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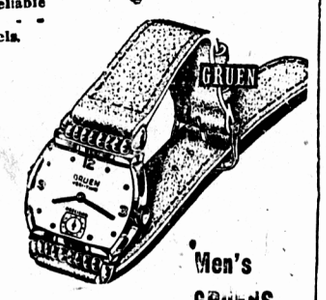

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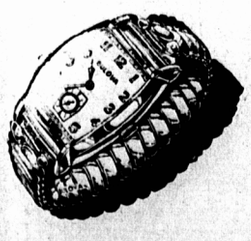

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Smart Girl

By George F. Worts

CHAPTER VII

Guy Van Arden's apartment was done just as his sort of man always does an apartment. It was very substantial, a little heavy and junky with its sarongs and tapa cloths and Buddhas.

He stood in the middle of the living room smiling at Sally Porter as he shook a silver cocktail shaker. She knew very little about Guy Van Arden except that he was brilliant and dangerous. He came from a fine old New York family. He had been bored by the usual stockbroker sort of career of the rich young man without particular talents, had gone dabbling in diplomacy for the fun of it, had lived abroad and gone on vague diplomatic missions in the early days of the Brain Trust. He had grown enthusiastic about government work, and had done sensational work for the Immigration Department of the Department of Labor.

He was exceedingly attractive. With his slender figure and wide shoulders, he gave an impression of bigness, of hard strength without bulk. His hair was very black his eyes were cobalt-blue, clear and steady, with a dark-brown look. He had a thin black mustache, and there were saturine lines that looked as if they had been carved beside it by his restlessness.

Sally Porter said. "It was really very simple. I delivered the suit and phoned for the ambulance and he got away as you planned."

"I see. Did you come directly here?"

"No. I had to see some new gowns at Magdorp's and check up on a rumor about Cornelia Van Zandit."

"Do you happen to know who's coming to town tonight?" He took the cap off the shaker. "Senator Larsen."

Her heart made a little jump. She said innocently, "Will that affect you?"

"It may ruin everything I'm trying to do. Why." Van Arden said angrily. "didn't he stay in the cold-air manufacturing business where he belongs? He needs a dose of his own product, the damned old hot-air merchant! He's a dangerous busybody. He's a publicity snatcher and a limelight thief. I'm handling the Zorane case, and I don't want his interference and meddling.

"I want you to squeeze an item into your tomorrow's column: 'The ideal restaurant would serve half a lemon, in a nest of ice, with every fish order.' It's to my man in Detriot. It means, watch Thirty-three — that's Nicholas Murfa, the agitator, operating in Flint."

She looked at him curiously. She hesitated and said. "You said there would'nt be an more."

"This is very urgent."

"I'll have to hurry."

She telephoned the Globe office and gave the item to her secretary. "Drop out the lipstick-and-powder-puff verse." Sally said, "and run this instead."

Van Arden was standing beside her when she put the phone down He said, "You're so terribly pretty." He put his hands on her shoulders slipped his fingers halfway to her elbows and pulled her quickly to her feet. Before she could twist away, he pulled her into his arms and kissed her. She twisted her head around and his lips trailed roughly across her cheek and into the hair above her ear.

She twisted away from him. Her face was white. She said furiously "I'm doing nothing more for you. I'm through!"

His surprise gave him an air of whimsicality. One eyebrow was up and his eyes were amused. "Do you really mean that, Sally?"

She held his eyes for a moment, then the breath went out of her. "No. I don't meap it. Of course I don't mean it But,' she said with spirit, "our agreement doesn't carry this far. It seems silly to call it a business agreement, but as far as I'm concerned it's just that. Nothing more. I've got to do what you say or you'll talk. You can force me to do anything you want me to do"

His eyes remained amused, but the eyebrows had come down. He said gravely. "You make me sound very villainous. And I'm not. There are things you can do for me that no one else can do. I'm sorry I have to force you to do them."

She said swiftly: "Even so, you couldn't force me to do them if—"

"Yes,:" he stopped her. "I know. If it were you I had something on. You'd never stand for blackmail. You'd tell me to go to hell. I've taken advantage of your gallantry. I'm sorry, because I'm in love with you. Whenever you've been here, whenever you leave this place, it aches with emptiness for hours. You see, you're in my blood."

Sally lit cigarette. She could not trust herself to speak.

"Oh, I know you're in love with Barney. And I think you're making a great mistake. He's jealous of your career. He's jealous of every man you know. He'll make your life miserable, and sooner or later he'll force you to choose between him and your career."

She said defiantly. "I'd give up my career without an instant's hesitation."

He nodded. "I know. It's a great shame And it's a pity you don't love me, Sally. I'm going places."

"So is Barney."

"Yes, but these are different places. I'm moving to the State Department as soon as this mess is cleaned up. I want a wife like you, brilliant and beautiful, to go with me all the way. I've decided this country needs an Anthony Eden. Sally, I'm going to be Ambassador to the Court of St. James's before I'm through. And you're marrying Barney next week."

(To Be Continued)

Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

Q. What should one do when with a crowd, following a dance, and the others wish to stop somewhere to eat, and one is not hungry??

A. One can always order something very light and make an attempt at eating it.

Q. When calling on a friend and she is not at home, is it all right to leave a message?

A. Yes. "Sorry to have missed you" may be written on one's card.

Q. Is it all right for a girl to give her fiance an engagement present?

A. Yes; this is often done.

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The young man had only recently entered the firm, and the boy's father did not care for the prospect of an early engagement. He determined to speak to the young girl, who entered his office and announced that the son had proposed and that she had accepted him.

"Well, I think you might have seen me first," said the parent, rather tersely.

"I did," she replied, "but I preferred your son."

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☐ GRAND CANYON SUITE (Grofé)
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