

# Prairie Avenue

Synopsis: Ned Ramsay, now a successful novelist, once more returns to Chicago. Aunt Lydia informs Ned that Sonny Kennerley has a mistress and plans to divorce Almira. Ned agrees to talk some sense into Sonny. He accepts Almira and Sonny's invitation to spend the week-end with them. Sonny's palatial summer home, is one of the many guests at Sonny's palatial summer home. She pays considerable attention to Ned. She confides that she is very grateful to Mrs. Framingham for having married Mr. Kennerley since this relieves Celia of any duty. A daughter would be expected to perform for her widowed father. Now go on with the story—

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

NED CAME down to breakfast next day to find all the men assembled except Mr. Kennerley, whose age and infirmities obliged him, albeit unwillingly, to remain in seclusion till noon.

Ned's intention of waylaying Sonny as they left the table with a plea for a 10-minute chat in the den was frustrated by the latter's one supposed, was inevitable: of what use were millionaires' possessions if they could not be shown off? It was a kind of periodic reassurance-for their owners, who otherwise might have doubted their value. And, it had to be admitted, Sonny made the process as painless as possible. He literally rushed them through the gardens, the greenhouses, stables, and kennels; even the model dairy, with its rows of pure-bred Jerseys and glittering modern equipment, was disposed of in a quarter of an hour; he did not seem to know what he had paid for the animals or how the machinery worked; and treated the whole business as a huge joke.

The sole half of any consequence was made in one of the paddocks, where a miniature grandstand had been erected. Here they were bidden to seat themselves, while Sonny's head groom trotted out a series of hackneys and hunters for their inspection.

By the time they got back to the house in the sizzling midday heat Almira, in cream lace and an enormous plumed hat, was waiting to marshal her guests for lunch, at the club. Sonny complicated matters by insisting on driving Ned and Celia in the motor-car, which broke down twice on the way to Owentsville. Celia sat giggling swathed in veil on the high leather seat, while the men laboured desperately to coax back to life an obstinate magneto.

HE WENT back to town on the morning train in spite of Almira's warm invitation to stay.

It was a blow to realize that his mission had been a failure.

The private car left on Monday night; on Tuesday morning Ned was called to the telephone by a familiar voice: At the last minute, said Celia, she, too, had decided to stop in Chicago. It was so dreadfully hot and she had seen so many fairs in Paris—they were all alike, really. "I'm at Papa's, you know: won't you come to tea this afternoon?"

Ned went, and spent a pleasant hour in the great golden room that was full of memories for them both.

When they said goodbye they made an engagement to lunch next day and do the pictures at the Art Institute; the day after that, they dined at the Annex and went to "The Wizard of Oz." By Friday it appeared to be understood that they were to spend their free time together: Ned took her to drive in Lincoln Park, and later to row on the little lagoon.

His grasp of the French moral code had been, up to now, theoretical and literary. The author of "Queen Margot" knew that most of the men in Pierre de Longuyon's class had mistresses, many of the women took lovers; what mattered to them was the cult of the foyer, keeping the home together for the sake of the family; the rest depended on tact and tolerance and taking things as they came.

The transition from comprehension of a general state of affairs

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By Arthur Meeker

its flying pennants and the bright-colored blur of the gathering crowd on the porches. The servants made preparations for an al fresco meal.

Ned, who knew little about horse racing and cared less, strolled beside Celia, feeling his pleasure doubled, because she shared it: from time to time they glanced at each other tenderly, their eyes alight with the promise that their love would be eternal.

Just as the ladies were making ready to clink aloft once more, a carriage drove into the field: no coach, but a bright yellow phaeton drawn by a chunky black pony. The reins were held by a young man equally chunky, who was wearing a crimson-and-white striped blazer and a straw hat clapped on the back of his very square head. A cigarette drooped from one corner of the young man's mouth; his face was flushed and his hard button-black eyes like a doll's.

The pair were laughing loudly as they reined in the pony. Ned's amusement vanished when he saw Sonny; the latter had turned a dull red and was biting his lips in an effort to control himself.

"I think you know, we'd better be moving," was all he could manage to say, in an uncertain voice.

THE CHUNGY young man cracked his whip to attract their attention, and the young lady leaned over the side of the phaeton to exclaim with a brilliant smile: "Hello there, dearie—you didn't expect to see me here, did you? Well, to tell you the truth, I hardly expected it myself. I knew you couldn't take me out to the track today, but Dick happened along and coaxed me into coming with him. He just got back to town from Frisco and he—but I forget, you two don't know each other, do you? Meet my brother, Mr. Richard Branson—Mr. Abner Kennerley, Junior. I won't keep you now. Sonny boy—just wanted to say hello and ta-ta—look me up in the grandstand later if you have a chance. Hurry up, Dickie; it's time we got going!"

In spite of her raucous laugh the young woman's speaking voice was unexpectedly low and agreeable.

Sonny started towards his wife with a wretched mumble of "Mira, I swear..."

It was Celia who grasped her sister-in-law by the arm—Almira.

ON THE way home the cousins save to leave a message for Celia held hands. They spoke very little. Ned left Almira at her house in Calumet Avenue, then repaired to his aunt's to make his report.

Very early next morning Sonny rang up and begged him to dine at the club. "Please come, Ned—I've got to see you alone!"

Ned hesitated, remembering his engagement with Celia. Then conscience, and his attachment to the Stacks, won the victory.

There seemed nothing for it.

**Nearly a Year Since  
Anyone Saw Hitler**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 (AP)—Government officials said today, with a sigh of relief, that it has been nearly a year since anyone has reported "seeing" Adolf Hitler.

U. S. Intelligence officials have long been convinced that the fanatical little Austrian, who started World War II 10 years ago today, is dead.

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