#### WATAUGA DEMOCRAT-EVERY THURSDAY-BOONE, N. C.

fanciful. That surely showed she slarted for the door. Well, she must change all that. As maris opened the door of her apartment, she heard the murmur there is a maris opened the door of her apartment, she heard the murmur there is a maris opened the door of her apartment is the issue is a maris opened the door of her apartment is the issue is a maris opened the murmur the issue issue is a maris opened the murmur the issue issue is a maris opened the murmur the issue issue is a maris opened the murmur the issue issue is a maris opened the murmur the issue is a maris opened the murmur issue is a maris opened the murmur the issue is a maris opened the murmur is a maris opened the murmur issue is a maris opened the murmur is a marine the murmur is a maris opened the murmur is a marine of voices, and when she crossed the could add her voice to her rather threshold Patsy called out, 'Is that half-hearted invitation. you, Maris ? C "No thank you, Maris, I'll be go-

darkened her eyes. "Gosh, Maris, aren't you going to kiss your boy friend, and congratulate him " He's put his gadget over and soon he'll be rolling in wealth." "That's fine," she said, but she

of the table, while the light that had lcaped to Rod's eyes as he heard her last night? Didn't you know I was That was soon after she'd met going to take you home?" the ca-Rod, and he was perfect in her eyes ressing note in his voice seemed to How she had wished then that one blot out all the harsh accusations enter, seemed to be extinguished. "Well, you're sure a queer pair I was just telling him what a hit you

She smiled in the dark Now Rod such a thing, but I'm size you'd had asked her to marry him, and plenty to see to and I got home all she had refused. Had she made a right." chance to make things up."

to

Maris. you refused to marry me, and maybe sink together? But, worn out with was over I might have a chance to there's someone else, but now that I'm going to be well fixed financially. won't you change your smile on her lips as though she were still at one with Rod, loving him appreciation tonight? How about having dinner with me and then mind Won't you marry me, dearling And he held out his hands to her. dearling? For a moment, looking Maris wished that she might rush to tremendous hit just night. Look The color dyed Maris checks and what the papers say about you" she could not keep the sparkle out Maris was entering the correspond- of her eyes as she said. 'You don't him all the bitterness she had enlow her head on his breast and tell Maris. him all the bitterness she had en-

had Rod to come here this might of

thing I wouldn't do for you after you were such a peach helping me She loved him and yet somehing

of the business.

some of the other girls might

He hadn't a great deal to say, a

few stock phrases, a few snappy come-backs, that, had Maris known

it, had done duty many times before

At last, however, they swung into

Park avenue and Maris was thrilled

at the speed at which they went. "Say," Stan said, "you've got to

don't want to send out cuts of Ro-

wene's picture to all our customers

and they're all writing in raving about it. You didn't know you were

"Why no, how exciting!" cried

"Well, little girl, there isn't a

magnificence of the jewels and dress of the women around them.

to order a swell dinner.

tuous hotel.

from his pocket.

clever crack

Weil, if you'd like me to, I will, I rather pride myself on knowing how

"All right, I love surprises," Maria answered, relieved that she had escaped that ordeal, for dever in all her life had she dind at such a sump-

"Well, that little thing's attended What brand do you smoke?"

Maris named a popular brand. "Here they are," replied Stan, taking a jewel-studded cigarette case

"Like to dance now ?" he asked as the crooning call of the orchestra

was luring people from their tables "No. not yet," answered Maris, realizing all too well how out of

place her simple little frock would

look amongst the gorgeously dress ed women who were on the floor.

"All right, little one. Well, here

comes the cats," and Maris surpress-ed an almost wolfishly-hungry look in Stan's eyes as the waitress put the food before him. Somehow the pic-ture of Rod rose before her, but

quickly she banished it.

pose in the wedding dress

"Oh, Hello, Rod!" she said as he ing," and before she realized it he rose "What's new?" A little shadow had opened the door and vanished. tomorrow--or, I guess today." darkened her eyes. Once more Maris felt disturbed by "I've had a wonderful evening, omething in the expression of his Stan. was a good fellow. He'd show her a goon time.

emained standing at the other side her, and listen to the line she was giving her young boss.

