

Against WOMEN

Adapted from the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

LUCY HUFFAKER

Based on a story by MARGARET CULKIN BANNING

STORY SO FAR:
Cynthia Holland is beautiful, charming and clever, but so selfish and domineering that Stephen, brilliant young lawyer, sees their marriage is a failure. They have a small daughter Ellen. There is no scandal attached to the divorce and Stephen's mother and Cynthia remain on intimate terms. In Washington, Stephen meets and marries Mrs. Kent. Cynthia is secretly vindictive and manages to make life almost impossible for the bride.

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Chapter Three

The first word that Stephen and Maris or anyone in the household had that Senator and Mrs. Kingsley were coming back for a visit was when they received invitations for a supper-dance at the club the night of their arrival. Maris had vowed to herself that after two embarrassing experiences she would never go to the club again, but she did not hesitate. She would go any where to see Mrs. Kingsley. In her, sharp of eye, tender of heart, Maris knew she had an ally.

"Why should I lie to you," said Maris after Mrs. Kingsley had kissed her and asked how things were with her. "You were quite right in warning me I was coming into enemy territory. Except for you and the Senator and Steve, no one here really wants me tonight."

"And what are you doing about it? Taking it meekly? Pitying yourself? Get up on your hind legs! Show them they can't down you. We must have a long talk. Luncheon tomorrow? O. K."

Maris was just moving on to join Stephen who was with the Senator, when she heard Mrs. Kingsley greet a new arrival.

"Cynthia! I don't need to ask how you are when you are more ravishing than ever. How is Ellen?"

"She makes me keep on living. I have nothing else now, you know. You must..." suddenly she stopped, then in a different voice said: "Please forgive me for going right now. I find I can't stay. Here is Mother; she will explain, won't you?" turning to Mrs. Holland.

But it was Maris who spoke. She came to them, looking directly at Cynthia.

"You don't really mean you are going, do you? Please don't. I would consider it a great favor if you would stay."

"Sorry," said Cynthia in a tone which was anything but regretful, as she turned away.

"But you staged this same act before," said Maris. "What's the point? There's no reason why you and I should hurt each other. Can't we act like civilized human beings?"

"Mother," said Cynthia in a pleading voice, "would you mind very much taking me home with you?"

Stephen came up to Maris, just as the two women left.

"You shouldn't have done that, Maris," he said in a voice so low only she could hear him. "It won't help matters. I'm not siding with Cynthia, but her position may not be as simple as you think. She is sensitive..."

"Sensitive!" said Maris scornfully. "Everyone is watching us and we're quarreling about Cynthia. Our first real quarrel. She's got what she wants all right. Shall we make the scandal a perfect one, by leaving too?"

"We will not. Come on. Let's catch this dance."

When they reached home late that night, the phone was ringing. It was Stephen's mother. She wished he would come over right away. Cynthia was there. She had been almost hysterical but was calmer now. Would he come over? Maris was in bed but not asleep when Stephen returned.

"Cynthia said she was going to take Ellen and go away," he said. "It almost floored me. The idea of not seeing Ellen for months or years at a time. But Mother and I persuaded her to wait a while before making a decision. She agreed, because I'm so busy with

this case I'm on, to go with Ellen to the lake for a little rest until I have some free time and then we can have a conference. She feels the situation is unbearable... says we'd be happier too if she went away."

"We would."

"Maris! You don't mean that."

"She doesn't," said Maris. "Don't worry about not seeing Ellen, Steve. She hasn't the slightest intention of going. She is clever enough to know we are always worrying about her... that she is the most important person in this house she never enters. Is all your responsibility toward her? What about me? I am your wife, you know. I'm sorry... I didn't mean to say that, but I had to. Don't you see, Steve, it's getting so you have the same kind of scenes with both of us?"

"My one responsibility toward her is because of Ellen. Cynthia's only importance to me is because she can take Ellen away from me. I'm tired, Maris, in mind and spirit more than body. Help me, dear."

"In any way I can," she said, softly. "Now go to bed. You have a hard day ahead."

It was a week later that Stephen asked his mother and Maris to



come to the afternoon session of court. It promised to be dramatic and he thought they would be interested. He would have to return to the office for a conference with his partners and client in the evening, so they planned to dine downtown. They were just leaving the court when an attendant came up to Stephen and said he had a message for him from his office. Mrs. Holland had been trying to get him from the lake. Would he please call her?

"Ellen has a cold," he explained to his mother and Maris, when he had hung up the receiver. "Not serious... no temperature, but she is restless and has been asking for me, so of course Cynthia thought she should let me know. I told her to call the doctor at once and have him get a nurse if Ellen isn't all right. I said I'd go up right away, if it weren't for this conference tonight. Cynthia says that is unnecessary, she can manage all right alone. She is to call me at the office if Ellen is worse and I'll go right up. She said not to worry... but I do, a little."

Mrs. Holland volunteered to go up but Stephen said it was a long hard drive for her. It was best to wait.

"I think you should go, Steve, and right away," said Maris. "I think this is more important than any case you'll ever have. If Ellen is ill..."

