

MATRIMONIAL ADVENTURES OF KELLY SISTERS ONCE MORE THRILL HEART OF OLD BROADWAY

Eugenia Seeks Divorce From "Tango Pirate" After Seven Years of Bliss, While "Peggy," Freed From Turkish Prince, Is Rumored as New Baroness Fermoy

IT BEGINS to look as if those Kelly girls simply cannot stay married. True, Eugenia, bride of the "tango-pirate romance," has been married only once; but her runaway match with "Al" Davis, via Philadelphia to Elkton, was the climax of so sensational a series of events that it might have been expected that love would last longer than seven years.

Her sister, once "Peggy" Kelly, then Mrs. Frank Jay Gould, later Mrs. Ralph Thomas, now Princess Noureddin Viora of Albania and, so rumor says, soon to be Baroness Fermoy of Ireland, is more accustomed to the details of the wedding ceremony; yet even in her case friends thought that she had met real romance when she was led to the altar by the dark-eyed son of the Grand Vizier of Sultan Abdul Hamid.

But she divorced him last month, and now Prince Viora has gone to Albania alone, and rumors say that his Princess is significantly friendly with the Irish-American Baron who was once just plain Mr. Maurice Roche, of New York.

And now Eugenia has started suit for divorce from Al Davis. It is a terrible blow to romance, for Eugenia once defied her mother and all the laws and conventions and declared that every girl should be allowed to choose her life for herself and that she was perfectly willing to give up her wealth and all her notorious companions in Broadway's night life to live a "love in a cottage" with the fox-trotter who had won her affections.

Peggy's life has been more varied than Eugenia's, but Eugenia managed to get more than her share of notoriety, due principally to her mother's invoking the law to keep her daughter away from the Broadway cabarets of the old drinking days and from the late that Davis, then a professional dancer, seemed to have for the girl.

Peggy's romance ended when her princeling husband tore the orchids from her girdle and threw them with a kiss to an Oriental dancing girl on the stage of a Paris music hall.

Eugenia's romance ended two years ago, according to the averments in her divorce suit, but what specific incident wrecked it has not yet become known.

Davis and his "million-dollar bride," as Eugenia was called, seemed actually to be happily married and announcement of the divorce suit came as a surprise. They have a little daughter six years old, and they have managed to keep fairly secluded from the public eye for some time, so that Broadway lost track of them and thought they had settled to quiet and respectable domesticity after their early hectic careers.

Broadway Missed Spicy Escapades of Kellys

And Broadway certainly missed them. Time was when Broadway could always depend upon picking up its morning papers in the evening and reading of some new sensation in Mother Kelly's efforts to save Eugenia from the "tango pirate" or rescue her from drink and cabarets, or else devour the latest escapade of Eugenia or a new slander suit brought by Davis against Mrs. Kelly, or of Davis and Eugenia being turned out of another cafe.

It was all great gossip in those days. It really came to a head when Mrs. Kelly haled Eugenia into a police court and asked the magistrate to adjudge the girl incorrigible so that she could be confined in an institution of some kind. Eugenia was about nineteen years old then—it was in 1915—and Davis was the husband of Bonnie Glass, another professional dancer, who, by the way, was one of the women who helped Rodolph Valentino in the early days when the present movie idol was glad to get a job tangoing in a cafe.

The first revelations of the gay life Eugenia was living came in the testimony given in court when the mother had her arrested, and here the present Princess Viora appeared in support of her sister. The Princess was then Mrs. Thomas, a widow of a year.

Mrs. Helen M. Kelly, the mother, was the widow of Edward Kelly, once a prominent banker and associated with Jay Gould.

Her appeal to the police was to restrain Eugenia, who was usually in her own right, from habits and associations of night life in New York. Parental permission having failed, Mrs. Kelly haled her daughter before Magistrate House in the Yorkville court, charging her with incorrigibility.

The mother's social of Eugenia's behavior since the girl finished her course at the Sacred Heart Academy at Manhattanville showed her outrageous feelings. Eugenia, she felt, would become sinners like the proverbial moth if she hovered about the flame, she would become morally depraved by her associations and habits in the all-night restaurants and cafes, and would not realize her predicament until it was too late. That was the reason Mrs. Kelly gave for the extreme measure of prosecution.

