

THE HOUSE OF MOHUN

By GEORGE GIBBS

Author of "Youth Triumphant" and Other Successes
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On the third floor a head poked out of an open door

WHO'S WHO IN THE STORY
CHERRY MOHUN, up-to-date girl, rich and cunning, at once irritated and attracted by...
DAVID SANGREE, young American diplomat and war veteran, attracted by changes in manners and customs brought about by the war, but interested in Cherry. His modest funds are invested with her father.
JOHN MOHUN, a self-made financial leader. Too busy to think of his children, he leaves them to Mrs. Mohun.
MRS. MOHUN, who has successfully cultivated the social side of life.
BRUCE COWAN, a motorcar salesman of cave-man type, of whom Cherry imagines she is enamored.
BOB MOHUN, son, is a typically reckless youngster.
GEORGE LYCETT, elderly chorus, philosophizing as the story develops.
JOHN CHICHESTER, whom Mrs. Mohun would like to call son-in-law.

It's no joke. The obligations of friendship have no strings tied to them. Why they're so significant, I'm desperately in earnest. That loan must be repaid. If your mother won't do it, you will have to—
 "She must."
 "Perhaps she will. But you'll need every dollar that you can find. The money I offer you will help to pay some of your debts until you can move to a more modest neighborhood. What I propose is this: I have a house up in the city. It's nothing much in the way of a house, but it will do. The people who occupy it have been willing to give me into my hands for six weeks if you say the word. The rent is only one-tenth of what it would be elsewhere—and only seven-tenths of what you'd pay until you're ready. I've got enough."
 "I couldn't let you do this—I couldn't."
 "I shall consider your acquiescence the measure of our friendship," he continued.
 "Where you give all and I give nothing," she murmured.
 He laughed softly. "You can't measure friendship in money, Cherry. There are things that can't be bought by money. They're prizes only won by deserving effort. I attract your attention by falling from a horse, but I only hold it by getting on again—"
 "You see, if I hadn't broken my arm I should never have known how sorry you could be. That was really worth the price, but it wasn't information in the rest of my broken arm and your own unreciprocated feelings. These are prizes higher than the silver medals they give to do with the things of the spirit."
 As she was still silent he commended her to his pipe for a moment. "If you care for my friendship enough to test its value, now is your time. You are, I think, the one girl friend I have ever had in my life. When I first met you I was a poor, ignorant, and in fact, a very unattractive man, quite forgetful that there might be some interest in me as well as a personal interest in the results of that development. You aroused my curiosity. You made me and yet, somehow, I couldn't believe that any one so vital as you were could be unimportant in the eyes of some one. In fact, your interest in me gave me a great deal at first. You comforted me with a nickel and superior quality of work which made my ordinary attainments of no account whatever."
 "Please, Ramesses—"
 David Sangree laughed.
 "If you don't mind, Cherry—I give you a pleasure to recall the early stages of our strange acquaintance—when you unwrapped the bandages from Ramesses the Second, took him up out of his sarcophagus, and restored him to life, to the glory of the material and intellectual that there might be some interest in me as well as a personal interest in the results of that development. You aroused my curiosity. You made me and yet, somehow, I couldn't believe that any one so vital as you were could be unimportant in the eyes of some one. In fact, your interest in me gave me a great deal at first. You comforted me with a nickel and superior quality of work which made my ordinary attainments of no account whatever."
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away in the ambulance. But she'll have to go in the end. My mind is made up. Oh, Ramesses!" she gasped. "If you knew the joy of coming to this decision! Any decision! If you knew how vague and uncertain everything has been! And now—through the future isn't very clear—it's something to take the first step and know that it's the right one."
 "We must plan for the future," he muttered. "But I'm afraid for you. You'll let me help, won't you?"
 "Of course." She thrust out her hands again and he took them both in his. "You've done such a lot already. You see I can't get along without you." Her eyes were heavy with fatigue and there was a pathetic droop at the end of her lips. At that moment she seemed very childlike in her dependence upon him. She seemed so much to need the solace of a caress. It would have been the most natural thing in the world for him to have taken her in his arms and given her some of his own strength. But he only pressed her hands in his. Their eyes met for a long moment, the frankness of hers blending slowly into sobriety under his gaze and turning at last to the look upon the mantel which marked the hour of one.
 "I must go at once," she muttered. He picked up his hat and coat.
 "I'll go with you," he said.
 "Do you think that's wise? You'd better just let me slip out. I'll find a taxi."
 "Impossible! I'm going to take you home."
 She stood for a moment at the mirror, adjusting her hat.
 "I know I've done a foolish thing," and then with a careless shrug as she turned toward him. "But I don't suppose it matters much now."
 "I don't agree with you," he muttered savagely as he reached for the knob. And then in a lowered tone, "The elevator runs all night, but we'll go down the stairs. Wait a moment—"
 He went out into the silent corridor and at his slenderness she followed quietly. He found some excitement in the better.

