ASCO.

ICE WATER PL-! By FANNIE HURST

Mr. Vetsburg invites Mrs. Kaufmos. his landlady, and her daughter,
mos. his landlady, and her daughter,
Roby. to spend Easter in Atlantic
City, as guests at his sister's hotel.
Lit. Kaufman insinuateo to Ruby,
efter Mr. Vetsburg leaves, that she
could be glad to see her marry Mr. Vetsburg, scho is well off.

CHAPTER IV

WHY, Mann-why, Mama, what is Meyer Vetsburg to-to me? Why, he-he's got gray hair, Ma; he-



"I know, Ma, but he—he— Why, he's got an accent, Ma, just like old man Katz and—and all of 'em. He man Katz and—and all of 'em. He
may 'too sand' for thousand. He
"Baby, ain't you ashamed like it "Baby, ain't you ashamed like it makes any difference how a good man talks?" She reached out, drawing her dangater by the wrists down into her lap. "You're a bad little flirt, baby, what pretends she don't know what a blind man can see."

Miss Kaufman's eyes widened, darkened, and she tugged for the freedom of her wrists. "Ma, quit scaring me!"

"Scaring you! That such a rising ike Vetsburg, with a business he d himself into president "from" looks every day more like he's cierk, looks every day more like he s

"Ma, not—not him!"
In reply she fell to stroking the moth black plaits, wound coronet fashion about Miss Kaufman's small; fashin about Alss Kanda to her eyes. "Baby, when you talk like that it's you that scares mama!"
"He-he-"
"Why, you think, Ruby, I been making out of myself a servant like you

all it all these years except for your call it all these years except for your future? For myself a smaller house without such a show and maybe five or six roomers without meals, you think ain't easier as this big barn? For what, baby, you think I always want rou should have extravagances maybe I can't afford and should keep up with the fine girls what you meet down by Atlantic City if it ain't that a man like Meyer Vetsburg can be proud to choose you from the best?"

"Mama! Mama!"

"Don't think, Ruby, when the day

"Mama! Mama!"
"Don't think, Ruby, when the day cemes what I can give up this white-elephant house that it won't be a happy one for me. Every night when I hear from upstairs how Mrs. Katz and all of them hollers down 'towels' and 'ice water' to me like I—I was their slave, don't think, baby, I won't be happiest woman in this world the day what I can slam the door, hang, right on the so slam the door, bang, right on the

"Mama, Mama, and you pretending all these years you didn't mind!"
"I don't, baby. Not one minute while
I got a future to look forward to with ou. For myself, you think I ask any hing except my little girl's happiness layways, when happiness comes to you



rg to—to me?
hair, Ma; he—
he's getting bald. Why, he don't know I'm on the complex to the compl

"Ruby!"
"No, no, Ma! No, No!"
"Baby, the dream what I've dreamed five years for you!"
"No, no, no!"
She fell back, regarding her.
"Why, Ruby, Why, Ruby, girl!"
"It ain't fair. You mustn't!"
"Mustn't?"

'It ain't 'Mustn't "Mustn't! Mustn't!" Her voice had mama cept how it's getting every day plainer, one, these trips to Atlantic City and—"
"Mama, Mama, you're killing me." you She fell back against her parer say shoulder, her face frankly distorted. they they why.

A. second staring there into space, Mrs. Kaufman sat with her arm still methyling the slender but lax form.

"Ruby. is—is it something you ain't

'Ruby, is—is it something telling Mamn?'
''Oh, Mommy, Mommy!''
''Is there?''
''I-I don't know.''

"Ruby, should you be afraid to talk to Mama, who don't want nothing but her child's happiness?"
"You know, Mommy, You know!"
"Know what, baby?"

"I can't say, it, Mommy, wouldn't be nice—be nice."

"He-be-- We ain't even sure "Not-yet." "Who?"

"You know.



