Make-Believe

Bride

BY RUTH HARLEY

.I'd listened to you!"

ring Stan's haughty mother.

dal about it all."

get this,

get up now.

or, "Come in," called Pat,

can bring Maris' supper up to her."

Dawsons had treated her as a sort

of heroine because of her part in trapping the criminals. Taking it

allogether, in spite of all the dis-couraging things that she had gone through, Maris knew that life still

lay before her, and that there would

it

By seven o'clock

was riding with him.

anything about me?"

FINAL INSTALLMENT "Well, well, that's fine, and now I "There, Maris, don't feel so hadly rackon I'd better gel out to the fields You haven't committed any crime or we'll never get any work done like Stan-there, I didn't mean to with all this excitement, for even if tell you," she said as Maris opened it's Sunday the heasts must be fed." her eyes wide and jumped up.

But as the men left the table, "What do you mean-committed a Maris turned to the farmer's wife, crime?" There was a terrified look "I wonder if you'd let me call up in her dark eyes Patsy now?" she asked "Well, they've

"Well, they've just discovered he's "Of course you may. The phone's been at the head of right there," and she pointed to the teers who were systematically robing his father.

But as Maris rose from the table 'How could he do that ?" asked Maris, suddenly remembering some a sudden blackness seemed to enve lope her. With a cry, the farmer's thing Jimmy had once hinted at. wife rose and rushed to her side just "Well, he tipped them off when in time to sve her from striking her truck loads would be leaving

head against the table "The poor little girl! Quick, Tillie, bring some cold water, and then turn down the bed in the spare room. I guess all this terrible excitement's been too much for her."

When Maris opened her eyes again she found herself in a cool, dormerwindowed room with snowy white curtains at the windows and a big bowl of flowers on the window ledge looked slowly around her Where was she, she wondered. It was pretty room, but how had she got there?

Then the generous-bosomed wom an in the quaint flowered-sprigged cotton gown who was sitting by her side said, "Feeling some better now my dear

"Oh, yes," she whispered. Th afraid I've been an awful nuisance to you. I must get home? "No, no, not yet. You couldn't rise just yet, but if you can tell m where your friends are, I'll call then

"Oh, out that would scare Patsy I'd better talk to her myself." She tried to rise, but slumped back or the pillows again.

There, my dear, you mustn't try just yet. Won't you let me talk to your folks? I'll be mighty careful what I say tell them just what you want me to." "All right. I guess you'd better.

Maris said, and told ner leakay, number. Then she fell asleep again It was late afternoon when she weke, and through the open window drifted in the lazy hum of a inggard bec, and the fragrance of fall flowers. She closed her eyes again as once more she thought of the fate she had escaped. What a fool she had been! She'd lost Rod, for of course he wouldn't be interested in I thought fid bring it before we sat

her any more. She'd lost Stan. That was different. She was only too giad that she had found out in time what a con-temptible cad he was. Maybe, after all, Rowene had found out his real character. She might well be con-gratulating herself on her escave.

Patsy had been right. Men like Stan didn't have much sense of honor where girls like her were concerned She clenched her fists, as she thought of her escape.

Then she thought of what her crazy infatuation had cost. Her job would be gone, for of course she could never go to Fayson's again. She'd spent nearly every penny in her savings account so she could be all dressed up. Now the very thought of the clothes she had bought took chances, especially when Patsy out his hand. was hateful to her.

Once mor ifted off to sleep

could stay here and look after things "That would be levely, but it doesn't seem fair that I should be living off you."

'Living off met Nonsense. There are a lat of things I want done and if you'll do them for me, that will more than pay back anything it will cast for your keep. And then who knows, something may turn up for you by that time. Anyway, you don't need to worry, for Jimmy will be perfectly happy to have you here." And so, on Saturday evening Paty and Jimmy were quietly married, and started for their wedding trip in Jimmy's car. The house seemed strangely desolate to Maris, as she fixed up the things Patsy had asked ter to-making curtains and things or Patsy's home She hadn't tried to get a job.

teast she could do was help Palsy out after all she had done for her. Once she'd thought of calling Milly, but then. Milly was not a girl she really cared to have for an in timate friend, and now that she had cut herself off from Fayson's she lecided it would be better to let things stay as they were. As she sat alone in the evenings

her thoughts turned often to Rod. Had he a steady nowadays, she won-dered. Was she that stunning lookthe uills. Then the bandits would hold ing girl she had seen him meet? Her hem up, knock out the drivers and es filled with tears. She realized turn the stuff over to another bunch that she had deliberately cut herself of men who would dispose of it and hand Stanley his share."