now and wiped her eyes, smiling at him with her old frankness.
 "Good old Ramesses!" she said, "as if I didn't know that you were lying about your princely salary! Why, you're as poor as I am."
 He was discomfited for a moment and looked away from her.
 "You mean that you won't accept my offer?" he muttered.
 "I can't, Ramesses—not the money. The money—she thrust out her hands to him with a generous motion of appeal. "Don't ask it of me. I couldn't take it. I don't know when I should be able to pay it back to you."
 "That needn't matter."
 "It does matter." She gave her eyes a final dab and turned to him again with a smile. "But I'll take the house rent it. I hope we shall be able to manage that. We've got to manage it somehow. And the sooner we move the better."
 "I'll make arrangements at once."
 She rose and drew her wrap together with the same air of decision with which she compressed her lips in resolution.
 "There'll be a terrible fuss, but I'm equal to it now. Bob will storm and Muzzy—"
 "We may have to take Muzzy."

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PLANES SEEK TWO FLIERS

Fear Felt for Safety of Colonel Marshall and Lieutenant Webber
 San Diego, Calif., Dec. 8.—(By A. P.)—Army aviation officers at Rockwell Field here were today to send a squadron of scout planes to search for Colonel Francis C. Marshall, attached to the staff of the chief of cavalry in Washington, and Lieutenant C. W. Webber, of the Air Service, who left San Diego at 9:15 o'clock yesterday morning in flight for Fort Huachuca near Tucson, Ariz., and had not been heard of early today.
 Fear was felt for the safety of the two officers, and the Rockwell Field officers planned to canvass the country in Southern California and Arizona. The officers were expected to reach their destination within five hours after they took off. Lieutenant Webber, an experienced cross-country pilot, was instructed to report by wire on arrival at Fort Huachuca.
 Colonel Marshall had been on an inspection tour of cavalry camps throughout the country and has used planes extensively on this mission. He commanded a brigade of the First Division in France during the World War.

THIEF FLOUTS 'DETECTIVES'

Steals Horse While Maryland Association is Holding Meeting
 Elkton, Md., Dec. 8.—Selecting the day on which the Nottingham Detective Association, which makes a specialty

of catching horse thieves, held its annual meeting at Oxford, a thief stole the horse and buggy belonging to James Yerkes, who had driven to the town to take part in the election of officers. The thief, it is believed, also stole a basket of groceries from a nearby automobile while the owner was standing a few feet away, but did not miss his goods until about to start home. After a search Yerkes found his horse abandoned in the woods seven miles away.

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The Challenge of the Bootleggers

A saturnalia of bootlegging seems to be no exaggerated phrase to describe the startling state of affairs to which the Administration calls the nation's attention. Inspired Washington dispatches tell us that the present Prohibition enforcement methods are "debauching and debasing the entire country"; that the President is "deeply concerned over a belief that the moral fiber of the American people is deteriorating through the open disrespect shown for the effort to enforce Prohibition"; and that "the growth of bootlegging, the temerity of rum-runners, and the serious insinuations against Federal enforcement officers have been worrying the Administration for some months," until finally—"With Prohibition enforcement recognized as on the verge of absolute collapse in four States and in a condition of serious demoralization elsewhere in the country, President Harding considered to-day the issuance of a solemn public appeal to all good citizens to discourage bootlegging as a last resort to administer the law."
 "One way to make Prohibition prohibit," declares the New York Evening Post, "would be to arrest some of the prominent and respectable people who buy what the bootleggers sell."
 The leading article in The Literary Digest this week takes up the subject of the enforcement of the Prohibition laws and presents the opinions of leading newspapers as to ways and means.
 Other news-features of current interest and importance are—

Democratic Plans to Win Next Time
How the French-American Romance May Be Renewed
To Curb Reckless Aviators
Whence Comes the Virtue of Cod-liver Oil?
Hearing Two Thousand Miles With a Home-made Radio Set
An Anglican Move Toward Rome
A Neighboring View of Woodrow Wilson
Personal Glimpses

Loves and Hates of the Circus Elephant
Governor Allen's Court Threatened
The Test of the Irish Free State
How Not to Catch Cold
Mr. Hoxie's Talking Film
Stories That Reveal Bernhardt
Eastern Culture Draining the West of Ministers
Anarchism and Cruelty—The Soul of the Russian Peasant
Topics of the Day

The Season's Screen Novelty
 Over one thousand leading theatres are now showing the humorous motion picture, "Fun From the Press." New bookings are being signed as fast as salesmen can cover their territories. And this real laughmaker is just three months old. But no wonder!
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