

Single Men Only

She loved him and sent him to a job where marriage was barred

By Rowan Glen

With the middle finger of a pudgy hand, Mr. Humphrey Barclay, of Barclay's Advertising Service, pressed the buzzer on his desk. Five seconds later a clerk opened the door marked "Private."

"Tell Miss Maine I wish to see her," snapped Barclay, and lit a cigar. When the door opened again, through a haze of blue-grey smoke, the advertising agent looked at an extremely pretty girl of twenty-three, fair of hair and skin, but with, at the moment, a rather worried expression in her large, grey eyes.

"I want a word with you, Miss Maine," Barclay announced. "A serious word. Sit down."

With superficial meekness she obeyed, and listened to a lively and ungentle criticism of her work in the agency's art department.

"Well, there it is," she was told finally. "For all I know you may be a genius as a highbrow artist, but you're no good on commercial work—not here, anyhow."

"Does that mean you are sack me, Mr. Barclay?"

"No! I never give anyone a fortnight's notice. I give 'em the money instead, and cut the connection sharp. Much the best way. I've run through to the cashier, so—"

Sally Maine, so risen, and, though she did not know it, she was prettier than ever, because there was added color in her cheeks. She might have no great talents, and very little money, but she had courage and a good deal of pride.

"Thanks," she said. "Posts are difficult to get nowadays, and I had to pluck enough to resign; but I'm glad you've dismissed me. It's been rather horrible working for a bad-tempered, fault-finding, vulgar little man, blown up with his own conceit. I'm sorry for whoever takes my place here. Good-bye."

That was well enough said; but once she was outside the big office, and on her way towards the boardinghouse in Kensington, Sally hesitated for her, unnaturally grave of mood. While it was true that she was glad to have seen the last of Barclay the Bully, as she had christened him some six months previously, other things were equally true.

For instance, she hadn't enough cash to keep her for more than a few weeks. Her only relatives were some uninteresting and perpetually hard-up cousins down in Devonshire, to whom she could not possibly apply for help, even should help be necessary, and she had but few friends in London. There were a good many acquaintances, of course; but they are different.

She smiled somewhat ruefully on realizing that she was now in the same position as her fellow-artist and boarder, James Carruthers, an out-of-work, who liked Carruthers very much, and it was a shame, so she told herself, that he should have so little a spell of ill-fortune. He had said little about himself, and had never complained, but Sally guessed that of late he must have been knowing something pretty near distress.

Within a few seconds of reaching the boardinghouse, she met him in the little hall, and had the odd fancy that he looked as though he seemed to be suddenly and unusually ill at ease.

"Hello, Miss Maine!" he started. "I've never known you get back so early as this before. I'll be able to say a good-bye to you, after all."

As he spoke, Sally noticed a trunk and suitcase which stood near the hatstand.

"Good-bye," she repeated. "But what does it mean? You aren't leaving—not definitely?"

He nodded, and now the flush was fading, though the uneasiness remained.

"A friend of mine," he returned, "I decided this morning, and I've squared things up with Mother Goose. I'm going to move into cheaper quarters. Then, if nothing turns up in a fortnight or so, I'll clear out of London. There's a farm I know where I might get a job, hoeing turnips, or something of that sort. Nobody wants to buy my masterpiece, and I've raked every agency and newspaper for a job. Not a hope for me in your office, I suppose?"

He put the question lightly, but it inspired Sally.

"I think there very well might be," she answered. "Let's go into the sitting-room and talk. There's no one there."

A minute or so later she ended a rather long speech thus:

"So, you see, it's certainly worth trying. Mr. Carruthers, Barclay's must have someone in my place, so why not you? The only thing is, you're far too good for them, and I doubt if they'd pay you more than four or five pounds a week to start with, anyway. Don't say you know me. That would do you completely. But have a go at the thing. By the way, you aren't married, are you?"

"Married? No! All my troubles are under my own hat, as they say."

"Good! Mr. Barclay makes a point of employing only single men. That's

part of his general craziness. You must like him, but on the other hand, a job's a job."

"You bet your life," said Carruthers, and did not know that his voice was as steady as that of a normal man. "A job! A weekly income! After months of—"

He broke off there, because he was ashamed of himself. He said so.

"You mean about money? About carrying on till I land something else?"

"Yes, I see. I know what a devil of a business searching for a post can be, and I know what the freelance game is like, these days."

"I'm quite O.K.," she told him cheerfully. "I can hang on here till long after the last cow has come home. But—What's the matter now?"

"It's nothing, really," he answered; but, all the same, looked as though some sudden worry had assailed him. "I've just remembered I left something upstairs I'd better take away with me now. I'll hop up and get it. If you don't mind waiting here for a second. Will you?"

"Of course," she said. "But watch that ash from your cigarette. Drop it into that fern-pot. Mother Goose as you call her, doesn't really believe in the sanctity of the cigarette."

She was still speaking when Carruthers had gone from the room—was still wondering about him when she went up to her bedroom and removed her hat.

Then she began to sniff. In the room—her own, very private room—there lingered the smell of cigarette smoke! She never smoked in her bedroom, and, anyway, her infrequent cigarettes were Virginia.

