 War fyer. 54 Devoured. 57 To exist. 58 To piece out. 59 You and me. 60 Preposition. 61 Observed. 63 Tree. 65 To lay a street. 67 Region. 68 Bow-shaped. 69 Huge U. S. 70 Airship. 71 Declamation. 72 Rearing.

12 React. 14 React. 16 Bleat. 18 Dab. 20 Sued. 22 Sure. 24 Fish. 26 Geera. 28 Seas. 30 Coda. 32 Hit. 34 Tapes. 36 Olla. 38 Rant. 40 Opal. 42 Tease. 44 Error. 46 Sexto. 48 Declamation.

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14 President of France who succeeded Paul Doumer. 15 Opposite of poetry. 16 Accomplice. 17 Eye. 18 Bad. 19 Edge of a roof. 20 Writing fluid. 21 Wing. 22 Standard type. 23 Measure. 24 Beer. 25 Data. 26 Unit. 27 Regrets exceedingly. 28 Minor note. 29 Queer. 30 Declared by legal proceed- ings. 31 Let it stand. 32 Balance. 33 Scarfs. 34 Rearing.

15 Grease. 17 Loath. 19 Alms. 21 Fast. 23 Vices. 25 Fish. 27 Is. 29 Fish. 31 Fish. 33 Fish. 35 Fish. 37 Fish. 39 Fish. 41 Fish. 43 Fish. 45 Fish. 47 Fish. 49 Fish. 51 Fish. 53 Fish. 55 Fish. 57 Fish. 59 Fish. 61 Fish. 63 Fish. 65 Fish. 67 Fish. 69 Fish. 71 Fish. 73 Fish. 75 Fish. 77 Fish. 79 Fish. 81 Fish. 83 Fish. 85 Fish. 87 Fish. 89 Fish. 91 Fish. 93 Fish. 95 Fish. 97 Fish. 99 Fish. 101 Fish. 103 Fish. 105 Fish. 107 Fish. 109 Fish. 111 Fish. 113 Fish. 115 Fish. 117 Fish. 119 Fish. 121 Fish. 123 Fish. 125 Fish. 127 Fish. 129 Fish. 131 Fish. 133 Fish. 135 Fish. 137 Fish. 139 Fish. 141 Fish. 143 Fish. 145 Fish. 147 Fish. 149 Fish. 151 Fish. 153 Fish. 155 Fish. 157 Fish. 159 Fish. 161 Fish. 163 Fish. 165 Fish. 167 Fish. 169 Fish. 171 Fish. 173 Fish. 175 Fish. 177 Fish. 179 Fish. 181 Fish. 183 Fish. 185 Fish. 187 Fish. 189 Fish. 191 Fish. 193 Fish. 195 Fish. 197 Fish. 199 Fish. 201 Fish. 203 Fish. 205 Fish. 207 Fish. 209 Fish. 211 Fish. 213 Fish. 215 Fish. 217 Fish. 219 Fish. 221 Fish. 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