"If..." Mrs. Holland broke in.

"Yes, if..." Maris repeated the emphasis on the word. "I think it quite possible there is nothing the matter with Ellen at all. You are horrified that I could be so suspicious? Perhaps I'm misjudging Cynthia. But in any event, I think we should all know just what the situation is."

"You are right, Maris," said Steve. "You phone for the car right away and I'll call the office and tell them they'll have to go on without me."

When they reached the inn, it was ablaze with lights and an orchestra was playing. Stephen, asking at the desk the number of Cynthia's room, was told she was dancing. The clerk would send for her. Stephen said it was not necessary, he would go directly up to Ellen.

"I'll wait down here," said Maris. "You two go on up. I'll be all right."

When Mrs. Holland and Stephen had stepped in the elevator, Maris walked toward the lounge. The smile left Cynthia's face as she saw her, but she danced on for a moment before she excused herself to her partner and came to Maris.

"What are you doing here? Is Steve here, too? Yes? I see. You made him come to check up on me. Well, what have you found? Can't I dress for dinner because I have a child?"

"You don't have to defend yourself to me."

"I'm going up. Would you care to come with me?"

"Thank you. I will," said Maris. Stephen was in the living-room

alone when they went in.

"What fortitude you have," he said bitterly. "What courage it must have taken to put on that stunning gown and smile and dance..."

"That's not funny."

"No? Well, what is funny is that you seem to think you can bluff your way out of this."

Cynthia opened the door to Ellen's bedroom, then stopped back in amazement as she saw Mrs. Holland. The older woman came quickly to the door and closed it behind her, as she entered the living-room and faced Cynthia.

"Even now," she said bitterly, "I can't believe you could do such a dastardly thing. Don't try to squirm out of this... I know how you protected yourself in case Steve said he'd be up. Please don't make this more vulgar by pulling any of your tricks. I understand everything now."

She walked to the outer door, telling Stephen she would wait downstairs for him and Maris. Cynthia whirled on Maris.

"You engineered all this. Why didn't you mind your own business?"

"It is her business," said Stephen. "Maris is my wife. But you have never been able to swallow that. That's the whole trouble. And you haven't even the lame justification that you love me. All you have done and tried to do has been done through hate."

"I don't have to be spoken to like this. And I won't be."

"Don't say what you will do or won't. You'll do as I say, now. This, in case you haven't grasped the fact, is a show-down. And you lose. Come, Maris, let's go down to Mother."

He took her by the arm and they

and son visited Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Byrum Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Jones, of Norfolk, Va., visited Mrs. Ida Reed Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Boyce, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Lamb and son, Stacey, visited Mrs. Hollowell, near Hobbville, Sunday.

Willis Lamb made a business trip to Danville, Va., Monday.

Mrs. Eugene Jernigan and daughter, Sylvia, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Byrum, Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Nearest Jordan and children visited Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Jernigan Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Perry, from near

were just going into the corridor when Cynthia spoke to them.

"Just one minute, please. You say this is a show-down. So be it. Last week you asked me to wait until I decided about going away with Ellen. I did. Now, I have reached my decision. As soon as I can make the necessary arrangements... that will be in the next few days, I'm taking Ellen away. Of course, Steve, you have the legal right to visit Ellen when you like and of course you will know where we are... I haven't decided whether it will be Paris or the Orient."

Stephen who had seemed stunned into silence, stopped clenching his hands and he began speaking as easily as if what he had to say was easy to say.

"Thank you, Cynthia, for making everything quite clear at last. I have been confused by my love for Ellen, my wish to have her near me. I am not confused now. For once, you are right. I agree with you that the thing for you to do is to take Ellen away."

Cynthia retreated a step or two in her amazement. Maris turned a horrified, grief-marked face to him.

"It's because of my love for Ellen that I will let you take her away. For, with your nature, I can't keep her in my life without including you. She is not a baby now. She will understand some things and see others which she will not understand. She has a right to a happy and peaceful life and I intend she shall have it."

"You mean," gasped Cynthia, "that you are willing to let her go?"

"If I must. I won't have her mixed up in any ugly mess. She loves you, she trusts you and it is right that she should. And you need her. You have gone off on a wrong track, Cynthia; perhaps you can't get back on the right one, here. If you go away with Ellen, you may do it. I hope so, for your sake as well as Ellen's. I will not oppose you, Cynthia. You have my promise."

He took Maris' arm and turned again toward the outer door. She stopped him.

"No... not now," she said. Then, turning to Cynthia: "Steve has told you to take Ellen away. You must know what that decision meant to him."

"Well, what can I do about it... or you? It is his decision."

"Don't you see you have no power over him any longer? Ellen was the one thing you had. Now that is gone."

"Don't dear," said Stephen. As if he had not spoken, Maris went on.

"You are an intelligent woman; so intelligent you know when you are beaten; so intelligent you do not try to bluff yourself. Then why, why make Stephen suffer? Why deprive Ellen of her father, altogether... a father like hers?"

Cynthia had gone to the window and stood, her back to them, looking out at the night sky.

