

THE MYSTERY GIRL

By CAROLYN WELLS. (Copyright, 1922.)

(Continued from Yesterday.)

"Terry, that's so. Little Old Maurice wants a wife—and who do you suppose has caught my fancy?"

"Who?" was the mechanical response.

"Why, none other than the little Miss Mystery. Oh, yes, I know she is under a cloud—but I can get her off—I'm a bird of a lawyer, you know—and we'll fix all that up. Then, I'll elevate that little nonentity to the elevated position of the mistress of the house."

Had Lockwood's calm not been habitual with him he could scarcely have maintained it through this scene. As it was, he was a boiling, seething furnace inside him, but his judgment told him that any exhibition of surprise or annoyance would only irritate the other man without doing any good.

Moreover, if Trask were really a shrewd lawyer, and if he knew something that would make any trouble for Anita—and she had hinted that he did—then, Lockwood argued, he must keep friendly with Trask, at least until he found out more of the matter.

"I heard," he said, lightly, "that the lady agreed?"

"Well—not yet; but—I say, Lockwood, you're hit in that same direction, eh?"

"I admire Miss Austin very much, yes."

"Well—you keep off—do you hear?"

"I hear," said Lockwood in his imperturbable way, but when Trask looked up and caught the cold stare of his secretary, he dropped the subject and returned to the books.

your daughter forgets my hints I trust to you to keep her reminded. That's all about that."

In this fashion Maurice Trask settled every question that arose. His word was law, and he spoke no unnecessary words.

The servants could obey or leave. The housekeeper had been told the same, and the secretary understood it, too.

Returning to the library after luncheon, Trask sat at the desk in deep thought.

"Got to get the girl," he told himself. "Plenty to hold over her head—but she's skittish, that's plain to be seen. Also, she's in love with Lockwood. Got to get him out of town. Nothing doing while he's around. Now, how? Morton hinted of his being deeply in debt. If so, he's got some past history, guess I can get something on him—got to, whether I can or not. H'm. Wonder if the little girl did do the sticking. Hard to believe it, and yet that kid's got it in her. She sure has! And she's a Truesdell all right. Nobody ever had those beetling brows, almost joining above those dark eyes, in that level line—why, if she's a Truesdell—good Lord, I've got to marry her! I'll have to scare her into it! Now, Maurice, my boy, get in some of your finest work!"

Clapping on his hat, he started for the Adams house.

As luck would have it, he met Anita and his secretary walking toward him.

"Playing truant?" he called out gaily to Lockwood.

"I'm just on my way to your house," Gordon returned, coldly.

"You, too, Miss Mystery?" and Trask gave her a wide smile.

"No; I'm going to the postoffice."

"Ah, I see. Then, on your way, Lockwood, and I'll step along with Miss Austin."

There was no good way out of this arrangement, so it obtained, and Trask fell into step with the girl, as Lockwood turned off toward the Waring house.

"Now, my dear young lady," Trask began, unheeding her look of aversion, "you may as well understand me first as last. I've got the whip hand—or, as that isn't a very graceful expression, let us say, I hold the trumps. I know all about you, you see. I know why you went to the doctor's library that night, and—I know what happened there."

"You don't," said Anita, coolly.

"You're bluffing, and I know it."

"No, I'm not bluffing—not entirely, anyway. True, there are some things I don't know yet, but—I soon will! Don't think you can keep anything from me! I'm going to take a week for investigation. Also, to give you your chance. If I find out what I fully expect to find out I shall make it all public—how will you like that?"

A great fear showed in Anita's eyes, and she murmured, brokenly: "Don't—oh, Mr. Trask, don't!"

"Hah! Scared, are you? I thought you'd be. Now, you know my price. You marry me—promise to marry me, that is, and I'll get you through this thing with bells on. No shadow of suspicion shall remain attached to you—or to anyone you care for."

"I heard you were not going to rest until you learned who killed Dr. Waring," Anita temporized.

"Yes, yes; but that was before I saw you. Now, I don't care if you have killed half of the people in Corinth, I want you all the same. You've bewitched me. You, a silly little slip of a girl, with no particular claim to beauty, except your big, mournful eyes, and your peach of a mouth! I'll bring the smiles to that sad little face. Oh, Anita, I'm not a brute, and I do love you so. Give up your foolish fancy for Lockwood, for it is only a passing attraction. And he hasn't any money, and he's deeply in debt, and oh, I'm a thousand times a better catch!"