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baby!

that—that can't support you, baby, un-less you live right there in his mother's and father's hotel away—away from

"Ruby, a smart girl like you. A little snip what don't make salt yet, when you can have the uncle his-self!"

can't help it, Ma! If-if-the anybody else is on earth. "Mustn't! Mustn't! Her voice had slipped up now and away from her. adays, baby, a man forty? Why, baby, it's natural at first a man forty? Why, by, by, be I should be so scared. May be I should the had been a king or a—or just what he is, it wouldn't make no difference. I—I can't help my—my feelings, Ma. I can't!"

A large furrow formed between Mrs. Kaufman's eyes, darkening her. Kaufman's eyes, darkening her,
"You wouldn't, Ruby!" she said,

> "Oh, Mommy, Mommy, when a-a Years. girl can't help a thing!"
> "He ain't good enough for you,

ERPL—!

"Mommy, don't make me say it. Maybe if—when his uncle Meyer takes him in the business, we—"
"Beby, not Leo?"
"Oh, Mommy, Mommy!" And she buried her hot, revealing face into the for mama better as stenography. Set herself down well. That's why, since we got on the subject, baby, I—I hold off signing up the, new lease, with every day Shulif fussing so. Maybe, baby, I—I hold off signing up the, new lease, with every day Shulif fussing so. Maybe, baby, I—I hold off signing up the, new lease, with every day Shulif fussing so. Maybe, baby, I—I hold off signing up the, new lease, with every day Shulif fussing so. Maybe, baby, I—I hold off signing up the, new lease, with every day Shulif fussing so. Maybe, baby, I—Well, just maybe—th, baby? Willing before we talk every hor answer a torrent of tears so sudden that they came in an avalanche burst from Miss Kaufman, and she crumpled forward, face in hands and red rushing up the back of her neck and over her cars.

"Alltle yellow-haired boy like him the—that can't support you, baby, unless you live right there in his mother's in the business of the like we can all be dogeness. The self-the house! My baby with a well-to-do husband maybe on Riverside to business, but it ain't site yet. We—"
"A little yellow-haired boy like him the—that can't support you, baby, unless you live right there in his mother's life you life you. I could squeeze my eyes a would't. Ruby. After how I've built not have business burst and you marry worn, baby. I'm caught. Caught in this house like a rat in a tran."
"A little yellow-haired boy like him the that can't support you, baby, unless you live right there in his mother's life you marry day."

"A little yellow-haired boy like him the series of the provided of the provided

for you!"
"Oh, Mama, Mama, Mama!"
"If you ain't got ambitions for yourself, Ruby, think once of me and this
long dream I been dreaming for—us."
"Yes, Ma. Yes."

"I tell you, baby, it's just an ideal you got in your head."
"No, no, Mama. No, no."
Suddenly Mrs. Kaufman threw up her hands, clasping them tight against her eyes, pressing them in frenzy, "Oh, my God!" she cried. "All for nothing!" and fell to mouning through her laced fingers. "All for nothing! Years. Years. Years.

"Mommy darling!"
"Oh—don't, don't! Jest let me be,
Let me be."

"No, no, Mommy. Leo. he—his self, Ruby, think once of me and this long dream I been dreaming for—us."

"Yes, Ma. Yes."

"Ruby, Ruby, and I always thought when you was so glad for Atlantic City, it was for Vetsburg; to show him how much you liked his folks. How could I know it was—"I never thought, Mommy. Why—why. Vetsy, he's just like a relation or something." something."
"I tell you, baby, it's just an idea

At sight of her so prostrate there,

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"Of course you can't, darling. We—I don't want you to. 'Shh-h-l!"
I'don't want you to. 'Shh-h-l!"
I'don't want you and my hopes in you that kept me going all these years. The that kept me going all the years are the then things can come like you want 'em. 'Shh-h-h, dearie! I didn't mean it. Yourse Leo's only a kid. I—We— Mommy dear, don't. You're killing me. I didn't mean it. I didn't.''

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

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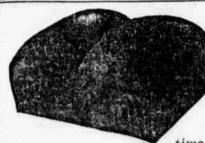
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