

# GLORIA'S ROMANCE

From the Motion Picture Drama of the Same Name Produced by George Kleins. Starring MISS BILLIE BURKE. Scenario and Novelization by Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Hughes.

## EIGHTEENTH EPISODE—LOVE'S REWARD

"I've got the envelope, Gloria," Royce grinned. "What right have you to it? I know where it was. I know that it was Dick's. Therefore it is mine and I'm going to keep it."

"Better not," he stammered.

The envelope she held had suddenly revived her memories as clear as reality. Her first memory was of the scene in her room when she examined the envelope from Dick Freeman. Next she saw Dick Freeman in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument which she had witnessed through the binoculars. Then the appearance of Frank, the coming of Dick Freeman, his pause to light his cigarette while Gloria from afar hopefully watched the assassin creep up on him and throttle him to death.

Frank vanished, the soldier came by again and rifled Dick's pockets and took from them this very envelope.

Into the vivid tableau of that memory Doctor Royce fitted. Gloria had a sudden intuition. Doctor Royce had told her that her vision was delirium because it was himself that she had seen.

She advanced at once on the kneeling Royce and cried out:

"It was you, then? You of all the people in the world! I see you now so plainly as I did that night, only I was too foolish to suspect you."

"What do you mean, Gloria?" Royce asked.

"I mean that you had a share in the murder of my poor lover. You hired that beast Trask and you went there to make sure he did his work well. Why did you kill my Dick?"

"I didn't want to kill him, Gloria. I knew how you loved him and I would have given my life to keep you from pain, then as now. You've got to believe me."

"Believe you? When you told me that all I saw was delirium? When you dragged my body away and threw it in the river?"

"That's too false even for you to believe, Gloria," Royce protested. Gloria took his silence for a confession. Then the envelope slipped from her hand. As she bent to recover it one of the inclosed letters fell out and the breeze blew it away. She caught it at the edge of the pool, and did not help reading it at a glance. Her brain almost refused to accept what her eyes beheld:

"Beloved Dick! Don't hate me for compelling you to make this trip, but I am frantic with jealousy of Gloria. If you fail me I will do something desperate. Your adoring and once adored LOIS."

So Freeman had planned to make a journey with Lois. The story of the murder told her had been a lie, too. Freeman had had an affair with Lois, with the wife of Gloria's own brother. He turned to Lois, no longer a maid-servant, but appearing in heaven's name the truth.

"You shall have the truth, Gloria, as much of it as I know," he said. "When you were still his body in the trunk, I stumbled on the fact that Freeman was carrying on an affair with—the woman who wrote that letter. I happened to overhear him tell her to meet him at the pavilion near the monument. When I heard him make that rendezvous with—the woman, I went right to him and told him what I knew. He said, 'What do you want to do with me?' I demanded that he break off the affair. Freeman laughed at me. I told him I would prevent his treachery at all costs. I took my revolver with me and I told him I would kill him. The revolver was not even loaded. But I intended to frighten him with it."

"I never dreamed, of course, that the binoculars would give you a sight of the whole tragedy. I waited and waited for Freeman to appear. At last I walked down the drive, expecting to meet him. I knelt down and listened to his heart. It was still. I saw that envelope in his pocket. I didn't know what it was, but I was afraid of what it might contain. I imagined the police discovering him and the newspapers publishing what was found on his person. Before I realized that I was frantic with grief, I saw somebody coming along the drive and I ran away."

"When I got back to my office I got word that your nurse had called me. I ran to your room and I saw that you had seen the murder done. You had seen me without recognizing me. I told you it was a delirium like the other you had had. I looked through the binoculars when you went out on the drive. Freeman's body was gone. I was dumfounded. I almost believed that I had imagined the whole thing myself."

"I went to the pavilion. There I saw a woman, the woman waiting for Freeman. I told her that he had been killed. She was frantic with grief. I sent her home and went back to you. You were in a state of hysteria. I gave you a drug to keep you from losing your mind."

"I had no idea, then, and have none now, as to the murderer's name or the name of the man who took the body away. I had never seen this man Trask till you pointed him out to me. He is your captive now, and I intend to do all I can to get the truth from him. It was my love that led me to hoodwink you, and now my love must bear the punishment."