"If you knew how you damaged your cause by talking like that—" the girl began, her eyes cold with scorn.

"Then I won't talk like that," Trask said, humbly. "Only take me, Anita, and you can make me over to suit yourself. I'll do whatever you say. I'll read the books you want me to, I'll get cultured and refined—and all that."

Anita almost laughed. "You are so funny," she said.

"But this was a little too much for Trask's self-love.

"Funny, am I?" he stormed. "Funny! You'll see how funny I am when I tell the police why you killed that man! You'll see if I'm funny when I refuse the evidence that might help you out. When I keep still instead of speaking out in meekness! You look here, Anita Austin, I hold you, in the hollow of my hand, and don't you forget it! You've got a deep, dark secret—and though I don't know quite all of it—I'll know it soon. What Mr. Trask sets out to find out, he finds out. See? Now, do you want to tell me who you are—or not? Want to tell me who your father was? Your mother was a Truesdell—I'll bet on that!"

Miss Mystery's face fell. Abject despair was written on every line of it. She glanced at Trask, and his own determined expression showed her that she could hope for nothing from him save on his own terms.

And those terms were too hard for her. Just aware of loving Lockwood, just learning to know what love meant and how sweet it could be, just realizing, too, the awfulness of her own position, the dire necessity for

secrecy, the terrible result of Trask's revelations, should they be made, altogether Miss Mystery faced a dangerous crisis.

"You say you'll give me a week?" said Miss Mystery at last, grasping at a hope of reprieve.

Trask looked at her with curiosity. "What good'll that do you? Better put yourself under my protection at once. Every day you lose is that much nearer discovery."

"All right, I'll dare it! They won't—won't condemn me, anyhow."

"Ho, ho. Banking on your sex to save you? Well, honestly, I don't really think they'd send a pretty girl like you to the chair, but a trial would convict you in the eyes of the world, even if 12 men were too soft-hearted to see you electrocuted. And there'd be imprisonment—"

"Oh, hush! Mr. Trask, have you no pity?"

"Pity for the girl that is to be my wife. None for any other. And especially none for a girl who scorns me and throws me over for my own secretary. I'm a red-blooded man, I am, and you can't play fast and loose with me and get away with it!"

(To Be Continued Monday.)

Saturday Musical--Free To All

January 6, 1923, 3:30 P. M.

The thirteenth season of these free musicals will be held tomorrow and one hour of real enjoyment is promised you. Come and bring your friends. The following well-known artists make up the program: Celco Solo, played by Marguerite Volavy; Dance Russian by Polly Bruno, pupil of Dorothy Devere; Piano Solo by Irving Heller, pupil of Grace Dennison Schafer; Dance and Contortionist by Anna De Witt, pupil of Henry Stone; Piano Trio by Ruth Runn, Helen Shibley and Rowena Shibley, pupils of Miss Marie Kiely; Celco Solo, played by Hans Hanke Song and Dance by Helen Macfarland, pupil of Agnes Britton; Recitation by Virginia Blundell, pupil of Amy Woodruff.

Schmoller & Mueller
1514-16-18 Dodge St. Telephone AT lantic 1856
PIANO CO.

USE BEE WANT ADS—THEY BRING RESULTS

A National Institution From Coast to Coast

The Store of the Town

Real Furnishings Values at This Men's Store

Maintaining a reputation has been the policy of this house for the past 34 years. These furnishings values are backed by our good name.

Men's Shirts

Not in a long time has such a shirt selling occurred at this store—and it is a prudent move on the part of every man who reads this to attend this unusual clearance.

In Three Great Groups

- No. 1
Printed and woven madras and percale shirts. Fine assortment of neat patterns—
\$1.35--2 for \$2.50
\$1.50 and \$2.00 Values
- No. 2
Woven and satin stripe madras shirts. Stripes, checks and plaids—
\$1.95--2 for \$3.75
\$2.50 and \$3.00 Values
- No. 3
Fancy woven madras and silk stripes. "Shirts from the finest makers"—
\$2.85--2 for \$5.50
Values to \$5.00



Men's Pajamas

"Faultless and Universal makes," all the newest fabrics. Stripes, plain colors, white silk stripes, mixtures; soisette, madras, French percales and crepes. Fruit of the loom; plain and fancy trimmed. Wonderful styles and values that sold to \$5.00, at—
\$2.65--2 for \$5.00

Men's Underwear

Blue mixed Union Suits, medium weight, of mixed wool and cotton. All sizes.
\$2.35--2 for \$4.50
20% Off Flannel Shirts, Duofold Underwear, Flannel Pajamas and Night Gowns, Heavy Sweaters, Bath Robes and Jackets.

