

# A Wife on Leave

by INEZ KLUMPH

## WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S HAPPENED

RICHARD BILBAULT, a successful young lawyer, has given a year's leave to his wife.

SALLY, hoping that she will learn something of life during that time. She begins by meeting

KEITH GILBERT, always labelled "Dangerous," and through him associating with New York's gayest crowd of celebrities of the artistic world.

Among them Lee Craig, a pretty artist, Guy Selden, a playwright and Graham Browne, a financier. Gilbert makes no secret of his love for her, not does

PATRICIA LORING, a modern flapper, make any secret of her fondness for him. Sally goes to a dance club with

BARBARA LANE, who is an old-fashioned wife, and her husband and their guest

NEAL CALHOUN, and there she meets Gilbert with Patricia. Calhoun intimates that Gilbert is not a man whom Sally should know. Sally learns that

her husband, who has gone West, has taken his pretty secretary with him, and is so piqued by the knowledge that she accepts Gilbert's invitation to a house-party at the latter's country place.

The evening of her arrival she sees mysterious lights on the river and sees signals from the house. A strange man appears to arrest Gilbert for bootlegging, but he escapes to a launch on the river taking Sally with him. Barbara and Andy quarrel about Sally. Andy does some bad thing for dinner and Barbara discovers that he is dining at a neighbor's.

## CHAPTER XXV—KIDNAPPED

At first the welcome warmth of the fur rug in which Keith Gilbert had wrapped her made Sally forget the danger of the situation. Then, as she began to react, her nerves became taut again.

Go to the Bahamas with Keith—of course she couldn't! He must put her ashore somewhere, so that she could get back to town. She would not let herself think ahead and face the possible outcome of the evening.

"Tell me what really did happen, Giddy," she begged him. "I don't know yet why that man broke into your bungalow and had the right to arrest you."

"Oh, it's simple enough," he replied, leaning against the cabin wall and smiling down at her as if he hadn't a care in the world. "It's just a case of running in liquor, my dear—everybody does it, you know. How else would it be possible for—well, for people like me to serve it to our guests?"

Everybody has some on hand, you know—think of the people we've been playing around with—Graham Browne and Selden and the rest. Well, they had to get it somewhere, didn't they? It takes a big private stock to last forever."

"Then you've been smuggling it," she asked, incredulously.

"Exactly. Oh, Sally," he leaned forward quickly, as she saved her voice at this new-found knowledge. "How did you think I lived? My mother ran through our money—when the war broke out I was just about penniless. I sold our house in Paris to square her accounts. Then I joined the Lafayette Escadrille."

"After the Armistice was declared I drifted around for a while, but I hadn't been trained to do anything. I came over here—and now I'm a bootlegger, to put it badly. Had to get money somewhere, you know—and I've operated on a big scale, if I do have to admit it."

"And now—well, you don't care for me any more, do you?"

"Oh, I—Sally blushed down in a corner of the wide seat, battling with her distaste for this news. That very afternoon she had told him that if she were not married she'd fall in love with him—and now she felt that she never wanted to see him again."

She felt like a fugitive from justice. She remembered the many mornings when she had eaten her breakfast to an accompaniment of newspaper accounts of sensational events; she had always felt comfortably removed from those who were at fault in any case of wrong-doing, sure that she could never be involved in any crime.

Now here she was, running away from the officers of the law!

She thought she heard a shot somewhere out in the darkness, but Gilbert reassured her.

"Only an automobile backfiring," he told her, laughing. Certainly nobody would have thought that he was out in that launch in the middle of the night for anything but his own amusement. If they could hear an automobile they must be near land, she told herself eagerly.

"But we—we might be caught, Giddy," she urged, white with fear. "And if we were what would happen? Would they arrest us?"

"I suppose you can see your mother-in-law reading about all this in the morning papers, with your name and picture prominently displayed," he laughed. "Don't be afraid, child—we'll get away. And once we're on our way to Nassau, they'll forget all about us."

"But I don't want to go to Nassau with you," she protested, more frightened than ever. "I want to go home—back to New York." And then, as the terrors of her fear overcame her, "I want to go back to Dick."

