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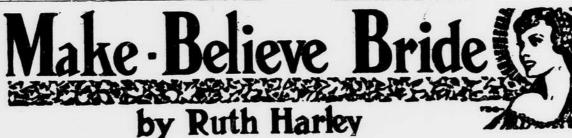
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er without gas, and there ain't any so we can get to town?" she asked. you'll be able to get that done in stations around. Sometimes farm"We've had an accident." jail." for you, I guess."

I'm a tramp, for I certainly did of the boys out to the car." wreck."

hill. As they neared the end of now, she wondered.

more and let you go.. Yes? You the truth. understand?"

But as Maris went up the path the men.

Again one whispered in a loud voice, "Guess young Stan's got the fright of his life, trying to put us off like that. The nerve, letting us READ THE WATCHMAN- do all the dirty work and not even

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won't let him off so easily next bite if you been having trouble

she looked at them that if she re- of the house, she felt the concen- fast was set. fused they would make her go with trated gaze of several pairs of eyes them anyway.

But as the driver of the car looked around, he said, "I think I'd "Certainly," insisted the man, the door was opened just a little like to wash my hands first." while the other evil-looking occu- crack, while Maris could hear the "You would, would you?" cried

side the house, surrounded by sev- hidden beneath a three hun! A moment later she got in the eral county policemen. She tried to year old lilac bush. car and they started coasting down back away. What had she landed in With the men safely out of the

them you want some gas, as you _ Maris looked helplessly about her. called.

didn't one of them go and speak to little girl, I hate to ask you to do small sedan.

expect when he's worked out this and, running down the path, did road the police had had time to get after all, Rowene had found out scheme to trick his ofn father?" as she was told. An angry scowl the word on the road, and Maris his real character. She might well that Maris wondered if they would don't want any breakfast. Plenty ture. "Now, remember when they ask that." The other man looked dis- how come you were on the road so honor where girls like her were

ELEVENTH INSTALMENT | wanting to pay for it, but insisting were just sitting down to breakfast "No, thank you," she said, and on having all the profits. Well, we and thought maybe you'd like a again, she found herself in a cool, "We need you. Come, we no time." And the dark-complexioned with your car. So come in and sit white curtains at the windows and

pant of the car said. "That's all we shuffle of heavy shoes on the floor. an officer, rushing in. His two her side said, "Feeling some better want, miss. Can't go much farth- "Can you let us have some gas companions seized the other. "Well,

ers ain't so generous, even if you "You have?" said the farmer, Swearing in Italian and English, to you. I must get home." offer them money. But they'd do it opening the door a bit wider, the men tried to wriggle from their "No, no, not yet. You couldn't "Maybe you'd rather come in and captors' arms, but the officer and rise just yet, but if you can tell me

have an accident and my dress is a Before she realized it, she was in- house into their car which had been

house, the farmer went to the top "There, my dear, you mustn't the hill, they saw a trim farmhouse and slowly came to a stop before, it.

"Now, miss, you go and tell "Don't be scared, miss," sail one of the cellar steps. "Well, Mom, you and the girls better come upstairs now. That was a pretty smart bit of work, all right," he what you want me to."

"There, my dear, you musting try just yet. Won't you let me talk to your folks I'll be mighty carefull what I say—tell them just what you want me to."

met with an accident, and you Then, sensing there was something Then as they sat down to breakwant to get to town. Then, after very wrong with the men she'd fast, the farmer told how word had ter," Maris said, and told her Patyou get it we drive you five miles been riding with, she blurted out been flashed that a big truckful of sy's number. Then she fell asleep silk from one of the nearby mills again. "We've got them," cried one of had been held up and driven away It was late afternoon when she

by the robbers. But eveidently woke, and through the open winshe was filled with a strange mis- "Not yet, young feller," cried there had been some dispute about dow drifted in the gay hum of a giving. What sort of men were another of the officers. "There'll be the sharing of the booty, and two laggard bee, and the fragrance of these, she had been with? Why murder done if we go out. Now, of the men had disappeared in a fall flowers. She closed her eyes

the farmer? They'd been quite de-it, but will you go back to the car The driver, left senseless at the the fate she had escaped. What a cent to her, put her in the back and tell them—as innocent-like as roadside, had finally come to, and fool she had been! She'd lost Rod, seat and paid little attention to her. you can—that we're just having reaching the farmhouse had sent for of course he wouldn't be inter-But every now and then they had breakfast here and wouldn't they out his SOS to the police. But the ested in her any more. whispered together. Once she heard like to come in. Here, be biting car with the archplotters had run She'd lost Stan. That was difone say, "He's a double-crosser, all into one of them hot biscuits and out of gas, and evidently taken a ferent. She was only too glad that