Patsy had never mentioned Rod Marus had come back. Some "But surely they wouldn't do anyinc. Maris had come back. Some ow she'd been expecting her to say something about him, maybe to sug-rost that she should call him up or ask him to come to see her. Her on the hall rack just as he used to thing to him?" asked Maris, remem-"I don't know. Those thigs who made you ride with them were some tears fell fast. Maybe Patsy realized do t the ringleaders and because Star she had had about enough to stand; that the knowledge-if it really were tried to cheat them out of more than that the knowledge—if it really were today. They're somewhere in the so-that he had transferred his af- Berkshires," said Maris. his share they've told on him and ow there's a nasty front page scanfections elsewhere would hurt her so Pat probably thought that it alone ?" he asked much. 'Oh, Patsy; surely they can't say would be kinder never to mention his ame

And yet as she laid her sewing avan and wiped her tear filled cycs, he felt a desperate longing to know "You know I would I haven't What could they say, Maris dear at a thing. Of course I wouldn' Not a thing. Of course I wouldn't wonder if Stan's seared stiff if he she felt a desperate longing to know "You know I would I have about Rod, even if he were going to tasted a decent bit of cardy since ever gets a thought to what may have happened to you. But theremarry some other girl. At least her He nesitated abruptly, and Maru hat's all past. Of course, though heart would be at rest, and she wondered what he had intended to would try to build up her broken say in will have to resign from Fay ofe, to fill it with other interests. "But, Milly-Oh, Patsy, you know

got kind of sore at you not having y upstray with my attempts to step Rod, and felt there could be no one quickly she gathered up her matein the social ladder, and some-ues I used to talk things over with The bell rang. It was only the Milly, I wonder what she'll say

and Patsy. "We are having a lovely now "" time," they wrote "Wish you were with us." She laughed ash she read tains, I suppose "Don't bother about her or anyone they'll all be so busy talking bout Stan's crookedness that you'l the message written in Jimmy's caree forgetten. There, I don't mean less handwriting. That would be a show?" mee idea to be their chaperen on "Maybe," said Maris, ha she bent hat exactly but after all they'll rea lize you were just one of them and their honeymoon. when a snow-down came you knew which side of the line you were on " "You're a dear, Pat. T'll never for

There was a knock at the bedroom to keep from getting soured. "I was wondering if Miss Maris could be ready for a bite of supper

their comfortable home in the Then she remembered, she had Connecticut valley. She'd promised suggested they should just be friends. "Tim afraid I'm making an awful of trouble for you. Mrs. Daw-son," stid Maris. "I'm sure I can

"You'd better not. A bite of supa and then a good night's rest and will be ready to start off in the started her candy making. It was a structure was anoted in the first making increased on the should be autifully. She was just hand on her shoulder arm. "Don't debating whether to make another you want to put that stuff away. orning Not that I want you to eave in such a rush, but the gentle an insists he's got to get to the batch when suddenly the door bell Maris? It's a long, long time since "Yes, that's so," said Pat. "Well, ang

I'll come down with you and then I Pulling off her apron and smoothng her hair, she hurried to the door. did not raise her eyes. Would she But when she opened it, her heart aimost turned over. Rod O'Rorke as she used to when Rod and she next morning Maris was headed for the city, but this time she had no fear that any was standing on the threshold! "Well. Maris, aren't you going to ask me in?" he questioned as he held moment might be her last. Jimmy Doyle, while a good driver, never



P.A.S. CHICAGO . . . Here are the healthiest farm boys and girls in the U. S. and declared the winners in the National 4-H Club finals, held here. Left to right front, Charles Abbott, Jr., Blairs, Va., and Margaret Topovski of Woos-ter, 0. Second row, Jerry Cowan, Rogersville, Mo., and Mary Sellers of Letchatchee, Ala. Rear row, Roy Graves, Porter, Okla., and Martha Ekberg of Wisconsin Dells, Wis. Dells, Wis,

"Yes, I had a post card from them

'And you're running the show

"Yes," she nodded, wondering what had brought him around to the

But, leading the way into the She knew now that she would never kitchen, she said, "Help yourself, really love anyone as she had loved while I put all this trash away," and rials. "They're great, Maris, the finest

mail man with a card from Jimmy ever. What are you going to do "Oh, finish sewing Patsy's our-

"Wouldn't you like to go to a

heir honeymoon. But somehow when she found she her, she wondered. Surely if he was But somehow when the form she here, she wondered. Survey if the would could laugh, her fit of the blues seemed suddenly to dissolve. Even not invite her to go out with him if she might never again knew the Still, maybe he'd expected to see sweetness of Rod's love, she must try sweetness of Rod's love, she must try to keep from getting soured. Then she thought of the Dawsons and Patsy; maybe he was just being polite. If only she knew where she stood with him!

Tillie she'd send her some candy So, slipping on an apron, she went color dyed her checks as she won-into the kitchen and started to make her preparations Setting her scales on the table, said anything to Patsy about keeping measuring on the super and taking cuict about it. But Patsy areas measuring out the sugar, and taking quiet about it. But Patsy was so iown her bex of flavorings. Maris loyal, she didn't need to do that. started her candy making. It was a There was silence in the little room I've talked with you.

