

# Little Sister

By MARGARET WIDDEMER

## CHAPTER XI

LEILA LOOKED AT IT. The sound lay gray-blue and gleaming in the moonlight, with little boats and larger boats of the nearest boat club rocking at anchor. A big autumn moon was pushing redly up the sky. The four acres of Fernwood waters lay orderly and pretty beyond them: the quaint colored houses, a full dozen by now, ready for occupancy with their green lawns, their landscaping, their lighted porches, had an air of completeness and security and youthful prosperity. The big community house was all afloat, and the parking areas to one side of it was nearly full of cars already. The bathing beach had been completely reclaimed, and the cabanas were complete, too—this was a late autumn, there would be at least a fortnight, perhaps a month, more of bathing—red and yellow awnings, big bright umbrellas, had been set up or left up to show how the shore would be by day. She looked back to the dozen defiantly bright houses again, and saw beyond them again excavations, cellars, half-built houses. The place would be all done before frost came . . . and before spring came it would be desolate.

"Good-looking, eh?" said Orton again.

"Good-looking as a mirage," she said.

"We're at the speakers' table," said Orton complacently, as he led her in. He rarely listened when Leila used words he didn't know.

"What's this?" The phalanx dining room? she asked, as he led her into a long bright room dotted with the conventional little flower-trimmed tables, with the usual amount of darting waiters, up to the customary long white table on an elevation, with the usual men and women in evening dress eating the usual canned crab hors d'oeuvre along it.

"Phal—what? Say, Leila, don't go highbrow on me. Got a speech to make, strain enough on the old intellect. It's the casino's ballroom. The regular dining room wouldn't lease all the tables. The best people from all the Fernwoods are here. Civic occasion and all that."

"Addison," said Leila, a little dazed, "called it the community house."

"Well, that's all right, funny chap, has funny names for things," said Orton. "It's the Fernwood Waters Casino just the same. And a very good one. Nice cabanas, good

pool—I forgot, you were funny about coming over to look at it. Just shows what a chap without any business sense can do if he lets bright people pull him through. DeFries is good. I find he belongs to my fraternity. And, of course, the water's one of our big mounds, if I do say so."

Leila silently attacked her canned crab. There was a very nice orchestra, the one from the Manor Country club, indeed, playing airs from "Roberta" and "All the King's Horses." Above it, the satisfied chatter of an eating populace roared. She scanned them. Yes, most of the Manor people. A lot of the Fernwood Gardens people. All the younger ones she did not know must be the new Fernwood Waters purchasers. She looked along the table at which she was sitting; there in a tuxedo was Red DeFries, beside him the honey-blond, comely, tall girl in green, his Marje. There were Jerry and Marjorie, Mary in a maroon velvet with no neck and no shoulders and long skin-tight sleeves, possessively gay with Jerry. There were the older Martins, of course, he paunchy, capable, aggressive-jawed, she glitter-haired, small and dietetic, a little more lined, more than a little roused and transformationed, a wretched man, for anybody with eyes of what Marjorie would be in twenty years. There were Mayor Gregg, of the Fernwoods, and his wife, adequate, pleasant, tired. In the center of the table behind the fern piece set, of course, Addison and Bel. Addison had made one last gesture for the people in the only business suit in the house. Bet hadn't. Bet, too, had gone reckless on the family charge account, and was expensive, if madonna-like, in blue and white with pearl trimmings. On Addison's farther side sat little Aunt Minnie in the black silk and old bonnet. Leila had helped her get into an hour before happy, flushed, and quivering. Beyond her was the president of the Manor Beach club and Mrs. Johnston-Hedges. On the far side of her was a vacant chair. There was no proletariat. None at all.

"Where is the proletariat this place is for?" she demanded of him now.

"Good-evening. Oh, that's coming. It's a festive occasion, I ask you? Marje and I are getting married almost the same time you are, though not so laughably. Marje, old lady, observe the only girl that never fell for our Jerry."

Leila and Marje were agreeable to

each other; then somebody on the other side of Marje talked to her and Leila went back to silent contemplation of the usual large tired half-chicken, the tepid large tired pink sherbet. She occasionally tried to talk to Orton as she wearily worried her lettuce leaf apart. But Orton was preoccupied. He was muttering over and over a humorous anecdote with which he was probably about to begin the speech he had been allotted. He was not a fluent public speaker.

Red DeFries, even, on her other side, was in the same condition. He was doing shorthand on the back of a pack of catalog cards. Occasionally he shuffled them desperately and numbered them. Leila wished she had a speech to make herself, in order to have a reason for not paying attention.

