

W.N.U. SERVICE

SYNOPSIS

Anna ("Silver") Grenoble, daugh-ter of "Gentleman Jim," formerly of the community, but known as a gambler, news of whose recent murder in Chicago has reached the town, comes to Heron River to live with sister. Sophronia's household consists people up from town-rather tire-Sophronia Willard, Jim Grenoble's some. of her husband, and stepsons, Roderick and Jason. The Willards own only half of the farm, the other half being Anna's. On Silver's arrival Duke Melbank, shiftless youth, makes himself obnoxious. Roderick is on the eve of marriage to Corinne girl, who was still standing with ers need fillin'." Meader. Silver says she wants to live on the farm, and has no intenthe back of a chair. tion of selling her half, which the Willards had feared. Silver tells Sophronia ("Phronie," by request) something-but by no means all-of relations with Gerald Lucas, gambler friend of her father. Roddy marries Corinne. She has a maid, close to him. Paula, who seems to attract Jason. Silver again meets Lucas, who has me, darling," she said in her sweetestablished a gambling resort near est manner. "I simply can't be at town. She introduces him to Corinne, though against her will. Friendship between the two develops, to Silver's dismay. At a dance Duke Melbank insults Silver. Rodknow it sounds terrible to you, dardy's solicitude brings Silver to the realization that she loves him. Roddy is offered a position at the University farm, but, to Corinne's dismay, he declines it, declaring he is a farmer, not a "white collar man." Determined to break up the growing intimacy between Lucas and Co-rinne, Silver tells Roddy she has decided to sell her portion of the Not understanding, he refarm. proaches her for her "treachery." expense." Jason and Paula become engaged. Roddy finds he is falling in love with Silver, and is dismayed. Silver warns Corinne against Lucas. Despite herself, her love for Roddy grows, but she determines to save Corinne from disaster.

CHAPTER IX-Continued -10-

back."

He slowed down as he saw a horse and rider. It was Silver feel hurt no matter what I say Grenoble.

"Where do you think you're going, all by yourself?" he laughed.

"If you really must know," she and the state which the replied, "I'm going down to some dogweed near the lake." "Why don't you come up to the house some evening when I'm around? Gosh, I haven't seen anything of you since Christmas!" "I've been busy," Silver retorted simply.

circle of the great oak's shade they waltzed, old Roderick adapting his Corinne entered in her green tweed knowledge of dance figures resolute-

riding habit. ly and gallantly to the outlandish "You're back early," Roddy said. new tempo amidst cheers and clap-"Didn't the Richters give you a nice ping of hands. At last, breathless dinner party?"

"I want you to do something for

and bridling rosily as a girl, So-She seated herself. "Oh, It was all right. They had a lot of dull phronia stopped in front of the door. Old Roderick bowed low over her hand, and the applause and laugh-Corinne pulled off her gauntlets.

"Go on with you, silly !" Sophro-"I'm going to miss Paula terribly," nia said, and gave Roderick a little she said, and made a sweet, dejected little moue at the big German push. "I'm thinkin' the cider pitch-

her hands pressed nervously against alone.

A few moments later Roddy and Corinne left for the big house. As in the fun?" she asked. "I guess I'm not in the mood," he soon as they were outside Corinne took his arm and drew herself replied.

amusing fox-trot step.

fashioned and courtly embrace.

Phronie gave him a sharp glance. "Small wonder!" she remarked. "When do you expect Corinne back?"

the wedding tomorrow. And I want "Tomorrow night," Roddy said, you to explain it to the family, I without looking around.

"Well-I don't understand what ling," she went on. "But Evelyn got into her to go off-"

"I'd rather not talk about it," Richter told me tonight that Harrison's are having a big sale tomor- Roddy interrupted.

row in the city-just for one day. "No-1 suppose the least said It's an awfully exclusive shop, you about it the better," Phronie agreed. know, and I'll be saving money if I "I don't know what to think about take advantage of the sale. I it, but I wouldn't go moonin' about can stay over night at the Lom- the house for anyone. I never didand I never would. Why don't you get it." bards' and it won't mean any extra get out and dance with the rest of

"It'll cost you six dollars in gas them? No one will ever thank you to go there and back in the car- for bein' a soft-hearted fool over and more if you take the bus," any woman, even if she is your Roddy said. wife."

"Evelyn is going down first thing Roddy began impatiently rolling a in the morning and she has prom- cigarette. "A devil of a lot you ised to call for me and bring me know about it !" he exploded.

Phronie looked at him in surprise. "I know you've never talked rack. "But, Lord! How am I going to explain it to the folks? Paula will like that to me in your life before," she said.

her."

more to this

Roddy got to his feet and put an arm about her. "I don't mean it him.

"I'll speak to Paula tonight. I like that, ma," he said affectionately. "You know I don't. But there's than I want to talk

about. Now that Paula's gone I

along up at the house. I can't af-

ford another girl, and Corinne

doesn't know a darn thing about

housework. Even if she did-she

"Yes," he said darkly, "I told

isn't strong enough to do it."

that?" Sophronia asked.

