



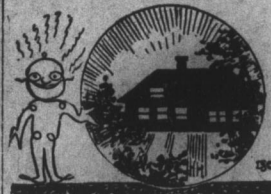
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BROKEN HEARTS of HOLLYWOOD

BY EDWARD CLARK

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"BROKEN HEARTS OF HOLLYWOOD" with Louise Dresser is a Warner picturization of this novel.

SYNOPSIS

Betsy Trevolliger and Hal Chutney, in Hollywood as prize winners of newspaper contests for movie try-outs, are depressed by the number of people seeking work. Betsy meets Virginia Perry, erstwhile star, now a failure. Both Hal and Betsy are disappointed in their first attempts in acting. Oldtimers see a mysterious resemblance in Betsy to someone they cannot remember. Marshall, reputed to be responsible for many of the "broken hearts of Hollywood," is attentive to Betsy, arousing Hal's jealous anger.

CHAPTER X—Continued.

At last came a day when, at lunch hour, Betsy framed the question that had been dawning in her mind. They were seated in a quiet corner of the deserted glass studio on a Louis XIV. "love seat" which had been trundled off the set before being returned to the property department.

"Why do you dislike Mr. Marshall so? When he asked us to go for a ride the other night you were positively rude, Hal."

"Asked us?" exclaimed Hal bitterly. "When he asked you, you mean?"

"He always means 'the both of us!'"

Hal, in an excess of devotion, caught her hand gently: "Dear little goose, he never means us. He wants only you. It is you, in your sweetness, who gives him credit for being more of a gentleman than he is."

She slapped his hand with pretended severity. "Hal," she said crossly. "I believe you're jealous."

"I am, pet!" he mumbled, catching hold of her in his arms. "Oh, Betsy, dear, can't you see that I'm worried over the interest you show in that man's attentions. His pose

"Oh, Betsy dear, can't you see that I'm worried!"

of friendly adviser is fooling you. Some day he'll break through that veneer, and you'll see the truth. Please, Betsy, for my sake, be forewarned and avoid that day. It would only bring trouble—serious trouble—for I'd kill him or any other man who ever said a wrong word to you."

"Hal, Hal! Don't hold me so tight. You're hurting me," she cried, straining away from his lips; a frighted at last by the flame behind the smoke. Then, thrilling unaccountably, she trembled a little and laughed nervously.

"Hal, you're getting positively dramatic. If a director saw or heard you that time you'd get a star contract right away." Then she added, more softly, "Dear boy, you're worried without cause. Mr. Marshall has never said a thing he shouldn't say. If he did, you may be sure I'd never speak to him again."

She relaxed into his embrace, stirred in a way she never had been before; she found the strong pressure of his young arms and body comforting now, rather than hurtful; and in return strained herself against him with awakened fire. After a while she whispered through lips that were moist on his cheek:

"Promise me you won't talk any more about killing—people."

"Then promise me you'll have nothing more to do with Marshall," he muttered huskily into her wispy hair.

"Oh, Hal," she exclaimed, more calmly now as they relaxed decorously upon hearing the approach of a whistling stage hand on the other side of the "flat." "I can't promise that, for if I'm to give up all my contacts, all my chances to learn through meeting and talking with people, I'll never get any place."

But when she saw the returned disappointment and bitterness flaring in his eyes, she hastened to lay her warm hands over his and add, "But I'll promise you, Hal, dearest, that I'll never let the sacredness of

our love be profaned by an advance from Marshall or anyone else."

Hal had to be content with that; and bye and bye as the mingling flames of love and hatred cooled a bit, he smiled ruefully and sportily tried to see the reason in Betsy's argument.

Extras and stage hands, their lunch hour over, were reassembling on the adjacent set, in which Betsy was to work that afternoon. For his part, Hal was working in an outdoor, Alaskan set, whose snow and ice and wind-machine made blizzard were erected amid the semi-tropical foliage of the Studio back lot. So it was time to part. But first Betsy said suddenly:

"Hal, do you realize that a week from today our two-months contracts will be up. What shall we do then?"

Hal concealed his worry under an offhand manner. "Oh, don't let that bridge until you come to it, Betsy," he encouraged. "Maybe they'll give us more work. If not, there are the other Studios."

"But I've done so terribly in everything. I'm very much afraid they won't have any more work for me." Betsy was much disturbed by the thought of the regular contract salary stopping, and the uncertainty of bit jobbing looming ahead.

"You might be pleasantly surprised. They may be able to spot real talent and beauty under a little case of stage fright."

That afternoon, however, both with the shadow of that next week on their minds, retouched their efforts to please—and in their over-anxiety, of course, only failed the harder. It was the same story throughout that all too short week as it slipped by on reels of wind.