"Yes," murmured Maris, but she were friends? Carefully, she folded

Don't you think you could love me servation service and the State Coljust a little? I've missed you so, my lege extension service to conserve dear." the soil, Bennett declared. Accom-

Her arms tightened about his neck and she nestled against his heart, she nurmuted, "No, Rod. I can't here but also in Virginia and South Carolina and on the Pacific and time five been loving you with my Caradian border." whole heart-just you." Describing his observation

"Darling," he whispered, "you real- 3,000 mile inspection tour of seven mean that"" and again she raised southern states. Bennett stated that her face to his. But when he saw "the condition of our agricultural her glowing eyes he knew she spoke land in southeastern farming states the truth and as their lips met, Maris is grim evidence that people of this knew that this indeed the man for youthful nation have squandered her

And she knew that her most thrilling day was still to come, when she went to the altar as Rod's bride-a real bride this time, with a real man. who would love and cherish her, for her bridegroom.

(THE END)

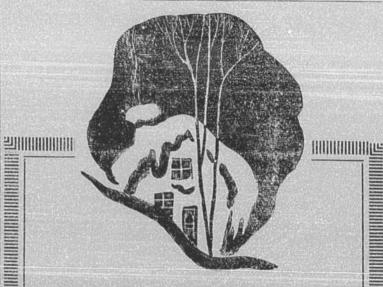
SAYS AMERICA NOW IN NEW ERA OF LAND USE through the use of proven measures

Addressing the annual session of ing crosion, he said. the North Carolina State Grange at Raleigh recently, H. H. Bennett, of working agreeably and co-operachief of the soil conservation service, tively with farmers and state and Washington, D C., told members federal agencies will "forthwith" that in the last lew years the country has made a far greater advance problem of unnecessary and costly loward the conservation of soil re- land destruction and decline, Bennett sources than in all preceding years concluded. since the United States became a nation

"The national program of soil and Second of a series of beautiful water conservation now in progress pictures, in full colors, depicting has carried us into a new era of land use." he said "Land defense is many features in the December 27 replacing the old system of land issue of the American Weekly, the big magazine which comes regular-

In North Carolins alone farmers by with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY





The holiday season affords an opportunity to express again the pleasure we derive from our business relations with you, and on behalf of our entire organization we wish for you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

FARMERS HARDWARE & SUPPLY COMPANY

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land more rapidly than any other

nation, civilized or barbaric, of which we have any record."

Bennett pointed out, however, that

a tremendous area of good soil throughout the region is still fertile

and productive. Any areas that have

been damaged only moderately can

be safeguarded from further decline

for conserving rainfall and controll-

Continuation of the present policy

STRANGE CREATURES

Then just as dusk was falling she woke again and suddenly she sat up in bed.

The door of her bedroom was softly opened, and Pasy tiptoed lightly to the bedside. "Maris, honey," she whispered as she bent over her

"Oh, Pat, you darling, will you ever forgive me? I've been an awful fool, and now when I'm stranded you are the only one I could call on." Her eyes filled with tears.

be other opportunities for her to show Patsy that she wasn't altogeth-"There, Maris, there's nothing to rgive. I'm just so glad you were or the fool she insisted on calling lucky enough to strike folks like the herself

Dawsons. They seem the kindest But when they reached home and people. They're insisting that Jim- entered the little flat once more, my and I will stay overnight too, so Maris began to realize what her es-we won't strike all the Sunday night capade had cost her. She'd lost her traffic. good position and the chance to get

"And you'll take me home with a better one, and now with condi-you, Patsy, even if I'm broke and" tions still none too rosy she realized

"Of course we will, and we're not that it wouldn't be such an easy going to say another thing about it. thing to pick up a job.

"But you don't need to worry about that. You need a holiday any-I knew you never really loved Stan! Fayson. You were just carried away by the glamour that surrounded him way, so why don't you make up your But when you know all that we know mind to stay nome and keep house ?" about him, you'll thank your lucky "Keep house ?" asked Maris. "Since stars that you never went through when could we afford to have one of any marriage ceremony with him." us do that?"

Maris was silent. She could not "Well, honey, it's like this. Jimyet understand why she had fallen my's got his raise and we've decided for Stan's love-making, why she we may as well get married. Then, never realized till their last ride what as there's a chance he may be transthe expression of scorn on those lips ferred to some other city in a few of his signified, nor what it might months, we were thinking we might mean to her to marry a man who stay here till we see what happens." "Oh, but this will be no place for me!" cried Maris. couldn't get along without his whiskey.

"Of course it will. If we get mar-She shut her eyes tightly, as she turned to Patsy. "Oh, Patsy, if only ried next Saturday, then we're going I could ever forget all this; if only away for a two weeks' trip, and you

terror that seemed to possess her. and as she told Patsy little incidents of her hectic love affair, she was al-most able to jest about them The

Already Maris had shaken off the pror that seemed to possess her, and as she told Parsy lifts of the sparkle leaped into her cheeks grew rosy, and a sudden reason and drew her to him. Raising her facet