How she had wished then that one blot out all the harsh accusations was just telling him what a hit you day he'd ask her to marry him, for that the girls had made against her, then she thought surely it would be "Oh. I never thought of that. It's made last night. But there, I guess heaven to have a husbansi like him very kind of you to have thought of the way. I'll go in the kitch-Quickly Rod took a step toward

"Oh, sweetheart, I know at him. in the movies, in the newsreel, did

and is descention, and Milly daried to her have to feel out out into reaction, and Milly daried to her have to feel out and reaction, and Milly daried to her have to feel out and spool time. Another the interview of the state of the reaction of the interview of the int

meant nothing to her, for she felt start surely you won't deay me the all nights that what Sfan might say to her pleasure of having you as my guest. She love

that what Size might say to her might you as my guest what you as my guest what what size also difference in her might you as my guest of having you having so there are having to having you want have a so harm to it. Anyway she you for the used of having you want have you you having having having and ther was hoating flow of having you want having would flow of having you want having you want having you want having you want is yours for the having you want having the her having you want having having having having having having h

"How'd you like to work with the "I'd love it." "Better than typing ?" "A thousand times better," she declared, glancing at him with spark-

ling ey Then we'll have to see about that I've enjoyed every minute

lips. Then she shook herself. She she said as he walked with her to was getting horribly critical. Stan the door of the apartment house. "Well, we'll have another, sweetness." and before she realized what As he handed her into his smart he was doing, she felt his lips on

limousine, she wished that Milly or hers, "Oh, Stan," she said, the color dye-

ling in her cheeks Quickly he took her in his arms and raised her face to his. "You're not angry with me, are you, loveliest?

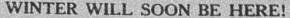
She shook her head slowly (Continued Next Week)

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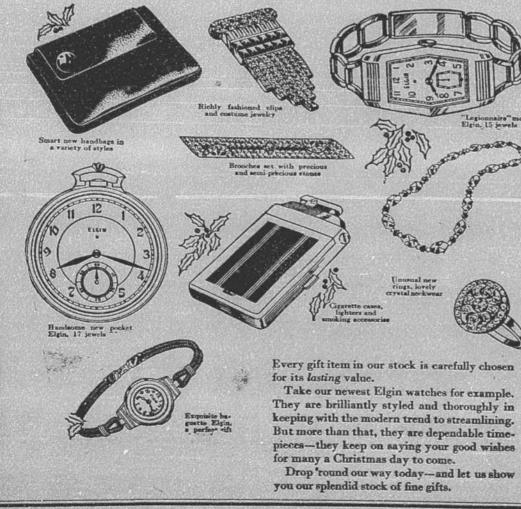


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**Make-Believe** 

Bride

BY RUTH HARLEY

fatai mistake? Was it better to mar- "Well, there was quite a lot

"Say, Maris, I guess you made a dancing afterwards?"

al' the strain, she fell asleep, a teil you how splendidly you'd done.

NINTH INSTALLMENT

proceeded from course to course, but she was glad when, about ten o'clock, they decided to seek amusement elsewhere.

The very novelty of her experi-

ence intrigued Maris as the dinner

"This whole street's full of speakeasies," Stan said as he cruised on. "I wonder which you'd like best," and he turned to her with a rather foolish grin on his face.

"Oh, the one with the best orchestra," she answered quickly. "I love to dance!"

"You do? Well, here's the place,' and, drawing the car to the curb, he stepped out and helped her onto the stre

When they entered the "speak,' Maris had a strange feeling that she had left hrself outside and that it was another person who crossed the threshold in her clothes.

Immediately Stan secured a table, then ordered some drinks. For a moment Maris nesitated as she gianc ed at the cocktail before her. She had rarely tasted liquor.

As she hesitated, Stan said, "Better try some of mine," and asking the waiter for a glass, he poured out a generous drink from his monogrammed silver flask. "It's the Grand MacNeish. How'd you like āt:

Maris raised the glass to her lips, and took a sip. "I guess it's okay,' she said uncertainly.

"Sure it is," he answered, filling his own glass again and drinking the liquor at one swallow.

At last, when they left, Maris wondered how he could drive after all he'd drunk, but the night air seemed to have a sobering effect on him. When they neared home, he seemed to be perfectly level-headed, as he quickly broached a new plan he had for stressing the style end

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