But all she said was:

"The night court! Judge Freeman let Trask go. He tried to persuade me not to pursue him, but I would not let him go. He must have known Trask. He's got to tell the truth."

Royce saw Judge Freeman coming into the driveway in his car. He saw the Judge's daughter, Lois, greet him. Gloria moved to a bench in a bowered nook and motioned the Judge to sit down. Seizing the old man by the lapels of his coat, she commanded:

"Now you shall speak. You are going to tell me why you let the murderer of Dick Freeman go free. You are going to tell me what took me through the Judge's daughter, Lois, to the man who was your captive now, and I intend to do all I can to get the truth from him. It was my love that led me to hoodwink you, and now my love must bear the punishment."

But all she said was:

"The night court! Judge Freeman let Trask go. He tried to persuade me not to pursue him, but I would not let him go. He must have known Trask. He's got to tell the truth."



"I FORGIVE YOU, DEAR. I HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUDGE YOU."

now, or have you anything to say?"

"What shall I say? What can I say?" Lois stammered.

"You might begin with the truth. What was Dick Freeman to you?"

Lois shivered at having to make confession before such a court, but told her story. She told how Freeman had won her heart in Florida, but he had been poor and David had won her from him with his wealth. Then she made the old excuse, that David had neglected her for his ambition. Freeman had made her his and led her into guilt only to cast her off when Gloria appeared. She told Gloria that Freeman had protested to her that he did not love Gloria, but only wished to marry her to save himself from bankruptcy and poverty. This was an unwise confession for Gloria was revolted by the profanation of her love. She did not believe the charge. When Lois finished her story and told of Freeman's plan to elope with her, Gloria's heart was hard as marble. Lois made her final plea:

"I have sinned, but I have atoned, and I beg your pardon. Give me back the letters and let our lives go on in peace."

Gloria looked at her in wonder:

"You don't ask much of life, do you? You will give me the letters, bring one to death and one perhaps to crime, and then you say: 'Don't let any harm befall me. I must keep everything.'"

Lois stared at her in amazement.

"You don't mean that you are going to tell David what I have told you?"

"And wreck our life together?"

"That is for him to decide. He shall have the truth, and then he can do what he pleases."

"The silence was pierced by the distant cry of a locomotive whistle. An express train was coming round a curve. The judge's secretary took the tracks that ran at the foot of the Starford estate, along the edge of the river.

Lois hearkened a moment, then the engine shrieked again. She made her wild decision.

"Give him the letters then. It won't matter to me."

She turned and ran down the long terrace leading to the embankment. Gloria understood. Lois's purpose. There had been tragedies enough. Lois must not die.

She ran after her, calling, calling. She wanted to give up when Lois stumbled and went on sped on. Lois had been enabled to gain on her and to overtake her at the very edge of the ravine. She lunged forward and dragged her back.

Lois fought with insane ferocity, tearing Gloria's hands loose and writhing out of her grasp. Lois carried her back to the brink and the turf at the edge gave way under their feet. They were still battling when the train roared past. It was only then, when her weapon of suicide was gone from her reach, that Lois gave up the fight. She fell to the ground weeping. Gloria knelt by her, begging her not to cry. At last she offered the final envelope of letters from the bosom of her gown and held it out to Lois, saying:

"I forgive you, dear. I have no right to judge you. I can't take that responsibility. I can't take that your past and make what you will of them."

Gloria felt that one riddle at least was solved. She felt sorry for David and his choice among women. She remembered the Judge's accusation against David. According to the envelope of letters from a more heinous crime than Lois's. She had cleared David of that suspicion and warned him that his secret was known.

She found him and asked him to follow her. She had perfected her scheme for testing his innocence or guilt.

She had not been present when the yachting expedition set forth to run down Trask, nor had he been present when Trask was brought in. David was thoroughgoing. Life and rule his own expressions and to pretend ignorance of Trask's existence. But Gloria felt sure that if she could bring the two men suddenly face to

face one of the other would betray a guilty knowledge.

So she said to David: "Come with me. I've got a surprise for you."