Then they had been silent so long swept across the driver's face. "We had played her part in their cap- be congratulating herself on her ever speak again. They did twice of time to get it when we get to "Well, you were a mighty plucky Patsy had been rght. Men like once to say emphatically to her, the city. Go back and tell them girl to ride with them thugs, but Stan ddn't have much sense of



The officer and his helpers quickly subdued them.

ed, the farmer opened the door and "It's all right, and just as soon as kindest people. They're insisting called out, "Ain't you boys com- she gets a cup of coffee she's going that Jimmy and I will stay overing? The biscuits is getting cold." to call up her folks. She's had her night too so we won't strike all the

said, "Park the gats here. I guess I reckon I'd better get out to the and-" they're a bunch of rubes. They fields or we'll never get any work "Of cource we will, and we're don't know who they're going to done with all this excitement, for not going to say another thing entertain.'

By this time Maris had entered be fed." the house, and the farmer quickly But as the men left the table, carried away by the glamour thattold her to follow his daughter to Maris turned to the farmer's wife. surrounded him. But when you the cellar. "It's the safest place. "I wonder if you'd let me call up know all that we know about him, You've been riding with a bunch Patsy now?" she asked. of thugs. But I reckon it'll be their "Of course you may. The phone's you never went through any mar-

last ride for a good long while." right there," and she pointed to the riage ceremony with him.' "Well, said the farmer as the hall.

men approached the door, "we

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sudden blackness seemed to envelope her. With a cry, the farmer's wife rose and rushed to her side just in time to save her from striking her 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 ex-

citement's been too much for her." When Maris opened her eyes

dormer-windswed room with snowy hurt you. Alla we ask is you stop and get farmer give us gas. Yes?" she asked, knowing as man had flashed his companion and down. We can get the gas after-wards." He showed them into the low-ceilinged kitchen where break-around her. Where was she, she around her. Where was she, she wondered. It was a pretty room, but how had she ever got there?

Then the generous-bosomed woman in the quaint flowered-spriged cotton gown who was sitting by now, my dear?"

"Oh, yes," she whispered. "I'm afraid I've been an awful nuisance

"Well, I'm afraid they'll think get patched up here. I'll send one his helpers quickly subdued them. where your friends are, I'll call They dragged them from the them up."

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

what you want me to."

"All right. I guess you'd bet-

again as once more she thought of

right." And later the older man tell them you'd like to stay."

Wrong road, so that when it had she had found out in time what a contemptible cad he was. Maybe,

you where the accident happened, appointed and started muttering early in the morning?"
you tell them, 'On the long road'." He was evidently hungry. "There was told 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 was hateful to her.

Once more she drifted off to sleep. Then just as dusk was falliny she woke again, and suddenly she sat up in bed.

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

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

"There, Maris, there's nothing to forgive. I'm just so glad you were lucky enough to strike folks As they hung around, undecid- me all about it," his daughter said. like the Dawsons. They seem the

"Better run along," the driver own troubles, too, but I guess Sunday night traffic."
said to Maris. "We'll follow you." they're over now."

Then turning to his companion, he "Well, well, that's fine, and now you, Patsy, even if I'm broke

even if it's Sunday the beasts must about it. I know you never really loved Stan Fayson. You were just you'll thank your lucky stars that

Maris was silent. She could not But as Maris rose from the table yet understand why she had fallen for Stan's love-making, why she Keep a Good Laxative never realized till their last ride what the expression of scorn on those lips of his signified, nor what it might mean to her to marry a good, reliable laxative. Don't be man who couldn't get along without his whiskey.

She shut her eyes tightly, as she turned to Patsy. "Oh, Patsy, if only I could ever forget all this; if only I'd listened to you."

"There, Maris, don't feel so badly. You haven't committed any writes Mrs. Perry Hicks, of Belton, crime like Stan-there, I didn't mean to tell you," she said as Maris opened her eyes wide and jumped

Continued Next Issue

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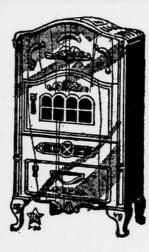
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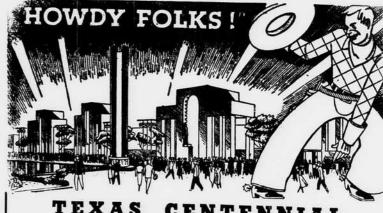
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