



Fifteenth Instalment

SYNOPSIS . . . Ellen Church, 17 years old, finds herself alone in the world with her mother's last warning ringing in her ears, to "love lightly." Of the world she knew little. All her life she had lived alone with her mother in an old brown house in a small rural community. . . . Ellen, alone, turned to the only contact she knew, an art agent in New York. Passing years of posing, was her only talent. Dick Alven and Sandy Macintosh. Both used her as a model and both fell in love with her. . . . but Ellen, trying to follow the warped philosophy of her mother to "love lightly," resists the thought of love. Her circle of friends is small, artists and two or three girl models. Ellen attends a ball with Sandy. While dancing she meets a young man named Dick and romance is born. A ride in the park, proposal, the next day marriage to Tony, and wealth. But she'd "Love Lightly." Ellen told herself. She would never let him know how desperately she loved him, even though she were his wife. Ellen insists upon living her own life, maintaining her home in her small room, even though Tony is wealthy. . . . Jane, of Tony's wealthy set, is disappointed in Tony's sudden marriage to Ellen. Jane then makes every effort to win Tony away from Ellen. NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY.

And speaking of Jane—but they didn't speak of her! Nor of her comments—so profoundly true. They didn't speak of Dick either. Dick, and the part of Ellen's life that Dick filled, was a sealed letter which neither one of them seemed to remember. Jane was Dick. So, for that matter, was their own love. . . . The evenings went on, and the dresses and the dinners. But there were barriers that they never crossed. Tony never came up to Ellen's room. He always met her at the front door, with a brief and hurried word of good-night. And they never danced to either, either. Ellen knew that she couldn't keep up the friendliness pretense if his arms were around her and his body was close against her body. It was the shrewd dance at the house party, that had—she was sure—precipitated their last flare-up of passion. Days went on. Weeks went on. They were beginning to learn something about each other, these two. Ellen had come to realize that

reality himself, that she'd have to do it! And if she did it, it would mean putting herself forever in his power—and in love's power—and in life's power. It would mean that she would have to let him see that she couldn't get along without him. It would mean that he'd have the opportunity of hurting her. . . . When the dinners and drives with Tony began, she had felt a sense of radiance and physical well-being and peace. She had felt that everything would adjust itself, in a natural way. Her assurance had even been visible to Dick—to Sandy. She had looked "swell"! But it wasn't visible any more. Perhaps it was the



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mental strain that made her feel so fagged—that made keeping up such an effort. "I wish," she said suddenly one day as she knelt in front of Dick, "that you'd let me rest for a minute, old thing, I'm sunk." Dick hadn't regarded her as a human being since he had reached the home stretch of his mural, but now he dropped his brushes with a swift little exclamation of pitying surprise. "Why, Ellen child," he exclaimed, "I've never known you to say anything like that before!" Ellen relaxed into a little huddled heap of white buckskin and beads. "I guess it's old age sneaking up on me," she told Dick. "But honestly, I never have felt so tired, in my life, as I have lately." Dick was wiping his hands on a paint rag. "You worry me, Ellen," he said, "I'm afraid you're doing too much, or something." He was putting away his brushes and he looked oddly relieved when the door opened and Claire came into the room. Ellen hadn't seen Claire very often since the night of her wedding party—she hadn't even thought of Claire for that matter!

"I saw your hated rival today, the dark girl, you know!" said Claire. "The one that Tony gave the handsome pair of silver plated gates to. Or should I say—seemed to give them to!" Ellen sighed, but she didn't make any attempt to get up from her relaxed position on the floor. "You mean Jane," she said, while Dick looked helplessly from her face to Claire's. Claire went on. "I was in Wall Street," she said. "I've been doing a little bucket shopping of late. Trust me to pick the best time in fifty years to do my investing early! I saw Jane walking along in front of me. She had the smug look of a woman who's on her way to meet some other woman's husband. I didn't speak to her, though she was alone. Ask me why!" Ellen pressed her hands wearily against her forehead. Wall Street! Did that really mean that Jane had been going to Tony's office, she wondered? Dick was still watching her oddly as she went around the screen. "I don't think she's well," he mumbled to Claire. "She's in love," said Claire, "that's all. Love saps a person. And makes a sap of a person, too, for that matter." And so it was that Claire took Ellen home. But she couldn't explain, even to herself, why she put her arm around Ellen's shoulders. "Dick's worried about you, Ellen,"

she said, "and so am I, believe it or not. You aren't acting quite normal, you know. Are you feeling all right? We're for you, kid, you know—of us. Don't let that Jane get away with anything you really want!" Ellen tried to laugh, but her voice was a little shaky. "Don't you worry about me, Claire," she said. "I know you think I haven't much sense. But I can take care of myself. I can—her voice was the more vehement because tears lay behind it, "take care of myself! And of my own property—"

Claire's hand, patting Ellen's, was unexpectedly tender. "I—I wonder," she said.

Claire didn't leave Ellen alone upon the doorstep. She took her upstairs and helped her into a soft kimmy, and made her lie down. And then, mercifully, Claire went away. It was an hour before she rose from the couch and, with her mind still jumbled and groping through the mazes of a new jealousy, stumbled into the bathroom and took her shower. As she stood straight and white under the shower, Ellen found that she was crying bitterly. And yet, despite the tears, when the horn of Tony's roadster sounded in front of her house, Ellen was able to come down and meet him with a smile on her lips, and with her eyes as apparently fresh as was the little organdy frock that she wore.

