

Love Me, Love My Wife

By GEORGE B. RUSS

Part V

Effie Frazier realized clearly that she must do a little more than satisfy Chad Hodges' basic ego. Needless to say, time had robbed her of more vigor and strength than she cared to admit, or would dare make known. No matter how weary she grew of his embraces, she never recoiled from him. Emotionally, she could endure his onslaughts; she loved to be loved. But, she must produce some other method to supplement Chad's youthful virility. He was the way she wanted him, willing and ready to smother her with burning kisses; she wanted very much to receive, in a full measure, all the love and affection she had missed during their long separation but she had learned during the past six weeks that she was courting a brainstorm or some other disaster.

Chad came to her several times a week; she was sure that the cost was playing havoc with his weekly budget. On several occasions, she had suggested that he ride the bus. Chad was stubborn when it came to being told how to manage his personal affairs. "But, honey, you could save so much cash if you only rode the bus, at least, one way."

"Effie, I have no time to waste waiting for a bus. I want to get to you the fastest way I can. I stay too long to fool with a late bus."

"Okay, honey. I want to be with you as often as I can but I don't want you spending cash you need for bills at home."

"Thanks, but no thanks."

"Chad, have you ever thought of going into business for yourself?"

"Believe it or not, I'm saving cash to do just that."

"I'm serious, Chad Hodges."

"On the level, I'm going to be my own boss some day."

"I hope you aren't planning on going into the food business." Effie leaned forward and bit Chad's pouting lower lip.

"Why do you push out your lips when you get serious?"

Chad held her tightly; "you're sweet."

"I need you, lady."

"We're going to talk busi-

ness tonight." Effie deliberately allowed racism to come into her voice. Business, she should talk but talking business with Chad was sinful. Men like Chad were made to be loved. "Tonight, we will make love. Next time you come, we are going to buckle down to business. I want you to be a big-shot in this town." Effie was more serious than she suspected; Actually, she loved more serious than she really intended for Chad to believe.

Loving Chad was one thing; keeping him without causing herself bodily harm was another. Keep him, she must. Dying had ceased being a prime target. Chad was right, she was a fool to fling back to God the life he had blessed her with. The notion, the wild wooly idea had seemed aspirational, an atonement for a guilty conscience, was obscene. All she had done was think of Chad, another woman's husband while lying in the arms of her own husband. After all said and done, she had been a loving wife to Paul. She had helped him build the fortune he wanted. There were some weeks this house had cleared three hundred dollars above expenses. Paul's Bar-Be-Cue was the best in Hayestown. All that he had touched had turned to gold-money! Golden brown chitterlings, homebrew, corn liquor were best sellers. Paul held down a job at the Hayestown Flour Mills nine and ten hours each day, and when he returned home, he worked another six or eight hours dressing chitterlings, barbecuing whole pigs, pickling pig's feet, hen eggs; parboiling ribs for barbecue. All in preparation for the weekend patrons. And she had worked closely to Paul. Her job was making potato pies, apple Jacks, crackling cornbread, cole slaw, chicken 'n' dumplings.

Cooking, scrubbing, clean-up behind money spending, hungry drunks was not a chosen way of life, she had been her husband's helpmate and she had performed without complaint. She had been Paul's slave. Why then should she leave Chad for Gladys to make nothing of him but a work ox? Besides, there were

rumors to the effect that Gladys had a boy friend. Personally, she had no proof that Chad's wife was unfaithful nor did she care. All that mattered to her was having Chad to hold and keep and call her own.

Chad was sleeping like a baby; his breathing was deep and peaceful. He was a tired, little man; he deserved a long, undisturbed rest. Strange that Chad should work so hard to hold on to something that was hooked on him. If Chad only knew it, he could wrap her around his stubby thumb with his wide, flat nail adorned with a perfect half moon. His earlobe was still red and she winced from the thought of

having nibbled it too hard. Chad was born to be loved; affection was the breath of life to him. He could exist with cook, fresh air; but, the rich vibrancy necessary for Chad's complete animation was affection. It was no wonder he had come back to her sick and wasted. His hair was scraggy, dry and thin; he was wearing plates. She was deeply wounded because she had left him for so long. Removing a memo-pad and bipen from her handbag, she made a list of things she wanted Chad to have for Christmas: Paul's car, a watch, and overcoat.

Chad, in all probability, would not accept the car. If

he were not so proud, so afraid of doing something against the establishment, she could make a great man of him. Men like Chad were designed for ornamental purposes but she wanted more for her Chad. With the help of God and Chad's cooperation, she planned to make him a successful man, the envy of most of Hayestown's greedy, money grabbers. Men in this town would sell their souls legacy she was able to pass on to Chad Hodges. If she were a fool, a fool she would be, in deed. Whatever it took to keep Chad, she was willing to pay the price. He was hers, she had had the first rights to him. Chad was born to com-

plete her happiness. Earning a livelihood by the sweat of the brow was meant for men like her former husbands. Chad was her man, her lover-bird, her lifeline. Come wild winds and fire hell, she must live to give Chad the affluent life he should have. There would be no problem if he didn't love his children so completely. Effie was sure that Gladys had no real use for Chad after he paid the bills at home. How could she convince Chad that he was only a scapegoat for his wife?

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Good News For The Kids

Painting with pencils.

Seeing is believing.

Tiny Tourist kit.

Faces are fun.

Wilkes Barre, Pa. — There's good news for the younger set in the announcement that the nation's oldest pencil company has diversified into the toy field. Eberhard Faber, which has been putting writing and educational tools in the hands of children for 110 years, presently manufactures and markets over 3,200 items in the writing instruments and eraser field. Introduced at the American Toy Fair and pictured above are the first four outstanding items from the Eberhard Faber Toy and Game Division.

Leading the line is a family of "Paint with Pencil" sets in three different sizes. They are complete water-color sets using pencils which make water-soluble markings instead of the conventional paints. It enables the children to get a life-like water color painting by coloring the pre-sketched pictures. A "kaleidoscope" pencil box is a delightful as well as useful toy, in that it acts as a container for 12 assorted sharpened color pencils. By turning the top of the box hundreds of designs are formed by crystals in a capsule at the end of the tube.

A juvenile coloring set, the Tiny Tourist, is a unique compact unit ideal for travel as well as fun for home. It is especially designed to keep a child occupied on trips as there are no loose, messy papers to fall all over.

The fourth of these items, is "Trace A Face"—including pad, acetate stencils of face parts, instructions, colored pencils, and tracing pencil.

The biggest problem the children will have with these toys, specially designed for their creative and educational value, is keeping their parents away.

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