The ice cream came and was eaten. The black coffee came and was drunk. Mrs. Johnston-Hedges arose, toastmistress as usual for all the Fernwoods for miles around the Manor and the usual compliments to her auditors, she began to admire Addison.

"He has," she finished archly in her deep voice, "in the words of Gilbert and Sullivan, 'pricked that annual blister,' our little neighborly auditor, the Fernwood Waters Manor has to charge, cabanas, a pool, and a beach far superior to the parent Fernwood, open to all the daughter Fernwoods at a fee one-quarter of what poor old Fernwood Manor has to charge. Fernwood Waters, under Addison Huntington, has given to the younger and gayest Fernwoods a smarter, cheaper, better, more exclusive bathing beach. Armed with this assurance, I am in a position to tell you that the other Fernwoods have officially released their demand to share our poor old beach before the annual village meeting. Beyond that we don't need boundaries need feel," she ended, hitting, unheeding Addison's furious face and the efforts he was making to jump up (efforts not thwarted), "is that we may not be able to control our desire to ask for a little fun among these delightful cabanas also. But I assure Mr. Huntington that we won't, unless we are invited. Thanking him again, I will now turn the meeting over to our mayor, Mr. Gregg, who will introduce the next speaker."

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Today is the Day  
By CLARK KINNAIRD  
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FEBRUARY  
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT  
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Wednesday, Feb. 13; 22th day, 159th year of U. S. Independence. Morning stars: Neptune, Mars, Jupiter, Evening stars: Mercury, Venus, Saturn, Uranus. Full moon; 18th Zodiac sign, Aquarius.

**HISTORY UP-TO-DATE**  
Feb. 13, 1889—"An Act declaring the Rights and Liberties of the subject, and settling the Succession of the Crown" was presented by a committee of members of Houses of Commons and Lords to the prince and princess of Orange.

Very important to all of us, for this was the "bill of rights," next to the Magna Carta the greatest landmark in the constitutional history of England and the keystone of our liberties. It made the prince and princess joint-rulers of Britain, as William III and Mary, and established for the first time the right of free elections, freedom of speech, trial by jury and appeal of sentence, and prohibited taxation without the consent of the governed.

It became eventually a part of federal and state constitutions in the U. S.

Feb. 13, 1754—Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord was born in Paris. He was the unfrocked priest who had as much as anybody to do with "making" and "breaking" Napoleon.

He first won attention in France and began his rise with a report on commercial relations between England and the United States. The fruit of 30 months of exile in this country, in which he observed that France need the spur to practical energy which Americans had at hand in the effort to subdue the difficulties placed in their way by nature.

Feb. 13, 1788—The trial of Warren Hastings began. It continued through 145 sessions and seven years, venaemore of the most famous trials in history.

Robert Clive and Hastings, his successor, won India for Britain. Both This was their reward. But Hastings, were ruined by British parliament, unlike Clive, did not commit suicide.

Feb. 13, 1846—Jean Marie Dunbar was executed in France for the murder of his father.

He was a man of no importance, and he would not be remembered today except for an extraordinary coincidence:

He met his death 199 years to the day after his great-grandfather who bore the same name, was executed for a similar crime.

**NOTABLE NATIVITIES**  
Henry Lytton Bulwer, b. 1801, statesman-author, not to be confused with Edward Bulwer Lytton, also a statesman author Last Days of Pompeii, etc.  
Joseph C. Lincoln, b. 1870, novelist  
Helen Mackeller, b. 1895, actress  
Jean Muir (Fullerton), b. 1911, cinematress.

**YOU'RE WRONG IF YOU BELIEVE—**  
That the North and South Poles are the coldest places on earth.  
They aren't. The coldest places aren't even in the polar regions!  
That "cold enough to freeze your breath" is hyperbole.  
Russell Owen, in his extraordinary narrative of Antarctic adventure, "South of the Sun," discloses that the breath freezes and can be heard at temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees below zero.

That icebreakers "cut" through the ice.  
They do not. These ships by means of their blunt, rounded bows slide upon the ice and break it.