David followed her up to the guest room where Trask had been installed. She led him to the door, unlocked, opened the door, and bade David enter. A screen stood before the bed and she drew it aside quickly, keeping her eyes on David. She saw surprise in his face, but not of the sort she expected. His surprise was blank wonder. She turned to see how Trask took the confrontation. Trask was not there. The bed was empty. Gloria ran to find the nurse, just coming in from a motor ride. She had taken her two hours of liberty, she said, leaving Nell to care for her father. She was stunned by the news of Trask's departure. He was too weak to rise and walk. It seemed impossible that he could have been carried out without attracting the attention of a dozen servants.

Judge Freeman was not to be found. After leaving Gloria he was convinced that Gloria was set upon unraveling every knot in the tangle. He was sure that her inexperience with the world would keep her from foreseeing the consequences and that she would compel a complete revelation. This would end only in a public scandal. David would be put on trial for his life and Trask would turn State's evidence against him. David would perhaps be sentenced to death. In any case Lois would be disgraced before the world, and if David's wealth could bribe an acquittal, it would purchase a divorce. Another possibility was that the judge himself would be impeached or forced to a resignation under fire. He wandered about the Starford demesne and found himself at the outer gate. There he chanced to see the bargeman, Jed, come up long road. He asked if he knew where the Starford place was. Judge Freeman told him that it was before him. Jed asked if a badly hurt man had been taken in there, with his daughter. The judge nodded and asked what he knew of the pair.

Jed said that he didn't know much except that the old man's daughter was a girl and going to marry him some day and he was afraid she was in trouble. So he had left the barge to hurry back and see if he could be of some use.

Lois questioned him cautiously and finally proposed that the best thing to do would be to get the old man out of the hands of the Starfords, who meant him no good. Jed seemed to the suggestion hungrily and the judge offered his co-operation. He led Jed by a little frequented path to the rear of the house and bade him wait. He went in and sent Nell out to speak to Jed and bring him to the house, where he could hear without being seen. The secretary did not relish such eavesdropping, but the judge kept him to the work.

Lois fought with insane ferocity, tearing Gloria's hands loose and writhing out of her grasp. But Gloria seized hold again and again. Lois carried her to the brink and the turf gave way under their feet. They were still battling when the train roared past. It was only when her weapon of suicide was gone from her reach that Lois gave up the fight.

I got over being mad at Nell, and went away from there and she was born. I took up the barge business again and didn't have much time for looking up Mister Freeman. When I found him by accident it was outside your house in the city. I jumped for him and he hit me. I checked his automobile and got run over by another one. Went to the hospital. Some out of a mad surgeon took what I went in, I guess.

Nell told me she'd found where he lived and she'd go to see him, took the barge with her. I went to her again, but she wouldn't marry her for the baby's sake. But no, he wouldn't. He just laughed at her and told her to go on away.

When she told me that my head kind of filled up with poison, I didn't want anything but that fellow's life. I put out after him and always last night to your house. I followed him to your house, seen him go in there, and I waited for him. A policeman chased me away and he must have went away without my seeing him for I crept back to that room to wait for him. He didn't come out, but I waited. By and by I seen somebody comin' up Riverside drive. It was him. He stopped and heeled a match to light a cigarette, with, and I crept up behind him and got a grand hold on his neck with these old ten fingers and—

His great crooked fingers made a feeble repetition of the work, and Gloria covered her eyes. Trask laughed.

"I s'pose I'd ought to feel sorry and do now that I've got to go where he's went. But it felt mighty good then to know he wasn't goin' to break any more hearts or foot any more girls."

I left him lay there in the snow and I got away fast as I could. Next day I expected to see a big holler in the papers. Not a word. A hull week passed and I didn't see a thing about it. Then I read about him being found down in the bay and I couldn't understand. I been driven crazy out of my senses tryin' to figure out how he got there."

The secretary in hiding wondered, too, but the Judge kept silence and so did Gloria on her side of the flower screen.

Gloria was not concerned about Trask's bewilderment. She was staring at the little baby that Nell carried always in her arms. Her last spark of love for Freeman died out in her soul, leaving it utterly dark. She was restless to have done with Freeman forever.

When Trask appealed for her forgiveness if he had caused her any pain, she gave it freely. Her bitter heart felt that Trask had done a cleansing task in removing Freeman from the earth.

Trask sank back exhausted and his hand relaxed its hold on her. Then she turned to the ministrations of the doctor Royce. He sent her away. She went to her room in a loneliness more profound than she had ever felt. She had no more a mad love for a man, but she found a new photograph of Freeman there and her lips curled with disgust at the kisses she had squandered on that worthless man.

