

"WHEN I AM A WILDCAT WOMAN, I MUST ACT LIKE ONE!" CONFESSES MOVIE VAMPIRE

BY THEDA BARA

Written Especially for The Day Book

I have been asked in thousands of letters: "Is it difficult to feign emotion?" My answer is: "I don't know. I never feign it."

It is said of some women that they are born actresses. Does that mean that they assume the emotion of the character they are playing, simply as a cloak to be shed the minute they have ended the scene?

Or does it mean they are so constituted they absorb the joys or the agonies of the role and live it for a



Theda Bara.

time? People have declared I am a born actress.

Well, I know which of the two methods is mine. I LIVE my character! I wish I could do otherwise, because I realize that every time I allow myself to become exhausted in some tense scene I am subtracting a month, maybe more, from my span of life.

Our bodies are nothing except a high type of machine. A machine

will stand so much, and no more. The tension that has to be exerted in playing tragic roles wears down the nerves. That means that the worn nerves have to be overnourished to get back to their normal state.

But when one is continually playing tragedy there is no time to allow the nerves to rehabilitate. I have to go on and on, although I feel I have come to the end of the rope many a time.