Asides—"Rojo" San Antonio? Anonymous letters are not deserving of consideration. Don't quote us Nietzsche as "proof" of anything. He was a parasitical madman. Catherine Lazurka, Chicora, Pa.: Black isn't a color. A black object has no power to reflect light. Consult any complete dictionary. Esther B., Minneapolis, Minn., who wrote concerning our statement that y. w. i. y. believe that beer is fattening: "I started working at the brewery in October 1933, when I weighed 119 pounds. I now weigh 146 pounds—and am I happy! Beer did it!" It wasn't the beer, but all the food you ate with it, Esther. Beer-drinkers are stimulated to eat all these heavy dishes, and they blame the resultant heavy weight on the beer itself. Just as many persons stay thin drinking beer.

Write a wrong. Address Clark Kinnaird, care this newspaper.

James M. Thomas of New Orleans newspaper editor-publisher, born at Summit Point, W. Va., 37 years ago.

## HUMANITARIANISM STRIKES ASSEMBLY

### It Wants To Help Everybody It Can, as Shown In Bills Introduced

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sic Walter Hotel.

Raleigh, Feb. 13.—This General Assembly is more interested in humanitarian measures than any in many years, according both to observers and to the many bills introduced along these lines. It not only wants to increase the salaries of school teachers, as the several bills to grant them a boost of from 20 to 30 per cent in salaries indicate, but it also wants to give them the protection of the workmen's compensation act, and grant them the same sick leave with pay that other State employees get.

But that is not all. A number of bills introduced within the last few days indicate that this assembly is also interested in the welfare of the school children, and that it would throw additional safeguards around them. The bill introduced in the Senate Monday night by Senators Dunn of Rowan, and Horton, of Chatham, would protect children while riding in school buses against accidental injury or death by authorizing the State School Commission to set up a compensation fund from which it would pay up to \$600 for the accidental injury or death of a child, while riding in a school bus. This same bill was introduced in the House at the same time by Representative Bowers, of Avery county. The bill would authorize the payment of medical and hospital expenses for children injured in bus accidents.

Another bill designed to result in

greater safety for school children and others who ride in public conveyances is the bill introduced in the House by Representative Klutz, of Catawba county, to require the use of safety glass in all school buses, taxicabs, passenger buses or other vehicles hired, assembled or manufactured after January 1, 1937.

Another humanitarian bill introduced within the last few days, and recommended by Governor Ehringhaus in his message to the General Assembly, is the bill introduced by Representative Gardner, of Cleveland county, which would bring 25 types of occupational diseases under the workmen's compensation law, regulate the payment of benefits, prescribe the conditions of payment and the machinery of administration. This bill is now before the House Committee on Insurance.

## Piles Go Quick

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## MAY CUT RAILROAD TAX TO SAVE THEM

### And That Might Make It Possible for Freight Rates To Come Down

By LESLIE EICHEL  
Central Press Staff Writer  
New York, Feb. 12.—Taxes on railroads may have to be lowered to be lowered to save them.  
Taxing units may have to cut on that.  
Reduction in taxes may make possible another desired reduction—freight rates, which are an indirect tax.  
The decline of railroad stocks and other securities simply is a barometer of the financial condition of the majority of railroad corporations.  
**A 1929 FORECAST**  
Was there any forecast in 1929 that was correct?  
Here is one concerning railroads, from a Wall Street market letter—a forecast that investors in railroad securities may desire to frame for ironic purposes:  
"No matter what artificial restraints may be placed on the stock market, railway securities are not likely to be affected to any large extent. There isn't a railroad stock on

the list that is not selling for less than it is worth at the present time. Of course, even a government bond will occasionally dip below par in distressed selling, and railroad security prices may similarly be affected for a like reason, but holders of railway securities now have no cause to worry over the outlook for their investments."

**CHILD LABOR VOTE?**  
An effort is being made to have the people themselves vote in a referendum on the child labor amendment to the constitution.

That suggestion arose after the New York state senate judiciary committee smothered, without a record vote, the resolution for New York state to ratify. Thus the legislature was not given an opportunity to vote on the resolution.

A popular referendum would have no legal effect on ratification. The constitution says that "three-fourths of the states, through their legislatures, shall ratify an amendment to the federal constitution to make it effective."

There has been talk in congress for several years, however, of putting up another amendment to the constitution to make ratification possible by popular vote.

Thus the will of the people would become effective much sooner. As it is, minorities (many of which have vested interests) can block reforms or release from oppressive measures.

1895—Surrender of Chinese fleets and forts ending their war with Japan.



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Richmond, Va.	1.71	3.42	4.60	5.70
Washington, D. C.	4.27	8.52	11.35	14.15
Baltimore, Md.	5.71	11.42	15.20	19.00
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New York, N. Y.	12.41	24.82	33.10	41.35

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