

The Country Doctor

A Novelization of the Twentieth Century-Fox Film, Starring the Dionne Quintuplets With Jean Hersholt, Dorothy Peterson, June Lang, Michael Whalen and Slim Summerville.



BEGIN HERE TODAY
Dr. John Luke, country doctor in the little north woods settlement of Moosetown, works night and day to combat an epidemic of diphtheria. Father Bonel, parson priest, and Nurse Kennedy are his aids.

Storms have isolated Moosetown, cutting off telephone and telegraph connections. Mike Scanlan, amateur radio operator, gets a message to Dr. Luke's brother, Dr. Paul Luke, in Montreal, asking to send antitoxin, desperately needed. Company officials refuse Dr. Paul's request but his son, Tony, agrees to fly to Moosetown with the antitoxin. He arrives there, crashing a wing of his plane as he lands.

With the serum, the epidemic is conquered. Tony, obliged to remain until his plane can be repaired, spends much time with Mary McKenzie, daughter of the company manager.

Dr. Luke goes to Montreal to appeal to company officials to give Moosetown a hospital.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER SEVEN

THEIR last evening together! Mary MacKenzie had not had an altogether gay girlhood, what with the drear barrenness of

again. Was he really glad to go—would he go without leaving a single hope of reunion except that gay, boyish laugh? Mary cried herself to sleep that night, very softly.

But the morning came, as it always comes even after the longest night, and Mary was scarcely dressed when a knock at the door told her that Tony was ready.

Together they set out for the field near the town where Tony had discovered a smoother surface than the one which brought disaster on his arrival in Moosetown. Tony was in flying dress and carried a small suitcase. Mary, her short, tousled hair blowing in the spring breeze, looked even more delightfully girlish than ever. But somehow conversation between them was a little strained.

"Are you glad to be getting back to Montreal?" queried Mary as they strode along toward the field.

"Oh, yes, of course . . . see my father again, and all that," replied Tony carelessly. "Of course, I'll be back here again some time."

THE plane stood at a corner of the field just ahead, with Greasy fussing at the motor in a gesture that was little short of a caress.

"You don't want to bury yourself in a hole like this, Tony!"

came back Tony's voice through the tube.

"No, Tony, I'm too happy to laugh—but a smile won out over imminent tears.

Puzzled, Tony shot back through the tube, "You don't think the altitude's making you a little dizzy?"

"No, I'd like to go even higher," returned Mary, glancing over the side at the miniature map of the Moosetown country that lay far below. She lowered her voice and spoke again as to the tube itself.

"Because I couldn't talk to you like this if we were down on the ground, or if you were looking at me. This is kind of like talking to your picture up in my room, and saying, 'Tony, I don't want you to go away!'"

"It's like eating hash—never know what's going to turn up next!"

WETHER Mary intended the words for Tony, no one but Mary can ever be sure. But the fact remains that he heard every word. He stared at the tube like one who has seen a wonder. "W-wh-what was that?" he stammered.

"I don't want you EVER to go away," came Mary's soft voice. "I know it's wrong to talk like this, but I don't care. It seems right, way up here, just us two! You can't go away without knowing what fun you've brought into my life—what you've come to mean to me."

"Now, Mary!" came Tony's voice. "You're too young to be saying such things! Why, you're just a kid!"

"Well, I THOUGHT you were!" Say what's happening up here, anyway? You were just a little kid down on the ground, but now—" Jubilant he resumed, "Why I don't care what it is, it's all right! I'm just as happy as you are, right now! And a swell time to find it out, just when I'm going away! For two cents I'd head for Montreal right this minute!"

THE ship dipped suddenly. Terrified, Mary cried, "No, no! Not now! Please! Take me down, please!"

Into a long, circling glide went the ship, bounced slightly, and rolled across the field. Tony jumped out, and lifted a trembling Mary from the plane. Just for a moment they were in each other's arms.

Then came a sudden splintering crash, and the two sprang apart. Rounding the fuselage to see what was going on, they saw a strange sight. Mary MacKenzie's father, purple with rage, and spluttering expletives, was hacking violently at the wing of the plane with an ax. Struts, covering and wires rapidly were becoming a tangle wreckage under his furious blows.

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