"Stay on where you belong... where you have your own place... let Steve have his share of Ellen... give up trying to hurt us. Won't you?"

Cynthia waited a long minute before answering and when she did her voice was husky.

"I thought I was going to be run out of town anyway... the way Mrs. Holland looked at me."

"No one's going to hurt you... you must know that... if you play wagers. What do you say?"

Cynthia had been moved. So much was evident. But she could not acknowledge it, immediately.

"Would I have to sign a legal document or just bow low... what?" she asked, trying to be slipshod.

"You can stand on your head, if you like," said Maris lightly.

"They were all silent for a moment. Then Maris spoke.

"Or... shake hands if you will," she said, holding out hers.

The two women looked at each other squarely.

Cynthia took the proffered hand.

THE END.

FILM FORECAST AT STATE THEATRE

HERTFORD, N. C.

Thursday only of next week comes to the State Theatre for a one day stand Wallace Beery and Jackie Cooper in "Treasure Island," Robert Louis Stevenson's story of the lovable peg-legged pirate, John Silver. Jackie Cooper plays the part of Jim Hawkins, who found the map of Treasure Island. This story is one familiar to readers of Stevenson's works.

A comedy and news reel complete Thursday's program.



Hertford, Mrs. Alvah Bunch and her daughter, Geese, of Edenton, visited Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Chappell Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Byrum and daughter, Shirley, dined with Mr. Byrum's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Byrum, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ward were guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Byrum, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ellis and son, of Hilton Village, Va., were guests of Mr. Ellis' mother, Mrs. Ida Ellis, Monday.

Growth Goes On in Adults
Scientists have found that the growth of the human body does not stop at 24 years, nor even at 40. A person may increase in height more than half an inch after he is an adult, and legs and trunk keep growing slightly until late in life, and arm length seems to increase slightly.

Tax on Ax!
In balancing the budget the big question is whether to use more tax or more ax.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

NOTICE!

We Are Receiving Applications For
Concessions at Albemarle Sound
Bridge Celebration on
August 25, 1938

As these applications arrive they are numbered and space will be assigned in numerical order as applications are received.

Those wishing concession space should notify undersigned at once.

Also those wishing space should meet the undersigned on the south side bridge end on August 18 and 19 to stake off their space.

L. E. HASSELL
ROPER, N. C.
Member Concessions Committee

CENTER HILL

Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Walston left Monday for Lake Juanaluska to spend a few days.

Mrs. J. S. Turner and two children, Robert and Peggy, have returned home after visiting Mrs. Frank Beach, at Franklin, Va.

Rev. Frank Cale has returned from a visit to his brother, Paul Cale and Mrs. Cale, at Crozet, Va.

Mrs. T. H. Byrum visited her sister, Mrs. H. T. Layton, who is a patient in the Albemarle Hospital, Elizabeth City. Mrs. Layton has been very ill, but her condition is reported to be much improved.

Mrs. Oscar Parker, of Norfolk, Va.,

spent several days last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Bunch. Mr. Parker came and accompanied her home.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Lane are visiting Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Lane, in Benson.

Mrs. Cotter Bright White, who has been sick, is now improving.

Mrs. T. E. Chappell and two daughters, Melba and Joyce, Miss Lillian Turner and Mrs. T. H. Byrum visited Mrs. J. S. Turner Sunday evening.

Miss Lois Hope Lane has as her guest this week Miss Arrowhardt, of Louisburg College.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Berryman and two children, Thomas Daughtrey and Margerine, Mrs. Dewey Berry-

man and two children spent Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. Willie Byrum.

Mr. and Mrs. Lancey Ward and two children, Melba and Lancey, Jr., spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Turner.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hollowell and two children, Elizabeth and Bernice, of Sunbury, spent the week-end with Mrs. Hollowell's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Byrum.

Rev. and Mrs. D. M. Sharpe and two children, of Hertford, and Mr. Watts, of Durham, were supper guests of Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Walston Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Nearest Jordan and children, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Jordan

STATE THEATRE HERTFORD N. C. Coolest Spot In Town

Thursday - Friday, July 28-29—
"The Adventures of Robin Hood"
With Errol Flynn, Olivia DeHaviland, Basil Rathbone
Also NEWS REEL

Saturday Only—July 30—
SHOW OPENS 1:30 P. M.
ROMANCE DRAVES A SHOWER OF WHISTLING LEADS!
CHARLES STARRETT
THEY OF THE PIRMS
Also "MYSTERIOUS PILOT" No. 7 COMEDY ACT

Monday Only—August 1—
BOOLOO
Ward Jangle Miss Uncovered
Also COMEDY NEWS

Tuesday Only—August 2—
THE KING OF THE AWESOMES
Lew Ayres, Helen Mack, Alice Shipworth
Also COMEDY ACT

Wednesday Only—August 3—
MATINEE AT 3 P. M.
Ronald Reagan Mary Maguire
"Sergeant Murphy"
Also COMEDY ACT

Thursday Only—August 4—
OLD BURY
Also COMEDY NEWS