Browning King & Co.

ALWAYS RELIABLE
15th and Douglas Harry H. Abbott, Manager

DOWN SALE

COMBINED WITH BEDDEO'S GREAT STORE-WIDE

EXPANSION SALE

Contractors Demand Room so as to Continue Expansion Work

Progress in this great expansion work shall not be delayed. We shall sell regardless of any loss we are forced to sustain. Grasp this wonderful money-saving opportunity.

An Incomparable Smashing of Prices on This Huge \$100,000 Stock of Men's and Women's Winter Apparel

Over 4,000 Square Feet Being Added to Our Selling Space

When completed this will give the Beddeo Clothing Co. over 11,800 square feet of selling space, making it the second largest exclusive credit clothing store in the entire United States. This growth has been obtained in but nine years—and only because of the confidence Omaha men and women

HALF PRICE AND LESS THAN HALF

Value Sensations in Men's Suits and Overcoats

Virtually thousands of garments. The smartest style creations, and the way we have priced them is almost a shame. Let nothing keep you away, men. Your opportunity is here—at Beddeo's.

- In Four Amazing Sale Groups
- A regular battleground of value giving—and the easiest of payments will care for anything you may buy.
- LOT 1 \$16.50
 - LOT 2 \$19.50
 - LOT 3 \$24.50
 - LOT 4 \$32.50
- Less Than Half Price



Advance New Spring Millinery

- \$4.95 \$5.95 \$6.95
- The newest creations developed in Satins, Hair Cloths, Taffetas, Wash Hair Cloths—in Turban and Polk shapes.
- You buy these stunning new Hats on the easy sort of credit terms.
- Third Floor

The Materials Alone Cost More Than We Ask for These Beautiful

Winter Coats

Values you cannot resist and will not want to resist. Coats in enormous varieties. Get yours tomorrow.

- Luxurious fabrics, rich colors, newest styles; worth two and three times price quoted.
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| One Lot at \$14.50 | One Lot at \$39.50 |
| One Lot at \$18.50 | One Lot at \$49.50 |
| One Lot at \$24.50 | One Lot at \$59.50 |
| One Lot at \$29.50 | One Lot at \$69.50 |
- Less than half price. Less than half price.

Women's Dresses in a Mighty Sale

The very prettiest dresses ever gathered by Beddeo. Masterpieces of grace, line, color and finish will be placed into—

- Four Choice Lots as Follows
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| One Lot at \$8.50 | One Lot at \$12.50 |
| One Lot at \$16.50 | One Lot at \$22.50 |
- Every dress worth two or three times these daring low prices.

Railroad Fare Will Be Refunded to Those Living Out of the City

Beddeo wants his numerous out-of-town friends to participate in THE EXPANSION SALE, so he offers to REFUND Railroad or Bus Fare ONE WAY up to a distance of 50 miles on any purchase of \$25 or BOTH ways on a purchase of \$50 or over. It will PAY you and pay you BIG to come here from ANY distance. You DON'T have a chance to take advantage of excessively reduced EXPANSION SALE PRICES very often. You DO have the chance now, with your Railroad fare PAID and with CREDIT inducements in the bargain. So DO come.

BEDDEO

1417 Douglas Street

Beddeo Wires From New York as Follows: We are making huge purchases of new spring apparel—have selected many new lines for our enlarged store—clear out every winter garment in the house. We'll open the new store with a 100% all new stock. Make prices that will sell the merchandise quick. Action is what we want.

Does Not Scratch or Hurt the Hands

Cuts Grease and Spots Off Pans and Pots

KITCHEN KLENZER

ANTISEPTIC CLEANS-SCOURS SCRUBS-POLISHES

Takes the Slavery Out of Wash Day

AUTOMATIC SOAP FLAKES