I'd do without that girl."

beside the telephone.

THE FRONTIER, O'NEILL, NEBRASKA,

In the afternoon of the next day, occurred to Sophronia that Silver, Jason and Paula departed. It had too, appeared lost in her own been a fine wedding, Sophronia thoughts. Once she caught Silver thought with a swelling heart, as staring at Roddy with a stricken fine as any farmer could afford expression in her eyes. Something, these days. Phronie concluded, was amiss, and

Under the big oak a number of unless she was a dundering idiot, the farm boys had seated themshe knew what it was. selves and were tuning up on guitar, The meal over, Roddy left the

accordion, harmonica and violin. table immediately and started for Presently a lively melody was lilt- the fields. ing upward through the rugged "That corn of his is just an exbranches of the trees.

cuse," Sophronia declared. "He's "Come on, Phronie !" old Roderick workin' his head off these days to called, his eyes wistfully following keep from goin' crazy with worry. Silver and the older Michener boy It ain't fair!" as they exhibited an intricate and

"Well, it won't do much good if you add your worry to his," old "Oh, go on with you!" Phronie Roderick remarked. "Whatever is expostulated, blushing, and was to be will be," he said finally, "and forthwith swept into Roderick's oldthere's no preventing either mildew or a good harvest." Twice, three times around the

Like a striking of cymbals, old Roderick's words smote a dark music into Silver's mind . . . "There's no preventing either mildew or a good harvest."

CHAPTER XI

T WAS already dark before Corinne returned home on the following evening. Roddy had heard the muffled approach of Evelyn Richter's automobile. He went out of the back door just as the car came to a stop in the yard.»

Corinne stepped down and Roddy put his arms about her.

"Corrie!" he cried. "What has kept you so late? I've been imagining all sorts of things-accidents-"

Corinne laughed and released herself. "Nonsense! Help me get these parcels out. Evelyn has to hurry.

"Take this box, Roddy, darling, but be careful with it. That's my precious new hat!"

In a moment Roddy's arms were full and Evelyn called her hasty good night and drove away.

In the living room, Corinne's purchases were placed on the couch. "I have some coffee percolating for you, Corrie," Roddy said, "While you unwrap those things I'll go and

"Sweet of you, Roddy," Corinne said absently, while she untied a string that bound her hat-box.

When he returned with the two cups of coffee and set them on the small table in the corner of the room. Corinne came in from the hall where she had put on her new hat in front of the mirror in the hat-

"Isn't it darling !" she exclaimed, resting her head sideways toward her shoulder as she smiled up at

"Very fetching," Roddy laughed. "And, Roddy !" Corinne drew a

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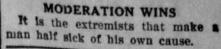
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ter whirled about them.

In the kitchen she found Roddy

"Why don't you go out and join

Roddy smiled. "Busy giving lessons in good cheer to my adorable wife, eh? Well, you've made a good job of it."

The sudden flags of color flew in Silver's cheeks, and Roddy suffered an acute pang of dismay.

"Run along and get your dogweed, then," he said hurriedly, and started his car.

As he continued on his way, Roddy found that he could not dismiss from his mind that swift, baffling blush his sally had won from her. Her face had had the delicate, flushed courage of a spring flower. She was not of the land in the same sense that Paula Gobel was. Paula was like a field of ripe wheat. But Silver Grenoble had an earthy quality all her own; she was like young grass in a pale spring sun, or sheet lightning in a summer dusk. or the shadow of a bird's wing over water. Roddy was glad that he could regard her so disinterestedly

now, for her own fine values.

In a dappled enclosure of birches where new leaves were like a sunny green rain, Corinne Willard leaned against a tree. Gerald Lucas was looking down at her with a contemplative, a masterful smile, that thrilled and frightened her, and made her feel at the same time triumphant.

"Haven't we been playing tag long enough, darling?" he asked softly, have done far more for her than "Why don't you admit that I love lots of women would for their you?"

Corinne laughed throatily. "What a sweet new way you have of put- ever since I knew that Jason was ting it, Jerry," she said, and lifting going to marry her. Having a maid her hand she ran her fingers through working for you every day-and his hair.

Beyond her shoulders, at the top one of the family-I've never said of a grassy crest where the trees anything about it, but-" opened, Gerald saw Silver Grenoble seated on her horse and staring demanded. at them with wide eyes.

CHAPTER X

DREPARATIONS for the wedding What I think-or feel-doesn't seem of Paula and Jason stressed rath- to matter much anyhow." Anger flamed suddenly within er than relieved Silver's sense of loneliness. Here were two, at least, Roddy. He checked the retort that who were going forward with their sprang to his lips. They had lives unaware of the defeat and arrived before the door of the big helplessness that were stalking house. He turned away abruptly about them. and started for the barnyard.