"Back to Dick?" he repeated scathingly. "And why? You were willing to learn something of life, weren't you?—wasn't that the pretext under which he gave you this vacation from matrimony? Well, if you're going to live up to it why don't you carry it out, instead of wanting to run back to him the minute life gets too much for you? You've played the game that amused you—played at being made love to—

only I was serious enough, Lord knows—and at living for nothing but the wildest kind of pleasure that you could find. But you can't run wild without risking getting caught, somewhere along the line, you know."

"And now, the moment the conse-



"You didn't run away with me—I took you," he answered quietly.

quences bob up, you want to sidestep and run back to Dick. That's no way to play the game, Sally. Be a sport, and do what you set out to do."

"I have learned a lot," she protested. "I've learned that a married woman has no business to flirt, no matter where her husband is or what he's doing. I've learned that when people are arrested and blamed for something it isn't always their fault. And I wish I'd stayed back there at The Eyrrie with Patricia and Lee Craig and taken the consequences of being there, instead of running away with you."

"You didn't run away with me—I took you," he answered quietly. "You couldn't have helped yourself, my dear. I've always wanted you and things couldn't have suited me better if I'd arranged them to order. I don't see just how my little scheme fell through—I hadn't planned at first that the men would come through with the truck of whisky tonight, but when I found out that they were on their way it seemed as well to let them go on. But I don't see who let it out. I really hadn't meant to bring you others into it, of course; but since it happened that way—well, it couldn't be helped. And it's brought you to me."

"It hasn't," cried Sally, springing to her feet. "I want to be put ashore at once—I won't stay here."

"Very pretty—but you'll stay just where you are," he replied, his face grim. "Consider yourself kidnapped if you want to, my dear—you go with me."

Tomorrow—A Precarious Situation.

## After Ten Years

By MARION RUBINCAM

PAUL

Chapter 18

Perhaps Patty, sure of her prettiness and her popularity, felt a little put out because Paul did not ask her for the first dance. But at once her common sense told her that he was simply doing his duty in asking first his hostess, her mother, and then his own mother's old friend. But when he went to Millie for the third dance, Patty thought resentfully that he was carrying courtesy almost too far.

She decided Paul did not like her. She had danced with one of the other visiting tennis players, a man of 30 with cynical eyes and a tiny moustache. Basil stood by her arm. After seeing Millie, obviously pleased, go off with Paul, Patty accepted Basil as a partner again.

"How do you like your friend with the eyebrow on his upper lip?" Basil asked, sure this was an original joke. "Oh, I like moustaches," answered Patty, her eyes on Paul, who was facing her way. In reality, she hated them.

"Oh, absolutely," Basil answered. He didn't either, but he sensed that Patty was out of humor tonight, and thought it best to agree.

Silence. Patty decided she did not want to dance, so made excuse about

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seeing after the supper. Basil meekly accompanied her to the kitchen and consoled himself for his lost dance by sampling the ice cream.

When Patty entered the big room again, Paul was coming to her.

So the slight was so slight, but a compliment after all! Of course it was his niceness that made him dance with these others first, she thought!

"He is different," she said to herself again exultingly. And she was scarcely conscious of anything during the waltz, except that she was floating in a harmonious rose colored, rhythmical haze.

It was all common place enough in reality—but Patty was too young to know that or bother about it. The music, the shaded lights the young dancers, the young man in smart flannels and the girl in silky blue crepe frock cut just low enough to show the pretty roundness of her shoulders and the firmness of her young arms—there was nothing unusual in this.

The club house was most ordinary, a shack hastily put up on the edge of a small and rather dull little town, with nothing to make it different from any other cheap little club house but the view of a magnificently timbered mountain—the Cora's and Maude's and Mrs. Werner's and Patties and Millies were to be met with anywhere. And doubtless in just such houses, and to just such soothing, rippling waltz music hundreds of other girls were dancing and talking about nothing, and falling in love.

But love is a miracle whenever it happens. And this miracle was happening to Patty, who was not as yet conscious of it.

Paul began with a lot of extravagant compliments, suddenly saw that this was wrong with this particular girl, dropped them and began asking about her trip with Mrs. Grainger-Munn.

He did not dance with her again until the end of the evening. In spite of the six visitors, there were still more girls than men, a fact that seems true of most little towns. One of the visitors selfishly devoted himself only to the prettiest girls. Another one frankly showed he was bored by this simple entertainment and drifted into talk with Mrs. Munn, as being the only "civilized" person to be met there—Mrs. Munn, as it happened, did not like him. A third disappeared to a ham-seek on the porch with 17-year old Clarissa Howe, and only returned for the supper.

