

# THE MYSTERY GIRL

By CAROLYN WELLS.

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So, he determined to stay on guard, lest a chance caller should come to disturb the doctor at his work.

But Lockwood's own work was somewhat neglected. Try as he would to concentrate upon it, he could not entirely dismiss from his mind a certain mysterious little face, whose haunting glances had once, Gordon Lockwood, reader of faces, was baffled. He couldn't classify the girl who was both rude and charming, both cruel and pathetic.

At any rate he thought about her while his work waited. And, then, he thought of other things—for he had troubles of his own, and these were somewhat serious. And troubles which called him to the more that were so-called money troubles. In fact, the whole matter revolved at the mere thought of money—considerations, but if one is short of funds one must recognize the conditions, distasteful though it be.

At 9:30 Nogi came with a tray bearing water and glasses. Under the watchful eyes of Mrs. Peyton the Japanese tapped at the study door, in response to the master's bidding, punctiliously on the table directed and with his characteristic bow, departed again.

At 10:30 Mrs. Peyton and Helen went upstairs to their rooms, the housekeeper having given strict and definite instructions, which included his remaining on duty until the master should also retire.

A clear, cold night, with a latering wind, past the full, but still with its great yellow disc nearly round. I shiver down on what seemed like fairland, for the clear, cold air, and had fringed eyes and fences with white, had ceased, and left the glittering landscape frozen and sparkling in the still, cold air.

And when, some hours later, the sun rose on the same chill some its rays made no perceptible impression on the cold and the mercury started down at its lowest winter record.

And so when the cold Japanese Ito shuffled and the red face, which had been as knotted as Mrs. Peyton's door in the early dawn of Monday morning.

"What is it?" she cried, springing from her bed to unroll her door.

"Grave news, madam," and the Oriental bowed before her.

"What has happened? Tell me, Ito."

"I am not sure, madam—but, the matter—"

land scenery, it was newly lovely in its sheath of ice.

Lockwood's hasty steps crushed through the crusty snow, and he hurried over to the Waring house.

It opened the door for him and Mrs. Peyton met him at the hall.

"Something has happened to Dr. Waring," she said, "he stayed in the study all night."

"Why? What do you mean?" asked the secretary.

"Just that. His room door is still open, and his bed hasn't been slept in. Also, Ito says he can see him in the study, through the dining-room window."

"Why don't you go in?"

"The study door is locked."

"Yes! I think he must have had a stroke—or, something—"

"Nonsense! He's just asleep. He's sleeping in his own bed. And he's not alone."

"Well, I'm glad you're here. And Mrs. Peyton looked relieved. "You see about it, Mr. Lockwood, won't you?"

The secretary went first to the study door. He rapped and then he tried the door, and then rapped again, very loudly. But no response came, and Lockwood returned to the dining-room.

## EPPY-TIME TALES TOMMY FOX, ADVENTURER

Adapted by SCOTT BAILEY

### CHAPTER XX. Tommy Fox and His Queer Idea of Fun.

Tommy had caught Frisky Squirrel. "Now we'll have fun!" Tommy cried, as Frisky Squirrel squirmed beneath his paw and tried to escape.

"Frisky Squirrel squealed with fright. "That's right!" Tommy exclaimed. "Pretend you're afraid. Pretend to get away. And I'll pretend to let you."

"Pretend!" thought Frisky Squirrel. "My goodness! I was never so terrified in all my life."

He stopped struggling, as he tried to get his breath. For Tommy Fox was squeezing him hard.

"Come! Come!" Tommy urged him. "Don't you want to play? Don't you want to enjoy the fun?"

"I don't like this kind of fun," Frisky Squirrel gasped. "Let me go, please! I'll never drop another nut on your nose—nor any shells either."

Tommy Fox laughed long and loud. "I don't believe you will," he howled.

Frisky Squirrel shivered. Tommy Fox could feel him quaking beneath his paw.

"That's right!" Tommy told him. "I like to feel you trembling. It makes the game all the pleasanter. And I wish you would kindly oblige me by squeaking a bit louder. When I squeeze you, squeak promptly—now!"

He asked the squirrel to do something upon his nose—nor any shells either. Tommy Fox laughed long and loud.

"I don't believe you will," he howled. Frisky Squirrel shivered. Tommy Fox could feel him quaking beneath his paw.

## My Marriage Problems

Adapted by Adele Carlson's New Phase of "Revelations of a Wife."

The Demand Made of Claire Foster. For a long, tense minute after my call to Claire Foster through her closed door there was no answer, although my ears, always sharp, heard furtive little rustlings, and I guessed that the girl was making some quick change either in her room or her clothing before greeting me.

Then her door swung wide, and she stood framed in the doorway, a pitiful travesty of the smartly-gowned, insouciant ultra-modern girl whom I remembered. True, the kimono wrapped around her best costly and beautiful, but Claire Foster had been distinctly the peppy, tweed-coated, sport-skirted and bloused type of girl.