After supper on the evening be-"Aren't you coming in?" Corinne fore the wedding day, Roddy and, asked in surprise. "I have some work to do first." Jason were at work in the sitting room of the stone house on a wood- told her. en lattice which when decked with | She paused with her hand on the chokecherry and plum blossoms, door. "But-what shall I do about would form a bower about the bride tomorrow? Evelyn is coming imand groom for the ceremony. mediately after breakfast." Paula was watching the progress "Do whatever you like about it,"

of Roddy's and Jason's work when he said. "I don't give a d-n!"



"But, Lord! How Am I Going to Explain It to the Folks?"

might fib a little if necessary, and tell her I have to go to mother." "Why not tell her the truth-If you have to tell her anything?"

"After all, Roddy, there's no need of hurting the girl's feelings any more than necessary." of solicitude.

"It seems to me you aren't giving much consideration to her feelabout his corn, but she had given ings as it is."

would have made a good artist, Rod-Corinne drew away from him. "I dy," she said once, "--one of these futurist artists who usually starve to death in a garret unless they maids. You seem to forget that I've

have a patron." suffered no end of embarrassment Roddy ran the brush aimlessly over his hair and returned downstairs. At the supper table, he told Sophronia that Corinne would not knowing that she is going to marry be home until some time tomorrow. "You'll have Steve and me on your hands for another day," he said. "What's wrong with it?" Roddy

"And why not?" Phronie replied. "Though the way you're boltin' your Corinne shrugged her shoulders. food, I have a notion to let you go "Well-I don't expect you to see it without.' from my point of view, of course. Steve chuckled. "It's that corn-After all, it's none of my business.

field of his." he volunteered. "He's scared it won't be there in the morning.'

tonight, Roddy?" his father asked. Roddy did not raise his eyes. "I'm going to try," he said.

night. It's sort o' lonesome with you'll be gettin' your stomach all

if he were alone at the table. It flowage rights.

deep breath. "Only eight-fifty-re duced from twenty-one dollars! And it will do me until fall. Roddy ! don't know how we're going to get Don't you adore it?" "Sure! It looks great, but-"

"Of course, it's exclusive. You've got to pay for models like this un-

"What else did you get?" he "Have you told Corinne about asked her, seating himself. "You'd better drink your coffee before it gets cold."

Corinne unwrapped a box contain-"Well, there's no use borrowin' ing a pair of high-heeled, blue-kid trouble. Corinne will swing into it when she knows she has to, like pumps. "These were on sale, too. anyone else. I'll come up now and Eighteen dollars-reduced to eleventhen to help her get started-and fifty. Aren't they sweet? Cut steel buckles-the buckles are expensive, Silver will be glad to give a hand when it's needed. I don't know how you know, but they'll do on other shoes later. I'll take the other things upstairs to unpack them.

You wouldn't be interested in them. Corinne did not return on the fol-Stockings-gloves-underwear-and lowing afternoon. She telephoned I simply had to have a bottle of Roddy to explain that she had not toilet water and some face cream completed her shopping and that rather than drive home after dark, and powder. Those things look Evelyn Richter preferred to stay in small, but they count up when you come to buy them." She laughed. town for the night. She herself "I have only forty-five cents left out would stay with the Lombards. And was the wedding a lot of fun, and of what you gave me, Roddy."

Roddy regarded her with dull how was he feeling? Roddy, listening to her tumbling, sweetly inflect- wonder. "Didn't you get yourself a ed questions, and giving his mono- dress, or a coat, or anything-anysyllabic replies, stared at the wall thing substantial?" he asked her, and felt immediately that what he Even after he had hung up the had said was somewhat incoherent. Corinne laughed, but Roddy

receiver, he continued to stare at the same spot on the wall.' There thought there was a hard little edge had been something in Corinne's to her laugh. "How could I-with voice-an over-emphasis of apology, what you gave me? There's no economy in buying cheap things that He had tried to talk to Corinne will look like rags in a week. I can

wait until-"

him only her patient smile. "You "You'll probably have to wait for quite a while," he observed somberly. "Can't you see that we'll need every penny just to keep going?"

"Well-after all, I don't know anything about such things," she protested negligently. "And I hate discussing money matters."

"I guess there must be something the matter with me," he muttered, and as he heard his own voice he was struck with the utter strangeness of it. "I have done my best to explain our position to you, Corinne. I told you I had overdrawn my account at the bank before we sold the grain. You either can't understand-or you don't care. I wish to God you'd tell me which

it is!" Corinne faced Roddy with blazing eyes.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

"Flowage Rights"

The expression "flowage rights' refers to the right of overflowing land when a dam is built for the purpose of furnishing irrigation or power. The person whose land is

overflowed has a right to compen-He gave a short laugh that fell sation for any loss. When the right ominously on Sophronia's ears. of overflowing a person's land is Then he remained as preoccupied as purchased, this is referred to as

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"Are you going back to finish it

Phronie glanced across at him. "I was hopin' you'd stay around to-

Jase and Paula gone. Have another cup of tea. And take it easy or

upset."