Called Cabaret Visits Acme of Fashionableness

On the other hand, the girl's counsel tried to show malice on the part of Mrs. Kelly, who was the guardian of her daughter's property, worth about \$500,000. He only insisted that Mrs. Kelly had sinister motives, that she wanted Eugenia committed to an institution, that the daughter was not receiving her full share of the income as her father's. These insinuations not only were rejected by the court,

got an order for \$10,000 a year for her daughter, in 1912, Eugenia got only \$8000 a year. At that time Mrs. Kelly told Justice Blanchard that \$10,000 a year was necessary to maintain the girl in her station in life. They were then living at the Belmont. Mrs. Kelly's own income at that time was \$15,000 a year. Eugenia was allowed \$4000 a year for entertainment at school.

Eugenia was absolutely unconcerned—even defiant—during the proceedings. But as her Broadway friends failed to come to her support, she finally broke down and there was a reconciliation between mother and daughter. Eugenia forever Broadway, forever—at least she said it was forever—and seemed to be perfectly sincere about it. At that time she delivered herself of some philosophical observations for the benefit of girls who thought the glitter of Broadway's white lights marked the entrance to the land of romance.

Some of those observations were:

"Hoping a quieter home would help," said Mrs. Kelly as Eugenia took an apartment at 114 East Sixty-third street. Eugenia would leave home in the morning and usually not return until 4 the next. I told her if she did not come home at her I would lock her out. I tried it and she smashed the glass in the front door. Eugenia told me a girl was not fashionable in New York unless she visited at least five cafes every night, and she took time. She used to go to the Boarx Arts, the Domino Room, the Boulevard, the Kaiserhof and Maxim's.

The names of several young men were mentioned by Mrs. Kelly as Eugenia's companions whom she did not approve of. Mrs. Kelly said she found out that the girl associated with Al Davis, who was then living with his wife at the Van Cortlandt Hotel, with "Barney" Resler, "Jimmy" Greenberg, a dancer, "Dickie" Warner and other Broadway frequenters.

Davis, once a wine agent, later a dancer, was arrested with Jay O'Brien at Christmas time, 1913, charged with maintaining a gambling house, but both were discharged.

She told her daughter she knew all about Davis; that she had talked with Bonnie Glass on the telephone, and that Eugenia retorted with threats to get an apartment of her own. The girl's mother testified that Eugenia laughed at her admonitions. She said she gave the girl a \$3000 pearl rope, saying she hoped Eugenia would be good. Instead the rope disappeared, with several thousand dollars' worth of other jewelry. Mrs. Kelly was then giving her daughter \$75 a week for pocket money, paying all her bills and buying her clothes, but Eugenia, she said, borrowed several thousand dollars and then her mother stopped the allowance.

Mrs. Kelly stated her belief that the girl spent all her money on her associates and their women friends, and even bought Davis a \$200 police dog. At a Sunday-night supper in their apartments, Mrs. Kelly testified, one of the young men present, whom she did not know, drank three-fourths of a bottle of brandy. When the party ended Eugenia told her mother she was a drug addict and wanted the information that for \$15 any one in the city could get all the drugs he or she wanted.

Eugenia Got \$500,000 Under Father's Will

Mrs. Kelly said the Supreme Court had allowed her daughter \$10,000 a year out of her inheritance, and that she had deposited that amount in a trust company in monthly payments, not wishing her daughter to be spending \$20 a day in cafes with "unfit" persons.

Princess Viora at the time of her separation from the Prince



Mrs. Gould as she appeared at New York to contest the divorce decree granted in France to Frank J. Gould

"Broadway cafes are the most staid places of amusement I ever saw in my life. I'm through with them for all time. It took a good deal to bring me to my senses, but I'm through with all this 'wild-outs' business. It honestly bores me to tears.

"Any girl who wants to get real fun out of the cafes and the cabarets wants to do it all in a week and then quit. After that she walks through the same old story time after time.

"The whole trouble with the cafes and tango places is the drinking that the girls do all the time. I came here to see the fire to be burned and I know what I am talking about. Men try very deliberately to make girls drink. Then they dance, and after that a girl hardly knows enough to write her own name straight.



Mrs. "Al" Davis, the former Eugenia Kelly, of New York, who has filed suit for divorce from a recent photograph



Mrs. Davis in a fancy dress costume



Above, the Princess in bobbed costume at St. Moritz, Switzerland, where her romance with the Prince began

day after the decree became final Eugenia left her home, met Davis and they took a train for Elkton, Md. Three ministers refused to marry them because of the divorce. But the Rev. Henry W. Carr finally performed the ceremony.

Back in New York they found Mrs. Kelly still unreconciled and threatening all sorts of trouble for Davis. Eugenia wanted her clothes and mother refused to give them up. So Eugenia got a writ of replevin, backed up by a motortruck to the apartment, had her officers of the law smash in the door and get her clothes.

