

STELLA DALLAS

By Olive Higgins Prouty.

SYNOPSIS

Stella Dallas separated from her husband, and her daughter, Laurel, is in the "chaperone room" of a fashionable hotel in Milhampton. In the parlors, where she passes her days, she receives her mother's scornful references to her mother made by social leaders in Milhampton. Stella's mother and daughter are always smartly dressed when they go together to the dining room. Laurel goes on a visit to her father in New York and she leaves her father in the hands of a friend while he is away on a trip to Chicago. After seeing her daughter about the train in Boston Stella goes to a cafe where she meets an old admirer, Alfred Wynn, with whom she attends a musical fete.

(Continued from yesterday.)
She had no love at all for music. It appeared, although during the short period of their courtship she told Stephen she was "cray about it," and in fact seemed to him to be. She was a beautiful dancer. "I just can't keep still when there's a tune going on." But after her first real musical concert with Stephen, she thought she might several weeks after their marriage (Boston artists often came to Milhampton), she frankly confessed herself as a horrible bore. It was so squeaky, like filling finger-nails with a steel file, she thought. Of course if musical concerts, Knickerbocker parties and the like were "the thing," she was game for them. But really a good vaudeville show (movies were then in their infancy) was much more entertaining. And a good play, where you saw modern actors, kept you so much better up-to-date, and rubbed the green moss off you in rolls. The beauty of out-of-doors had no attraction for her, nor flowers either, her morning-glories and wild cucumbers notwithstanding. She spent a good deal of time outdoors, walking, however, for the physical exhilaration of it, but simply "to reduce" (even then Stella was inclined to be a little plump) or to save the puffing of her ears, which she usually invested in candy. She was always nibbling at candy.

Often during the first few months of his marriage, grave doubts and misgivings assailed Stephen, but he was able to send them slinking away usually by comparing his present existence with that of some one else. A year ago his evenings had been awful stretches of loneliness and unloveliness. Now each night there was a very pretty and always good-natured Stella waiting for him in a little sweet-smelling apartment; and after his evening meal there were distant sounds, far from unpleasant to him, of running water and rattling dishes, as he sat smoking and reading in his old Morris chair, wrapped round with his books and his rug, and a few treasured pieces of furniture unburied from a storehouse in Reddington.

Later, there was somebody sitting on the arm of his Morris chair, pressing against his shoulder, somebody soft and warm and alive, and his—his, to do with as he pleased. No; he was not sorry that he had married Stella.
If time had not been steadily at work performing its gentle cure upon Stephen, he might never have been sorry he had married Stella. But old sorrows, old ideas began to reassert themselves. In spite of himself, gradually, slowly, Stephen became interested in his job at the Cataract Mills. More than once that spring, Stella, coming in from the kitchen of the little apartment after the supper dishes had been put away, found Stephen poring over one of the sheepskin-bound volumes from the bottom shelf of the bookcases he had had built around the living-room. His precious Trollope or Meredith (and what did he find in those old birds?) pushed aside, discarded.

The sheepskin-bound volumes were Stephen's law books. He told Stella he wanted to satisfy a curiosity he had, as to the legal right or wrong of certain affairs at the Cataract Mills. Stephen was in the complaint department of the mills at that time. This curiosity of Stephen's permeated through the man immediately above him, and through the next man, and the next and the next, and so on to the general manager finally.

with amazing speed old lines of communication were established between himself and the world to which he belonged. The impression he made upon Milhampton was distinctly favorable.

One day Mrs. Palmer invited Stephen and his wife to dinner. Others invited Stephen and his wife to dinner. Stephen became very anxious to feel pride in Stella, now that he had begun to feel pride again in himself. Stella became very anxious that she should feel pride in her. To appear the lady Stephen's wife should have been born became Stella's greatest ambition. On the first few occasions when she appeared with Stephen before the footlights of the social life in Milhampton—a stage she had gazed upon with longing eyes for years—she would do nothing say nothing, almost think nothing, until it was first approved by Stephen. At first she invited his criticism, responded with eagerness to his constant drilling suggestion. Of course she made progress. She was a clever mimic. At first Stephen had great hopes for Stella.

(Continued in The Morning Bee.)
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Adele Garrison "My Husband's Love"

Madge called on Mrs. Durkee. Snarly, snarly, had a party. Little Mrs. Durkee's voice had her familiar lilting laugh in it and I stopped short halfway between the door and her bed to stare at her in amazement. Dr. Braithwaite had told me the evening before of her wonderful rally from the operation, and after his morning call upon her had telephoned me that he wished to see me. With my preparations all made for accompanying my sister-in-law to the farm—unable to sleep because of my uneasiness over the unknown intruder of the night before. I had arisen early and worked steadily. But even with the expectancy of seeing a convalescent instead of a worn shock-shattered patient, I was not prepared for the shining-eyed vision which confronted me.

"You're the most colossal fraud I know," I declared emphatically. "Don't tell me you're a surgical case. You've simply hypnotized Katherine and Dr. Braithwaite."

"I wish I could hypnotize him." The adorable little woman whom we call "Her Fluffiness" tried to achieve a sentimental look and sigh then laughed merrily at her failure. "Isn't he the most adorable thing?" she cried. "But I think you were meant having a party without me. I just told the doctor so this morning, too." She shook her head emphatically, and Katherine, who had been sitting watchfully at one side of the room, with only a smile for me, arose and crossed to the bed.

"Don't you get rambunctious," she said with an affectionate smile, but there was more than a hint of authority in the words, and I saw my little friend start as might a restive colt at a touch of restraint.

another nurse." The smile was still on Katherine's lips, but there was that in her voice and eyes which told she meant exactly what she said, and which evidently penetrated our little friend's volatile mental processes, for into her blue eyes there flashed a look like that of a frightened child.

"Oh Katherine, I will be good," she said contritely. "Only don't leave me. I should die if I had a strange one."

"Yes, it is. But how's Lella? Alfred said she had one of her headaches over at the hotel and couldn't come over." Katherine's swift warning gesture had kept me silent until the end of her patient's little speech, so that I was saved betraying to her the exciting fact that her daughter-in-law was in another room of the hospital recovering from a nervous collapse, not serious, requiring only two or three days' rest, but which surely would alarm her mother-in-law should she hear of it.

"I haven't seen her this morning," I said truthfully. "I'm going over to the hotel now, and I'll tell her you're asking about her."

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