On the day that marked the sixth since first they arrived upon the Amalgamated Lot, full of great dreams and high ambitions, Cameron summoned both to his office early in the afternoon.

Directly they were seated facing him, Cameron swung from his desk and came to the point.

"As you know, of course, the contracts under which the Amalgamated Studios brought you here expire today. I'm sorry to tell you that we have no more steady work for you and will have to remove your names from the payroll today."

"Oh," cried Betsy, "then we've—we've failed? Our tryouts were unsuccessful?"

"Yes," said Cameron bluntly.

Hal felt the hot color of disappointment burning in his cheeks; but his primary sorrow was not for himself, but for Betsy, whose eyes glistened with tears.

"I tried my best," she lamented. "I wanted so much to—make good."

"And so did I," said Hal, thinking of how his mother and his sister would take the news of his failure; and all the good friends in Cotuit who had seen him off, who had worked hard to gain votes for him so that he could have this chance. He had failed their faith. That thought alone made him suddenly stubborn, made him forget his common sense declarations about going home if he failed.

"And I've been working right along," he said doggedly, "without any kicks lately. What's the matter with what I've done, anyhow?"

"You've worked, it is true. But you haven't shown anything that convinces us we ought to keep you on the regular payroll. That, of course, is an arrangement we make only with stars and the very best of either of these rarest experiences of life is never any the less. Betsy and Hal, although they had talked it over and were prepared for the possibilities, looked at one another in dismay now that they suddenly realized to the full that they were cast adrift on the teeming sea of Hollywood's extras.

"Of course," said Cameron, more kindly now, for he better than anyone else, realized just what these two were up against, "under the contract you get your fare to your homes paid to you in cash at the expiration of the agreement. Therefore, my frank and earnest advice to both of you is to go home at once on leave acting in the movies to those who have the genuine talent and the elastic hearts that are necessary. For, as I've told you both before, ambition and hard work alone won't get you very far in this business. You two are just kids. I like you. Everybody around here who has come into contact with you likes you, and is interested in you. So, while it's not usual for me to step out of my job and talk like a Dutch uncle to would-be stars in this way, I'm doing it because I don't want to see happen to you what I've seen happen to so many others."

(To be continued)

Neuse River Infested With Alligators Around Kinston.

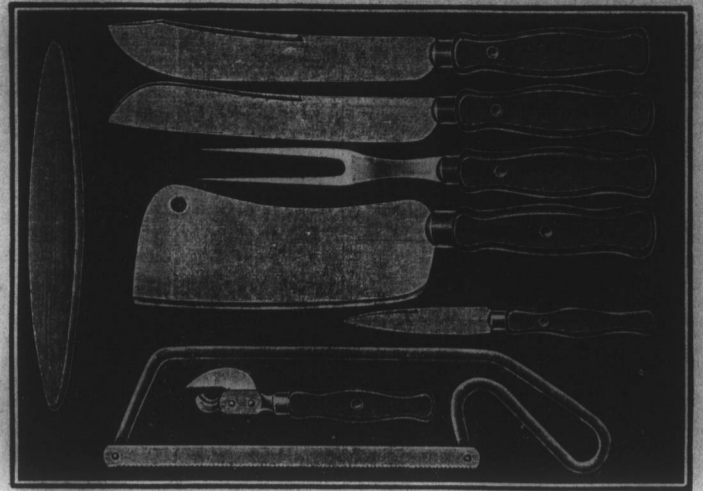
Kinston, June 24—The lady alligator that strayed up Neuse river from one of the creeks far down the streams and established a home started something. Now there are alligators everywhere in the river around Kinston. Until this spring one had not been seen this far up the Neuse river since ante bellum days. Numbers of them have been glimpsed in the river recently and several have been caught. Most of the gators are young. One two feet long was per-

fectly at home in a chicken coop at a store in the edge of the business district today. One a little larger was killed by an automobile in Happersville. Small boys have stopped swimming in the Neuse.

Eskimos, terrorized by the appearance of "a devil" fell down in panic when Captain Wilkins flew over 140 miles of unexplored polar regions.

Bessarabia is in the grip of a famine. Conditions are so bad that children are being sold in wholesale numbers.

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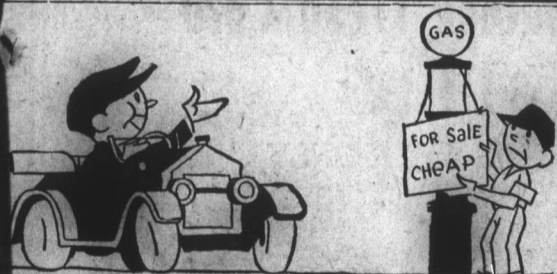
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