Then Davis sued Mother Kelly for slander—two suits, in fact—but gradually the excitement subsided and the young couple went to the country to live.

They kept out of the newspapers fairly well except when Eugenia was thrown from her horse and badly hurt, and later when the baby came.

who any day may lose his title, his fortune and his castle in County Cork.

Princess Viora's choice of a potential Irish commoner in preference to a European crown has brought home to social onlookers of New York and London the fact that her father, the late Eugene Kelly, was as Irish as he was rich.

This blue-eyed beauty married Frank Jay Gould, one of their heirs to Jay Gould's millions, when she was a reigning belle of the 400. She divorced him some time after the birth of two children, Helen Margaret and Dorothy, now twenty and eighteen years old, respectively.

Next she married Ralph Thomas, son of the sugar magnate.

"Bobsled Romance" Ends in Marriage

Her third marriage was the climax of a "bobsled romance" at fashionable St. Moritz in the Swiss Alps. There the lovely American widow surrendered to the exotic charm of Prince Noureddin Viora, a Moslem by birth and education, a subject of Turkey, a son of the grand vizier to the notorious Sultan Abdul Hamid; himself a candidate for the throne of Albania, most turbulent of Balkan royal families.

Their wedding came at a time when the Near East and all things pungent-oriental were the rage of European society.

Princess Viora and his American bride fitted picturesquely into the general scene. But it was not long before society began to whisper that all was not proceeding smoothly in the Viora household. Their palatial home in Paris was flooded with bizarre curios and perfumes; the Prince talked more and more of Albania and its attractions; the school missed a performance at the Olympia of the Casino de Paris, where blue-eyed Levantine maidens whirled and writhed in their native dances.

A husband steering a bobsled down the snowy slopes of St. Moritz was admirable; but a husband who applauded with fervent enthusiasm the daring exhibitions of dancers imported from the dives of Constantinople was a different picture entirely.

The gossip agreed that the "bobsled romance" was all but on the rocks when the story went the rounds that Princess Viora, her face pink with indignation, left the box of one Paris theatre because the Prince suddenly seized her courage bouquet of orchids and tossed it to the stage, where it landed at the bare foot of the season's most daring Oriental dancer.

Maurice Roche, with whom the Princess' name is now linked, is the son of James Boothby Roche, soldier of fortune and third Baron of Fermoy, and Fanny Burke Roche, daughter of the late Frank Work, eccentric millionaire sportsman.

He and his brother Francis inherited from Frank Work \$3,000,000 each, but only on condition that they take the name Roche. Francis followed suit and never visited Ireland. The grandfather Work had never forgiven the man who "stole" his daughter, and after their divorce he spent his days hating Burke Roche and his estate, and tried to stamp out the twins' love for both father and fatherland.

Maurice defied the will. He went to Ireland, saw his father, kept the name of Burke Roche. Francis followed suit. Other heirs of the Work estate, including Mrs. Peter Cooper Hewitt, elder daughter, took no legal action. But even today, according to legal authorities, they could go into court and insist that the twins forfeit the millions they have been enjoying from year to year in defiance of the will.

Maurice, the millionaire who risks his fortune daily because he will be Irish, was best by match-making mamma when his father died and he became fourth Baron of Fermoy. He and his 21,000 acres and his castle in Cork were a tempting catch. But Maurice, adored of the debutantes, reached Paris still uncaught, gazed into the blue eyes of Princess Viora and in the depths of the spirit that was Peggy Kelly's. And right there the Princess made her choice.

something definite to do in her life or she makes an awful botch of things. "I don't care how much money a girl has inherited, it's good for her to earn money of her own once in a while. I've even talked of going to Europe as a nurse, but I don't think mother would let me do that. But there is one thing worth while for some one besides myself; I want to show mother that there is something in me that she can be proud of.

Eugenia's Long Rides "Alone" Are Explained

In this repentant mood, mother and daughter sought the simple life in a mountain resort and everything was lovely for a short time.

horseback rides by herself and returned excited and flushed and totally changed. The mother thought at first it was sheer good health and fresh air. Then she discovered that Al Davis had followed them and defiantly to the bright lights—and to Al Davis.

Then they deserted the country life and went to Paris—and now the divorce.

The Princess Viora, Eugenia's sister, has had an even more varied career, though not so surrounded by unpleasant notoriety.

Born plain Peggy Kelly, she married New York. Eugenia went back gayly and defiantly to the bright lights—and to Al Davis.

Bonnie Glass divorced Davis. On the