I could not help visualizing her in a kimono. Although her bobbed hair with its natural wave was freshly brushed—I reflected that it took but a second or two to reduce it to order—she had not had time to remove all traces of the rouge and powder she must have hastily applied, and I guessed that underneath the cosmetics, which the glowing girl of the summer before never had needed, there was a pallor she did not wish me to see.

She was quick-witted enough to play up to me, as I had known she would when I called her name through the door. We never had addressed each other by anything save the formal "Mrs. Graham" and "Miss Foster," but she promptly responded to my use of her first name with an exuberant little cry.

"Oh, Madge! How dear of you to come to me so soon! I've had the most hectic time."

Claire "Plays Up." She pushed her hand, pulled me past her into the room, swung the door to securely behind me and spoke in a tone so lifeless, so changed from the tone she had just used that I started in amazement.

"That was the way you wished me to play, wasn't it? I was too familiar, pray forgive me."

She stood a few paces from me, stiff, almost bristling, as if she were an animal at bay. Her eyes were as full of life as her voice was devoid of it, and they gazed at me with a defiance that I was sure was only a mask for far different emotions.

"You did just exactly what I wished you to do," I said in the matter-of-fact tones I would have used to a pupil, when, in my teaching days, I had had occasion to commend a task performed. "And now, tell me about your arm and shoulder. Dick says they are bruised. Are the two swollen for you to get on a traveling dress?"

Her eyes widened.

"Oh, I'm able enough!" she returned. "My arm and shoulder are a little lame, but I've exaggerated them in order to keep out of the way of those pet stuffed poodles on the veranda." Her voice dripped contempt and aversion, then changed to sharp, half-suspicious wonder.

"I brought it on myself."

## Students Probe Grocery Expense

Comparative Operating Costs Are Found for Stores in Nebraska Cities in 1921.

To enable Nebraska grocers to determine whether their own accounts show disproportionate expense as compared with other merchants, who know their costs of doing business, a committee on business research of the college of business administration of the state university recently inquired into the operation of retail grocery stores in 1921 in this state.

The students now have published a booklet entitled "Nebraska Studies in Business."

The results enable a grocer to compare his expenses with those of merchants in Omaha and Lincoln and other cities and towns. The following conclusions were reached by the committee:

- 1. Total expenses of operation in identical stores increased in 1921 over the preceding year.
- 2. Expenses of operation in Omaha and Lincoln stores are lower than in stores elsewhere.
- 3. Net profits are highest where a higher rate of stock turnover, lower total expense and more sales per sales person obtain.
- 4. Delivery expenses appear, on the whole, somewhat low.

## Stocks of merchandise on hand, as shown by the annual inventories, were reduced in 1921.

6. Losses from bad debts range from 2.00 of 1 per cent to 2 per cent.

## Ohio Motor Truck Company Placed in Receiver's Hands

Springfield, O., Dec. 17.—The Kelly-Springfield Motor Truck company of Springfield was placed in the hands of a receiver on application of the Bankers Trust company of New York. The Trust company also asked for closure of a mortgage for \$1,500,000.

## Professor Takes Pastorate

Hastings—Dr. J. W. Boyer, public speaking and Bible professor at Hastings college, has accepted a call to the pastorate of Marlborough Presbyterian church, Kansas City.

## Parents' Problems

If a little girl wishes to wear a dress, which her mother thinks unbecoming, should she be permitted to wear it? A little girl should be allowed a certain amount of freedom in dressing, and encouraged to develop taste and independence, but it does not seem necessary to allow her to wear anything glaringly unbecoming.

## Vocational Training Plan at Scottsbluff

Scottsbluff — Plans for vocational classes for men and women under the direction of Supt. E. L. Rouse, are being made here with the strong given to home management. A special effort to organize men's classes will also be made. All of the auto service stations have promised co-operation for classes in practical mechanics, and other classes for men will be organized in any branch in which eight men ask for the work.

## Friend Economics Class Feeds Business Men

Friend—The Home Economics class of the Friend high school served dinner to 30 business men and women of this city. The dinner was served in two courses. Alex McFarlane, president of the Friend Commercial club, presided as toastmaster and speeches were made by members of the school faculty, board of education, members of city council and others. The school could take care of only 20 people at one time.

## Grand Island High School Re-Enters Debating League

Grand Island—The Grand Island high school won for the first time in many years participation in the inter-high school debates of the state this year. A regular schedule of debates with other high schools has been arranged, the first of which will be a dual debate with York, February 7. In this debate the Grand Island affirmative team will meet the York negative team and the same night the local negative team meets the York affirmative.

# Make This a Jewelry Christmas

Never before has jewelry appealed more strongly to the buying public than now. People are seeing more clearly how important it is to buy and give gifts that last beyond the time which the gift commemorates, and jewelry does this materially and psychologically.

## Our Very Reasonable Prices

We court a comparison of our prices with any to be found anywhere for similar merchandise. We have been complimented frequently on the reasonableness of our wares, and it is undoubtedly the explanation for the large crowds which are frequenting our establishment.

