

LEAP YEAR BRIDE

Carrie Lou
BROOKMAN
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BEGIN HERE TODAY
CHERRY DIXON, prettily dressed, falls in love with DAN PHILLIPS, newspaper reporter. She guards him with her life, and when Dan leaves home and takes advantage of Leap Year, asks Dan to marry her.

They are married and for the first time Cherry finds out what it means to be a housewife. The struggles with housework are discouraging.

DIXIE SHANNON, movie critic of the newspaper, comes to the rescue. She meets handsome MAX PEARSON, who also works on the news.

Cherry receives a letter from her mother, including a check for \$500. She returns the check because pride is not in her heart. Dan is asked to take a walk and write a short story, becomes discouraged and writes it.

Two days later, Cherry learns her mother is critically ill. She goes home. After a terrifying wait, Cherry's ready to see the doctor.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE (Continued)

For Cherry it was the beginning of a vigil that seemed endless. She sat amid surroundings that had once been as familiar as her own features in the mirror.

The room was done in rose and blue. The ivory-tinted furniture. That window looking out over the garden. This carpet, soft as down beneath her feet. All of it was exactly as it had been and yet everything was different.

"I'm to blame," the girl told herself bitterly. "It's my fault. If mother dies, I'm the one who'll be responsible."

The tears would not come now. Cherry sat immobile as a statue. Once when she heard footsteps in the hall she arose and went to the door. It was the nurse again. She put a finger to her lips and shook her head.

Cherry returned to her seat. After a time she heard steps again and knew it was the doctor.

Sunset came and then dusk. The sky outside was darkening when some one entered the room.

"Father!" Cherry exclaimed, half-rising.

The man on the threshold said grimly, "Dr. Knowles is waiting."

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

CHERRY was on her feet now. The eager hope that had shone in her eyes vanished as quickly as it had appeared.

Her father remained in the doorway. Not so much as a muscle seemed to change in that relentless face.

"Dr. Knowles?" Cherry began. "He's in the living room. We're going to go there."

They went down the stairs, Cherry just a little ahead. She did not look at her father again. Through the doorway of the living room she saw the doctor standing before the fireplace.

There was a great bowl of roses on the table at the right. Cherry's mother always had kept flowers in that bowl, cutting and arranging them herself each morning.

There was the basket where her mother kept the bit of sewing she liked to have handy for the hours before dinner. Nothing was changed and yet the whole room seemed empty now. Desolate.

Cherry rushed forward. "Oh, Dr. Knowles, tell me!" she cried. "I can't bear this waiting. I can't bear it! I've got to know—!"

Dr. Knowles put an arm about the girl's shoulders. "There, there!" he said soothingly. "You promised me you'd be brave and have control of yourself."

"We're not discouraged. Not in the least. We're making the biggest fight we know how. You must help us!"

He had known Cherry almost since babyhood, had seen her through the attack of chickenpox which, at 5, was her first illness. The girl buried her face in his shoulder. A moment later when she looked up, she was dry-eyed.

Walter Dixon's deep voice broke in. He said crisply, "How is she, doctor? Has there been any change?"

The doctor nodded. "Mrs. Dixon has been resting," he said, "and rest is what she needs above all else. She slept for almost two hours this afternoon. She's awake now, but we're hoping she'll drop off again before long."

He turned to Cherry. "Will you promise?" he said firmly, "that if I let you see your mother for a few moments you won't become hysterical? Will you promise to go in quietly and say just a word to her father's? Suddenly the girl was in his arms, her face buried against his.

"Oh, yes, doctor—I promise!"

HORIZONTAL Answer to Previous Puzzle

1 Part of a circle. 14 To haul. 14 To haul.
4 Student of law. 15 Eclipses. 15 Eclipses.
10 Honey gatherer. 16 Indisposed. 16 Indisposed.
11 Aqua. 17 Ague. 17 Ague.
15 Worth. 18 AVAL. 18 AVAL.
16 Prima donna. 19 LEAVENS. 19 LEAVENS.
17 The earth. 20 SMILE. 20 SMILE.
19 2000 pounds. 21 DENTINES. 21 DENTINES.
20 Coal digger. 22 SERRATED. 22 SERRATED.
21 Remunerated. 23 ERECT. 23 ERECT.
22 Revoked. 24 POD. 24 POD.
23 Railroad. 25 ARENA. 25 ARENA.
27 Talkative. 26 DENTINE. 26 DENTINE.
29 Male singing voice. 27 STEADY. 27 STEADY.
30 Father. 28 SCANT. 28 SCANT.
31 Examination. 29 BOARDER. 29 BOARDER.
33 Lapidary's slitters. 30 WELL. 30 WELL.
35 Because. 31 USER. 31 USER.
36 To beseech. 32 IODO. 32 IODO.
37 Fruit of the oak. 33 RULE. 33 RULE.
38 Wasted. 34 EELTS. 34 EELTS.
39 Bronze. 35 METTED. 35 METTED.
40 To cause to reel. 36 POKET. 36 POKET.
42 To exist. 37 VERTICAL. 37 VERTICAL.
43 Junior. 38 CHINESE. 38 CHINESE.
44 Stalk. 39 DYNASTY. 39 DYNASTY.
45 Chinese dynasty. 40 Perfume. 40 Perfume.
46 Sun god. 41 EGGS. 41 EGGS.
47 Screens. 42 FISHES. 42 FISHES.
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