In her wrath she broke it to pieces, and laying the fragments in the empty fireplace set a match to them. She watched them burn and flung

THE EVENING WORLD'S "Figure Improvement Contest."

Wanted— SIX STOUT WOMEN WHO WISH TO DECREASE THEIR WEIGHT AND MEASUREMENTS. And— SIX THIN WOMEN WHO DESIRE TO GAIN WEIGHT AND BUILD UP THEIR FIGURES.

\$100 IN PRIZES.

Contest is open to ONE STOUT WOMAN and ONE THIN WOMAN from MANHATTAN, BROOKLYN, BRONX, QUEENS and RICHMOND Boroughs and the State of NEW JERSEY; twelve women in all.

THE TWELVE CHOSEN APPLICANTS will have only to faithfully follow A NEW TWO MONTHS' COURSE OF DIET AND EXERCISE prepared by MISS PAULINE FURLONG and which will be published daily in THE EVENING WORLD. Three lessons each week will be devoted to reducing the stout women and three to developing the thin women. These will be arranged on alternating days.

At the end of the two months, the STOUT WOMAN who has made the most progress in REDUCTION and the THIN WOMAN who has achieved the greatest DEVELOPMENT will each be presented by THE EVENING WORLD with FIFTY DOLLARS IN GOLD.

EACH CONTESTANT must agree to use no means of achieving the desired results other than those outlined in the course. CONTESTANTS breaking this agreement will be disqualified. MISS PAULINE FURLONG will WEIGH and MEASURE all CONTESTANTS at the START and END of the CONTEST, and they will report their progress to her every two weeks.

All APPLICATIONS must be MADE IN WRITING and MAILED, addressed "FIGURE IMPROVEMENT CONTEST," Evening World, 63 Park Row, New York City. Each APPLICANT must furnish a certificate from her physician stating that she has undergone a physical examination and that she is physically fit to undertake the contest course. Also the certificate must give assurance that the applicant's present condition is not hereditary nor due to any organic trouble, disease or operation, must certify to the applicant's age and give height and weight. Only women not younger than TWENTY-FIVE or older than THIRTY-FIVE years of age may enter the contest.

From the written applications MISS PAULINE FURLONG will personally select a number of women who will be invited to report to her for a FINAL SELECTION of the TWELVE CONTESTANTS.

THE CONTEST will be STARTED just as soon as the TWELVE CONTESTANTS have been selected.

The Evening World's Beauty and Health Column

Conducted by Pauline Furlong

Through This Column Miss Furlong Will Reply to Women Readers' Questions Regarding Exercise, Diet and Other Means of Preserving Good Health and Good Looks.

Copyright 1916 by The News-Publishing Co. (The New York World.)

**Trunk Exercises.**

Women who practise the important trunk exercises, trunk raising, body bending and twisting, will eventually cultivate complete abdominal control, which is really abdominal muscle, and when this is accomplished, constipation, sallow skin, headache, nervousness, indigestion and other common disorders will not be in evidence.

**Letters From Readers.**

**CHEST RAISING—MARGARET T.** writes: "Please describe the chest raising exercise, and should the heels leave the floor as the chest is lowered to the wall?"

Chest raising develops the bust, enlarges upper arms and fills in hollows in neck and shoulders in a short time, if practised daily. It also corrects round shoulders. Stand with feet nearly together, arm's length from the wall, palms resting on it. Lower the chest until it touches the wall between the hands, keeping the feet in original position and knees rigid. The heels should rise slowly as the chest is lowered.

**POOR CIRCULATION IN FEET—Mrs. A. H. S.** writes: "Please tell me what will improve circulation in the feet. I am five feet four and weigh 150. What should I weigh? Should the weight be taken without corsets?"

Foot circling, from the ankles, heel and toe raising and foot bending, and round down from the ankle, will help the circulation in feet. You should weigh 125. Weight and measurements should be taken nude.

er endurance and immunity from common disorders.

Many women consider physical exercises a waste of time and too much trouble, but there is not a man or woman who cannot find some time during the day to practise deep breathing.

er endurance and immunity from common disorders.

Many women consider physical exercises a waste of time and too much trouble, but there is not a man or woman who cannot find some time during the day to practise deep breathing.