And Paul after seeing that Millie had little attention paid to her while Patty had only to choose her partners, spent most of his evening dancing and talking with her.

And of this, a very curious development was to come.

Then after a time, the party settled down to that most enjoyable phase—when the youngest ones had been taken home and the older ones had gone home and only a few intimate friends were left. Millie joined a card game in one corner, not so much because she liked cards, as because her slipper rubbed her heel. And Paul and Patty danced, on and on, the boy pleased because his partner was so light, the girl much too exhilarated by happiness to feel fatigue.

"What do you do in the evenings?" he asked her.

"I've been reading More's 'Utopia' to Mrs. Munn," she answered.

"What a serious minded young woman—why do you have blonde hair then? Don't you know golden hair and intellect never go together?" He teased, his brown eyes laughing at her as he looked down at her. "Would you spend a low brow evening talking to me tomorrow?"

Patty laughed, and nodded. Her heart gave a little leap.

It was inevitable that Patty should fall in love with Paul. It was not inevitable that he should fall in love with her.

Tomorrow—What Millie Thought

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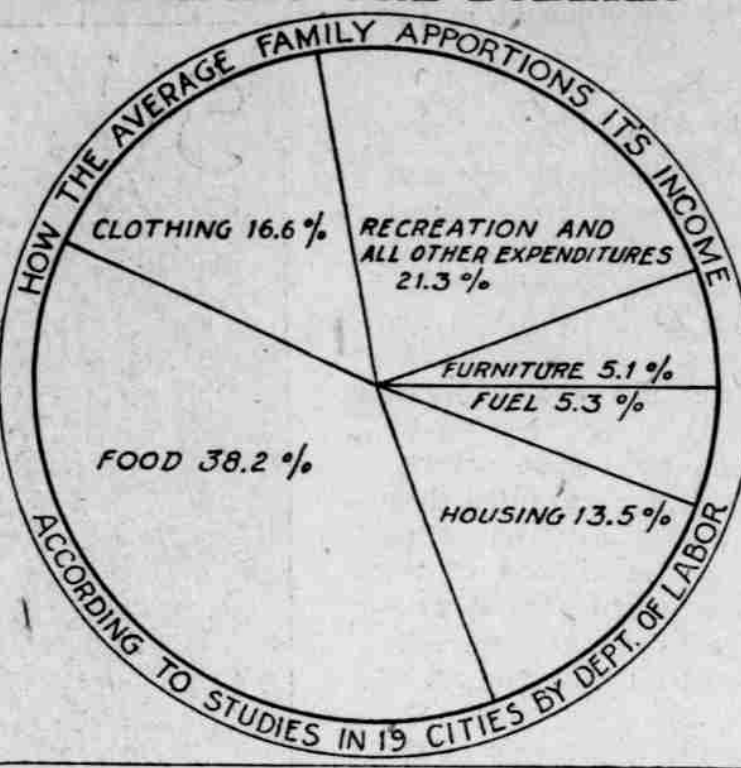
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## SPENDING THE DOLLAR



## Beauty Chats

By Edna Kent Forbes



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## Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson:—I am 18 and never have gone with boys much. There is a young man coming to see me soon who lives in another state. Please tell me how to entertain him as I want to show him a nice time. Should I meet him at the train? I thank you

It will not be necessary to meet him at the train. You may invite him to your home for a dinner party and arrange a party for him, inviting your friends.

Dear Mrs. Thompson:—I would like to know the address of a lady who does quilting. Any information you can give me will be appreciated.

A READER.

Will some of the readers of the column, please mail the information desired to the Palladium office.

Very Unhappy:—Don't be discouraged. You still have plenty of time to meet boys.

ken by painting "Bitter Aloes" under the ends of them.

Dolly:—Since your hair has been coming out ever since you have used the heated curlers, it is possible they are drying out the natural secretions. Try curling the hair without heat and stimulate the circulation in the scalp by giving it a thorough massage every day.

Helene and Dorothy:—Neither the cleansing nor the other cold cream given in the "Chats" will have any tendency to grow hair.

All inquiries addressed to Mrs. Forbes in care of the "Beauty Chats" department will be answered in these columns in their turn. This requires considerable time, however, owing to the great number received. So, if a personal or quicker reply is desired, a stamped and self-addressed envelope must be enclosed with the question.—The Editor.

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