

The Girl Who Had No Chance

By MARION RUBINCAM

Chapter 109

Gaby stood perfectly still, watching Ruth. There was an awkward silence then the little actress walked over and put one hand on the other girl's shoulder.

"You are in love with him then," she said. "Poor Ruthie!"

Ruth turned around in the chair. She had not been crying, as Gaby thought.

"With whom?" she asked. "Langley or Tim?"

"Langley," Gaby answered. "Otherwise you wouldn't have looked so—so desolate when you denied being engaged to him just now. But it was a good story to tell Myra—she can't say anything from now on."

Ruth was quiet a moment. Then she smiled a little.

"You'll think I have an awfully hard time," she said. "First it was Tim who didn't like me, now Langley. You must think I have a continuous brocken heart."

Gaby was always ready to take the light side of any subject, so she jumped eagerly at this opening.

"No I don't," she answered, and began to laugh too. "I really hoped they were going to dance. All my girl chums go and I have always gone and like to dance. The dances are given by a lodge and all nice people go, but this fellow won't go."

IN DOUBT.

There is another fellow I like real well who is about my age. He always goes and often asks me to dance with him. He would go with me if I would let him. But the day after I have been to a dance the other fellow gets angry and says he is going to quit because I was at the dance or because I danced with this other fellow?

What would you advise me to do, go to the dances and enjoy myself or stay at home and never go any place just to please the other fellow?

IN DOUBT.

Since you do not care for the young man who objects to dances, I would not advise you to give up dancing on his account. He has no claim on you and you should feel free to do as you want to.

"Most men are—" Gaby interrupted. "And he seemed to think if I came here I might get this old affair out of my head, probably because I'd seen Tim and Myra together and it would be forcibly impressed on me that they were married." Ruth went on. "That's one reason Langley sent me for such a long stay."

"And you've seen them and we've agreed they're not interesting any more, that you've outgrown Tim—"

"I know, I think I would be miserable married to Tim, tied up all day in a tiny dark flat, with my own work to do, and being poor, and not being able to think my husband was a success."

"I told you! You've outgrown Tim. We try to pretend that love is everything, but love in a bandbox of a flat, four flights up—"

"No, I don't think I would mind the poverty, if—well, if I cared as much as I did three or four years ago. Probably I'm fickle."

"Probably you have some common sense," Gaby remarked scornfully.

"I think my own success has spoiled it," Ruth went on, looking dolefully at her friend. "I always looked up to Tim. Now I can't. He hasn't the business ability I have and he hasn't the strength of character I have. Has he?"

"He hasn't! Gaby walked over the room and started to put on her coat. "Ruthie dear, I think you are over being in love with Tim. His performance last night, his cowardice in thrusting the lie on you, when it was he who really lied—well, that ought to end it."

"But I—I think I liked his kiss!" A deep red ran to Ruth's cheeks as she made this confession. "I couldn't have liked that without being in love with him, and I couldn't be in love with Langley if I am in love with Tim. So—"

Gaby laughed suddenly, adjusting her smart little hat before the mirror. "Ruthie, I think you are a dear, sweet, innocent little goose. Go on back to Marketown and tell Langley you are in love with him, and you'll forget Tim and Myra and all this wretched business. At least we are rid of her. She never deserved your friendship, anyway."

Ruth said nothing. She just watched Gaby as she pulled on her gloves. "You're awfully pretty and you're awfully sincere," she said, suddenly changing the subject. "You are all sorts of contradictions, Gaby."

The girl laughed.

"You are awfully pretty too, and much more sincere than lightheaded me. Do you like my hat? Fifty dollars at Wayne's."

Ruth smiled.

"I can't lecture you on extravagance after I've been spending so much money on myself. Will you phone me tomorrow? I'm tired out—I think I'll go to bed right after dinner."

But as it turned out she did nothing of the sort. She went alone to the big hotel dining room, and ate at a small table in a corner where she was partly concealed. She thought by being early she would avoid the crowd of diners that filled the place even on Sunday evenings.

She was getting a little tired of the gilt and the mirrors, the army of uniformed servants, the eternal buzz of hundreds of human voices wherever she went. She watched one of the \$30,000,000.

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BEAUTY CHATS

by EDNA KENT FORBES

POLISHED FINGER NAILS.

One reason why women whose hands are always carefully manicured, keep their nails young, is because the nails are polished every day. The friction of the buffer stimulates the circulation of the blood around and under the nail, which is enough to keep the nail itself fresh and young in appearance and to do away to an extent with the tendency towards ridges.

It will not, of course, do away entirely with ridges. These are due to organic causes. Sometimes they have to be treated by eliminating uric acid from the system, which is something one should do in any case, and sometimes they are treated by keeping the nails fed with the proper sort of oils. And sometimes they can be treated in the following way:

Take a small piece of broken glass and wrap all but one side of it with cotton so that you cannot cut your fingers. Manicure your nails as usual, but before you are ready to polish them let them soak several moments in a little warm soapy water. Then dry them and take the glass and run it lightly over the most prominent ridges on the nails. You can actually peel off or scrape off these ugly lines, but you must be careful not to get off too much. You will be surprised how easily the surface of the nail will peel.

Then polish the nail with a plain buffer and no polishing powder. You may use polishing powder another time without injury, but in this case you have exposed the nail below its outer surface, and I do not think a drying polishing powder is advisable. In fact, it is a good idea to rub the nail with oil or cold cream after this treatment.

P. H. S.—Purify your blood with a spring tonic such as the old-fashioned one made from flour of sulphur and table syrup. If these eruptions continue, consult the doctor. Your scalp is probably feeling this same condition. Massage the scalp with hot crude oil the night before the regular shampoo. Tie the hair up in a cloth to protect the bed linens.

HELENA.—If you used only henna in the shampoo, it did not cause your trouble as this is a tonic for the hair. As you did not state any particulars, I am wondering if you purchased a preparation having a small per cent of henna in it and a large amount of dye.

Hair is so easily cultivated that you should be able to start a new growth in that bare spot, but if you do not have that confidence in your own treatments, you should have some professional work up it at once.

E. B. P.—Massage the legs with warm cocoa butter every night, which will nourish the tissues. But as this is of importance to you professionally, why not go to some good physical trainer who will direct you, so you will hasten the development of your limbs?

BROKEN-HEARTED.—Peroxide of hydrogen will bleach that fine hair and the coarse ones can be pulled out

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