They drove together for a while in silence. Through the early evening traffic, out over a bridge that led to Long Island. Tony's brown hands clutched the wheel harder than was quite necessary, and his jaw line was harder than necessary, too. Finally he spoke. "They drove through fifteen more minutes of silence—one car in a long line of cars. Then Tony spoke. "I've thought, lately," he said, "that we were getting together in rather a nice way, you and I, Ellen—that we were getting to be friends! There've been times when I've thought the day was coming when I'd take another chance—when I'd ask you again to be—something more than a friend. But I'm wondering, now, if I've ever been right, about anything! Tell me, have you ever really considered whether you'd like a divorce—I told you, the first night we met, that I'd admit I was licked and give you one, if I felt that I wasn't getting anywhere with you. You told me, at Jane's

house party, that there could be an annulment any time. Maybe one of us was right. Maybe we were both right—" Ellen's hands were pressed against her breast. Under them she could feel the thumping of her heart. Claire had called it. Surely, it was Jane. It must be Jane. Else why was Tony mentioning divorce and annulment at this time? "I'll always think," she said, at last, "that you're wise, Tony, in any decision you make." And that was that.

The orchestra was thumping out a summons. Tony gave his order briefly to a waiter, and then he was rising and holding out his arms. "You haven't danced with me," he said, "since the night at Jane's party. And that was only a— a sample. Let's have a dance together now, while we're waiting for our dinner." Ellen rose reluctantly. "You're making a Tommy Tucker out of me," she said, "making me dance for my dinner! But she melted into his arms, and they whirled away.

It wasn't a waltz, this time. It was a barbaric, staccato measure to which they danced. It was passionate and bold and full of effrontery, that music; it caught them up into a strange, savage world. Ellen could feel the heat of jungles closing in about her, and the drowsiness of strange, unnatural flowers. She was glad when the music stopped on a high, quivering note, when Tony led her back to their table. She was glad that the food he had ordered was workingman's foodsteak and succotash and things like that. She needed something commonplace. "You said, once," she remarked over the steak and succotash, "that I was a good cook, Tony. And you said it when you'd only eaten one of my fried egg sandwiches. I'd like to have you to dinner, once—to a dinner that I'd cooked myself."

Tony was looking at her oddly. "Is this an invitation?" he said. "Or are you just having fun?" Ellen's lip quivered. They drove away from the inn, at last, through an amethyst afterglow. "Somehow, this light," she said to Tony, "makes me remember the place where I lived before I came to the city. It's an old brown house set back of the loveliest flowers that you ever saw—my mother planted the flowers herself. Now that my mother's gone, Tony, it belongs to me."

Continued Next Week

H. L. Wiggs and wife, Mrs. H. L. Wiggs
The defendants H. L. Wiggs and wife, Mrs. H. L. Wiggs, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina, to foreclose the lien of a tax sale certificate for the years 1929, 1930, and 1931 on the property of said defendants in said county, and said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the court house in Sylva, N. C., on the 8th day of February, 1935, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 8th day of December, 1934
DAN ALLISON,
Clerk of the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina.
By Edith Crawford Deputy Clerk.

NOTICE
North Carolina, Jackson County.
In The Superior Court. County of Jackson
vs.
L. H. Brown and wife, Mrs. L. H. Brown.
The defendants, L. H. Brown and wife, Mrs. L. H. Brown, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina, to foreclose the lien of a tax sale certificate for the years 1930 and 1931 on the property of said defendants in said county, and said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the court house in Sylva, N. C., on the 10th day of February, 1935, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 10th day of December, 1934
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Clerk of the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina.
By Edith Crawford Deputy Clerk.

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C. H. Edmondson and wife, Mrs. C. H. Edmondson.
The defendants, C. H. Edmondson and wife, Mrs. C. H. Edmondson, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina, to foreclose the lien of a tax sale certificate for the years 1929, 1930 and 1931 on the property of said defendants in said county, and said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the court house in Sylva, N. C., on the 14th day of February, 1935, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 14th day of December, 1934
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Clerk of the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina.
By Edith Crawford Deputy Clerk.

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North Carolina, Jackson County.
In The Superior Court. County of Jackson
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Addie Hyatt and husband John Hyatt
The defendants, Addie Hyatt and husband, John Hyatt, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina, to foreclose the lien of a tax sale certificate for the years 1929, 1930, and 1931 on the property of said defendants in said county, and said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the court house in Sylva, N. C., on the 15th day of February, 1935, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 15th day of December, 1934
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By Edith Crawford Deputy Clerk.

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North Carolina, Jackson County.
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vs.
W. P. Boliek and wife, Mrs. W. P. Boliek.
The defendants, W. P. Boliek and wife, Mrs. W. P. Boliek, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina, to foreclose the lien of a tax sale certificate for the years 1929, 1930, and 1931 on the property of said defendants in said county, and said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the court house in Sylva, N. C., on the 6th day of February, 1935, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 6th day of December, 1934
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vs.
Lucy Cochran
The defendant, Lucy Cochran, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina, to foreclose the lien of a tax sale certificate for the years 1930 and 1931 on the property of said defendants in said county, and said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the court house in Sylva, N. C., on the 14th day of February, 1935, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 14th day of December, 1934
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The defendant, Mrs. Matilda Wadsworth, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Jackson County, North Carolina, to foreclose the lien of a tax sale certificate for the years 1929, 1930 and 1931 on the property of said defendants in said county, and said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said county in the court house in Sylva, N. C., on the 24th day of February, 1935, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 24th day of December, 1934
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Complete Bed Room Suites \$30.00
Mrs. J. S. Higdon, Jackson County.

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THE JOURNAL now 52 weeks \$1.00 in Jackson County. All print. No patent inside.

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