## Our Manufacturing Department

We are the only jewelers in this city to conduct our own manufacturing department. It is situated on the balcony of our own store, and any diamond or other valuable piece of jewelry which you may order from us never leaves the room to receive complete attention. There is still time to remount your diamonds in the new, modern settings.

# T. L. Combs & Mazer Co.

Since 1888 Omaha's Master Jewelers  
305 South Sixteenth Street Near Farnam  
Open Evenings Until Christmas

## Common Sense

**That "Hothouse" Way of Living.** Don't house up like a ground hog over winter. Don't huddle about stove or fire place house or office all the time. Get out and get some fresh air into your lungs. Do brisk walking every day. It may be a bit cold for your ears and your nose but unless it is extremely cold they will not be damaged. Don't be so afraid of cold air coming into your sleeping room that you keep all your windows closed during the night. There is no cold so biting as cold, impure air. Human beings need fresh air. Failure to get enough outdoor exercise in winter creates a demand for "spring medicine." Lack of fresh air in your sleeping room means a clogged brain, a tired and ambitious body. As an experiment try to have plenty of bed clothing and leave a window up sufficiently during the night to supply plenty of fresh air and note the difference in the way you feel in the morning. Get out of the hothouse way of living.



Too late he knew that he had been too greedy.

## Daily Prayer

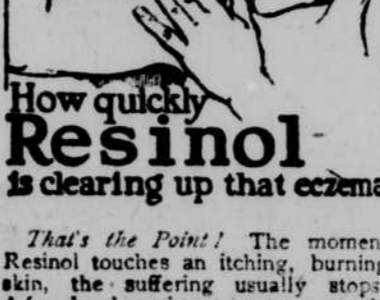
With my spirit within me will I seek Thee early—late, 26:3. Our Father in Heaven, we call unto Thee because we have called before and Thou didst hear us. Come unto us, Lord, when all is dark, and when trouble weighs us down. Lift us up again, that we may praise Thee and smile in our hearts. For the labors of this day, give us free grace: for the hard road, the iron shoes of good resolution; for the hour that casts us down, calm us and lift us up again. Make us gentle, Lord, with our loved ones. May we never give way to harsh words or unjust thoughts, and let Jesus, taken to our prayer as we confess our sins before Thy Holy Cross. May we meet the Man of Sorrows now while we bend before Thee, for shall our sins fade away, and our hearts rejoice with a new joy. May we be resigned to Thy will, no matter what we must yield. Gather this little family about Thyself as both the bird when the storm falls. Cover us with Thy love, and protect us in the hollow of Thy hand, O Lord, give us the power to pray aright, for we pray in Thy might. At last, Gentlemen of our home folks, gather us all to Thyself in the dear Homeland, when the morning breaks and the shadows flee away. And this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

C. H. WOOLSTON, D. D.

## JANUARY Hats, Sweaters, Skirts CLEARANCE January Prices Now



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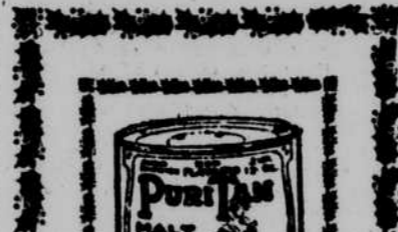


## Uncle Sam Says

Books on Child Care. "Good Books and Pamphlets on Child Care" is the title of a little folder issued by the United States Children's Bureau. It contains a list of the books mentioned in promoting the baby and the child. The folder gives the titles, authors, price and source of these books and pamphlets, many of which are free. All mothers should have this leaflet and learn about these helps. Many of the books mentioned can be loaned from public libraries. Readers of The Omaha Bee may obtain a copy of this folder free as long as the supply lasts by addressing the Children's Bureau, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., asking for "Children's Bureau Duder No. 1."

## Sittings—made before December 15th time for Christmas.

Please arrange appointments as soon as possible.



## Buy Your Puritan Hop Flavored MALT Sugar Syrup Now!



Take advantage of the Christmas sale prices which all the Puritan dealers in this city are making for your benefit. Look up your calendar. Do it now.

Buy it by the case if you can, by the can if you can't.

## Girls! Girls! Clear Your Skin With Cuticura

Resinol Soap and Resinol Shaving Sock contain the same soothing properties and are used by discriminating men who like their generous, cleansing lather and wholesome Resinol fragrance. At all drug stores.



## Christmas Tidings!

On the street, in crowded shops, the spirit of good cheer radiates from the hustling holiday crowds. At home there is mysterious whispering and hiding of bundles. The Christmas spirit is in the very air we breathe.

In your holiday preparations may we suggest the use of the long distance telephone. Through its use your Christmas greetings may be carried directly and in a personal way to each relative and friend.

The sound of your voice to those from whom you are separated on Christmas Day, will be a cherished remembrance long after the holidays have passed.

For every Christmas visit made in the olden times in person, a hundred are now made by long distance telephone.



NORTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY