

PAID IN FULL

Novelized From Eugene Walter's Great Play

That "Paid In Full" is a story of absorbing interest has been proved by its phenomenal success in dramatic form. For two seasons there has been no diminution in the drawing power of this vital piece of realism. In its present form it is not less engrossing. The features which made it so powerful as a play are not less potent in the serial. It is the same keen exposition of human motives put into the simplest forms of expression. There is no waste of material, no attempt to moralize, no break in the continuity. The three men who are the central figures in the story stand out in admirable distinctness from the very first, and the one woman whose splendid rectitude illuminates it all lives from the moment of her appearance. Although it is certain to produce frequent thrills, the story is neither melodramatic nor sensational. Its power lies in its humanness.



EUGENE WALTER. Author of "Paid in Full" and "The Easiest Way"

"Joe, you know it's your home—our home," expostulated his wife.
"I—forgot. Excuse me," he muttered sulkily, looking ashamed.
Smith spoke up, his winning smile lighting his face:
"You know, it's been an all-fired hot day—just the kind of weather when about every mother's son is on edge. Now, Joe, he slipped a cog, and that sort of put the whole confounded machine out of gear, including the captain. But now, you see, it's just all forgotten."
"Possibly. As far as I'm concerned I must be going," declared Mrs. Harris coldly.
"Indeed, yes?" chirped Beth. Brooks now, his rage having spent itself and his bravado flamed out, was almost crying.
"I—!" he began.
But the words choked in his throat, and, picking up his hat, he hastened out of the room and the flat.
"Will you please take us away, captain?" requested Mrs. Harris.
"Just a moment," he said. "Mrs. Brooks, I'm awfully sorry about what happened just now."
"I—I'd rather you wouldn't speak of it," she told him.
"Perhaps I have been a little hard," he said earnestly and apologetically. "I want you all to understand that



"Please—please, captain—for my sake," she pleaded.

I've lived a hard life with hard people. Since the day I shipped before the mast in a north Pacific sealer I learned what a cuff and a blow was; what rotten grub, the scurvy and all them things meant, and I knew that the only thing between them things and comfort, decency and the respect of folks was money. I started to get money, and maybe I have been a little hard—just a little hard."
"No one would call you easy, captain," agreed Smith.
"Anyway, Mrs. Brooks," continued Williams, "Joe keeps his job, and it ain't going to make a bit of difference between us."
"Not the least?" she asked, with wonder.
"Certainly not," said Mrs. Harris. "Joe," declared Beth languidly, "was absurd. He quite bores me."
Smith smiled at her and injected a good deal of irony into his tone as he said:
"Yes, you looked as if something was wrong, Beth."
The captain approached Mrs. Brooks with an attempt at gallantry that was

By John W. Harding

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job yet awhile," she told him. "The captain said he would overlook it and that it wouldn't make any difference."
Her husband looked at her in astonishment, half incredulous.
"He said that?"
"Yes, and I'm glad it's turned out as it has, for how we'd manage if you were out of work just now goodness knows. I don't!"
"Just how did he put it?"
"He said he was awfully sorry for what had occurred, that he knew he had been hard at times and that as far as your place and we were concerned there would be no charge."
Brooks' relief showed in his face.
"Well, that knocks me," he commented. "Nobody else ever bucked up against him and got off scot free. I can't understand it. Did your mother put in a word for me?"
"No."
"Then it's you who must have a pull. He died right down when you spoke to him. I never would have believed such a thing. If you had been a man standing there in front of him he'd have smashed you. Darn it, I wonder who's ringing now? Can't it be Jimsy? He hasn't had time to get to the street at the gate he goes."
He went to the head of the stairs and met a messenger boy who was bearing a letter and had received instructions to wait for an answer.
"Sure!" he exclaimed joyfully as he perused the missive. "Ticked to death! Go and get your things on, Emma. It's from Beatrice Langley and Willie Ferguson. Willie's giving a sort of theater party, and they want us to go with them. There's going to be a little supper afterward."
She shook her head.
"Tell them we can't go."
"Can't go? Why not?"
"I simply can't."
"I don't see why."
"Well, then, I won't; so there! You'd better make some excuse."
"Write it yourself, then," he said, irritated and deeply disappointed. "I'm not going to lie to them."
Without another word she fetched some writing material, indited the note and sent it off by the messenger.
"What's the matter? Are you sore over what happened tonight?" he demanded sulkily.
"No, I'm not sore, Joe."
"Then why can't you go?"
"Because I can't. That's all!"
"I think you might. If you didn't want to go yourself you might have accepted for my sake. I never get any amusement, and you're always complaining."
"When do I complain, and of what?"
"It's the selfish way you act, I mean, for, once we get a chance to go and see a decent show and afterward have a supper party, you get sore. You simply don't want to go. You haven't any consideration for me."
Burning with indignation, she went up to him and forced him to look her in the face.
"You say I have no consideration for you?" she said. "You know as well as I do why I can't go. I haven't had a new dress in a year. My gloves are all worn out. I've skipped and struggled and economized until I can't do any more. I'd go to the theater if I could go alone or with you or with Jimsy and hide somewhere in the corner, but do you think I want to go to a party looking like a kitchen maid? My shoes are cracked. Everything is secondhand and old and ugly. And look at me! Do you know what's happened to me? I've grown common and coarse and cheap. Sometimes when I look at myself in the glass it seems as though I could see the dirt and the grease and the horrid nastiness of it all staring me right in the face. Why don't I go? I'm ashamed, that's all. And you make it harder. It has almost reached my limit of endurance."

She turned from him, tears of vexation and humiliation in her eyes.
As she did so Smith, the peacemaker, entered. He had arrived in time to hear the last part of the confession that had been forced from her by her husband's injustice and selfishness.
"Emma," he said soothingly, "there ain't no use in making Joe feel worse than he does. He works like the devil, but somehow Joe wasn't built exactly lucky. He is one of those fellows like I used to know in Colorado who spend all their lives looking for a gold mine and never quite find one. But Joe's all right, and just to make this eventful sort of evening end up nicely I'm going to take to the best show in town and you two are going to hit my trail while I dig up the necessary funds to defray any and all expense incurred, including a slight and select grub stake after the entertainment. Now, what do you think of that?"
Brooks, who had been listening to his wife and friend sulkily, was filled with a sudden resolve.
"No, you won't!" he said temperately. "I ain't going to be an object of charity. I'm as sick and tired of this whole business as she is. Emma, you put on the best dress you've got and fix yourself up the best you can, and I'll take you to a show, and if Jimsy wants to come he can come as my guest. I'm still a man, and it's

just as right I should take care of my wife and let her have a little fun as it is for the Astors and Vanderbilts and all of them to spend money on their families. I'm going to do it, and I don't care whether I can afford it or not. I can find a way all right. Hurry up, Emma!"
Mrs. Brooks would much rather have stayed at home. She was worn out with the constant quarreling and exciting happenings of the evening, but she did not want to be accused of contrariness. So she said:
"If you think we can really afford it I'd like to go. I haven't seen a show in nearly a year. Do you think I'd better go, Jimsy?"
"Why, surely, my girl," was Smith's reply. "There's no use of sticking around here all the time and getting into more rows. Go ahead!"
"Then I'll hurry and get ready," she said, hastening to her room.
Brooks had seated himself and was gazing before him with a determined expression, his hands clasped between his knees. Smith went to him and tendered a bill to him.
"Joe," he said kindly, "you'd better let me slip you the ten that will be necessary to pay for this business. You know Emma don't need to know, and you ain't got the coin to blow in."
"Yes, I have," he asserted, pushing the note from him, "and I'll pay for it myself."
"All right, Joe. But take my tip. When you go into the borrowing business you'd better borrow from the fellow who knows he's giving it to you and ain't in a hurry to get it back."
"Look here, Jimsy!" exclaimed Brooks hotly, jumping up. "Don't you butt into my business! It's none of your affair! And, by the way, it might be just as well to remind you that Emma's my wife—my wife, you hear? She married me, no one else—just me—although I've been told she had other chances at the time."
Smith gazed at him without any trace of offense, but with a look of pain in his eyes.
"I'm sorry you said that, Joe," he answered in his slow, quiet voice. "Yes, I know Emma's your wife and that she chose you after I asked her to be mine, and it is just because I

do know that that I don't want you to go wrong, and for just that same reason I want you to understand that if you ever get into a tight hole you can gamble on me for help, and I ain't always been a spendthrift. Good night!"
"You're not going, then?" inquired Brooks as his friend moved toward the hall, but there was nothing in the tone of the query designed to encourage the great-hearted fellow to accompany them.
"No; you two had better go together," he replied as he passed out.
When he had gone Brooks drew quickly from the inside pocket of his waistcoat the pocketbook containing the collections in checks and bills that he had not had time to turn in to the company, extracted a bill of \$10 and returned the wad to its hiding place.
Emma emerged from the bedroom with her hat and jacket on.
"Why, where's Jimsy?" she asked.
"He went home. He said he guessed he'd better not come, as he wanted to get up early, or something or other," lied Brooks.
"I wonder why he changed his mind so suddenly," she said.
It was 9 o'clock when they found themselves in the street, and Brooks decided on a vanderbilt show as being the only possible place of entertainment they could go to at that hour. It had been so long since they had permitted themselves the extravagance of a night out that Mrs. Brooks enjoyed the change to the full. Watching the actors and laughing at their jokes and antics, she forgot for the time her worries, and the painful impression of the early evening was completely dispelled. As the performance progressed Brooks also underwent a change of mood, and by the time the curtain fell he had softened to something of his old self and was tender and attentive.
When they found themselves outside again she was for going straight home. "No," he said slyly, squeezing her arm that she had passed under his and patting her hand affectionately; "we are out for a good time for once, and we're going to have it."
She demurred feebly, wanting to go, but feeling that scruple on the ground of expense which, from the necessity



"I'm sorry you said that, Joe."

of expense which, from the necessity of economy, had entered into all her household calculations, and aside from the fact that she was seated in a restaurant and was of quite a different aspect and was ordering lobster and wine with the man to whom she was talking. He was in rare high spirits and with a tenderness that had manifested toward her in many a moment. He chattered and chattered, and his illuminating communication of himself to her face was smoothed in his happy smiles, and she returned his glances of love and admiration as in the happy days of their early married life, when there were all in all to each other and there was no one else and so noble as he in all the world.

CHAPTER VII
SOMETHING toward was happening depending at the extensive and dox of the Latin-American Steamship company on South Street, Manhattan. This had been evident from an early hour, for when as while the morning approached the workmen crossed toward the docks and the houses to begin their daily toll the found groups of policemen stationed about the approaches to the American line's property. On the faces of the men who entered its gates was an expression of expectancy and determination.

The earliest man to arrive at the tall, gaunt form of Mr. Smith, the superintendent, standing at the door of the office building. He had been working hard while they slept but there was no evidence of his slight labor upon his cheery face, nor any sign of anxiety as to the knowledge that any unusual situation had arisen discernible in his placid demeanor. He appeared to be enjoying the morning air and his car without a care in the world. His presence there at that hour was the only indication that he expected trouble. He had not allowed any one man to remain within the building, but a man passed in but related him verbally or with a touch of the hat, and not a salute was given without being acknowledged. To answer he responded with a genial smile and a "Hello, Tom" or "Howdy, Bill."

When they had started their way, which was to be stopped completely at 10 o'clock, he vanished upstairs, or was seen again until the hands of the clock approached that hour at the strike leaders began to go among the restless men. Then he stepped out, ordered work stopped, and pointing a crate of merchandise, assembled the men about him.
"You boys," he said in his distinct voice, "have made up your minds to quit at 10 o'clock because somebody told you you ought to be getting more pay and a raise was promised. Well, this is a free country, and every man's right to sell his labor where he likes and at what price he likes, and I guaranteed him by the constitution. If you want to walk out of here you are free to do so, but if you take my advice—"

"See here," interrupted one of the leaders roughly, pushing to the front, "we ain't askin' no advice from you nor no one else. What we want is money. Do we get that raise or don't we? If we do, all right; if we don't, we quit here and now, and there's all there is to it."
A murmur of approval greeted this ultimatum.
"No," answered the superintendent. "I ain't going to leave you in doubt about it for a minute. You don't get it."
"Then shut up!" ordered the man. "We ain't goin' to lose our time waitin' to no cheap talk. We've come to quit and all talk is off."
"All right," retorted Smith. "Consider you've all quit. Now, that being the case, you have heaps of time on your hands and are likely to have an indefinite period unless you have provided jobs for yourselves in anticipation of this. I've got something I'd like to say to you. Those who don't want to hear me don't have to. As I said, this is a free country."
"Go ahead, Jimsy!" cried a voice in the crowd. "You're all right! You've always given us a square deal."
"I hope so," he replied, "and one square deal deserves another."
"Aw, come on, fellows!" admonished the leader. "We're not kids. A strike's a strike. This ain't no debatin' ban, and we don't belong to no mutual admiration society."

Some of the men turned away, but others voiced the view that a hearing ought to be given to the superintendent since he wished to speak to them, and, seeing that their fellows remained, the other soon returned.
"I haven't got a lot to say, and I'm no preacher," he continued. "What I want to give you is not a lecture on what you've got to do—that's your business—but an explanation in your interest. I want to tell you things other people haven't told you and that you evidently don't know. Please let me get through, then you do as you like. I don't have to tell you that the rate of pay is governed, like everything else, by the law of supply and demand. What is the situation today? We have had rush work for several weeks, and the docks here and all along the water front are choked up with freight. But back of this, although you may not know it, the railroads everywhere are laying off freight cars, mills are laying off men, and signs point to a serious slump in business all over the country, which will reach here soon. The indications are that in the natural course of things during the coming winter there won't be work for more than half of you and that you'll need badly all the spare coin you can save now. Yet you



"I put it up to you, and you've made good."

chose this very time to demand an increase from the company and give it eighteen hours' notice, including twelve nonworking hours, in which to think it over. I don't call that a square deal, whatever you may think about it. Now, the country towns are full of men anxious to get jobs, and the company, notwithstanding the short notice, is fully prepared for a strike. In that shod yonder are 3,000 men, put there during last night, and provision has been made to feed 3,000 men for several days. Captain Williams—"

An outburst of curses and yells greeted this mention of the president's name, with cries of "We know Williams!"
"Captain Williams," went on the superintendent calmly, "says that any man who goes out on strike now will never enter the employ of the line again in this or any other port. And I'll see personally to it that he doesn't. This man here said a strike had been decided on, but anybody who wants to stay and work instead of making a fool of himself by quitting will be taken care of. I'll promise that. That's all. It's up to you."

A mid dead silence he got down from the crate and returned to his office. The men remained assembled for consultation, and in the crowd were many doubtful faces. It was clear that Smith's calm, drawn-out harangue had made a profound impression. Just in private life he had attracted the warmest friendships, so in business, which he gave strict and intelligent attention, he earned the respect of all with whom he had to deal.
The strike leader mounted the crate and amid the applause of the hot-headed and discontented, delivered a speech of a fierce denunciation of the company as a greedy, grasping, oppressive corporation and of its dock superintendent as a "four flusher" and a "senior of 'con" talk, meaning there were words intended to deceive. But there were too many who knew that he was neither.

"My part," one of the laborers remarked, "I've got a wife and six kids, the lot of which is mine. I move that we make another vote on this here motion was adopted with acclamation. The result of the ballot was overwhelmingly in favor of remaining at work."
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