Whoever had been in her room, Carruthers or Egyptian, James Carruthers smoked Turkish, because he could afford any cigarettes at all!

But she had other things to think of than this minor mystery. She had to get her job. She had no one to whom she could turn. Far better artist than she was going to the wall gallantly on her own. Worst of all, she had said good-bye to him. She knew now that in her heart she had been calling him that during the many weeks when she had thought to be merely sorry for him.

When she was going to bed that night she said aloud, "I don't understand, Jim, but I suppose everything will come all right some day. I hope you get the job with the Bully, as she had christened him some six months previously, other things were equally true."

When Sally was most despair, and down to her last ten-shilling note, she received this letter from Carruthers: "Dear Miss Maine—Some weeks ago I wrote you to the effect that I'd got a job with Barclay's. My blessings went to you for the chance. Now I have left the 'Bully,' as you called him, and am in charge of the art room with Alex. Morrison & Co. There's a small job for you here, if you wish one."

"Any way, will you call and have a chat? You promised to let me know if you left Mother Goose, so I take it you are still with her. I couldn't stay with Barclay any longer, for I am to be married soon, so she told herself, that he should have so little a spell of ill-fortune. He had said little about himself, and had never complained, but Sally guessed that of late he must have been knowing something pretty near distress."

"Yours sincerely, 'James Carruthers.'"

At her most dignified, Sally went to see James Carruthers in his new office. She was poor, but did her best to look prosperous; was harassed, but strove to appear as though harassed; had never touched her. To work in the same office as the man whom she loved would be awkward for her in many ways, but he would not be allowed to see that at awkwardness.

"It was awfully good of you to write me," she said, after some moments. "Do you really mean you can fix me up with a job here?"

"Carruthers, who was opening and shutting his cigarette-case nervously, nodded, and when he spoke, did so as a shy boy might have done.

"Yes, if you care to have it," he said. "I'd very much rather you took that. I told you in my note I was going to be married. Well, I'm not sure whether that's true or not. It all depends on the girl—on you, Sally."

She stared at him in complete amazement.

"On me?" she asked. "What—what's the joke, Mr. Carruthers?"

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Ghandi Spins



In downpour of rain, Mahatma Gandhi, Indian leader, arrived in England, aboard channel steamer. Mahatma spinning, as he crossed English Channel from Douglas.

Canada Has 391,372 Miles of Highways

Ottawa.—There were 391,372 miles of highway open for traffic at the end of last year, a preliminary report of the highways and motor vehicles in Canada issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shows.

The province of Saskatchewan was in mileage with 154,859, and was followed by Alberta with 62,426 and Ontario with 52,270 miles of road. The highways of the two Western Provinces, however, were mostly unimproved, with 33,152 miles of road.

Manitoba fifth with 26,152 miles, Nova Scotia seventh with 14,681 miles of highway. The district of Northern Ontario, which is listed in the report separately, came next with 13,652 miles, and Prince Edward Island last with 3,659 miles of road.

There were 80,497 miles of surfaced highway in the Dominion, and Ontario led with 34,579 miles of this kind. Quebec was second with 22,045 miles, and Prince Edward Island last with 3,659 miles of road.

Capital expenditures for provincial and provincially subsidized roads in 1930 were \$84,255,000 for the Dominion, \$24,502,000 for this was spent on secondary provincial highways, \$10,338,000 on county and municipal roads and the remainder on township and local roads, bridges constructed during the year in Canada cost \$3,712,000, making a grand total of \$99,989,000 spent on highway work. Maintenance of all these roads and bridges cost \$23,102,000.

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WITH THE LONE SCOUTS

World Jambooree

It has been decided that the next Boy Scout World Jambooree will take place in 1933 at a place called Godal, about 15 miles from the city of Budapest, in Hungary.

This was decided by the International Conference of Boy Scout Leaders held recently at Vienna, Austria. When the Canadian contingent was chosen for the last Jambooree, which was held in England in 1929, the condition was that all candidates should be First-Class Scouts.

Wouldn't it be a fine thing if, at the next 1933 Jambooree, some Ontario Lone Scouts were included in the contingent? If you are keen to take the trip to Europe, therefore, you should get busy in order to obtain the necessary qualifications well in advance.

Parents' View of Scouting

See therefore how the "Lone Scout" contains a short article written by the parents of a Lone Scout in that district, in which the following statements are made:

"Scout work is one of the best things for boys. It offers great possibilities for practical education as well as recreation. It develops observation and alertness, a desire to gain facts and methods of doing things most effectively. It encourages the most efficient. It encourages the boy to want to be a Lone Scout. It encourages them for particulars of this work. They will be glad to hear from Lone E."

If you are not a Scout, and if you are unable to join an ordinary Troop, perhaps you would like to be a Lone Scout.

If so, write to The Lone Scout, 100 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, and ask them for particulars of this work. They will be glad to hear from Lone E."

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For a Balanced Diet..

serve Healthful

KRAFT CHEESE

Made in Canada by the Makers of Velveeta and Kraft Salad Dressing

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