**TELEPHONE MAIN 1567** 

#### CATHOLIC COURIER AND JOURNAL, FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1981.

## By Anna M. Regan

## (Continued from Last Week)

**Stairs of Sand** 

#### **CHAPTER 9**

Hedda Leavitt who had never been farther from her quiet home than the city, woke a few mornings later in a beautiful suite in a famous hotel at Atlantic City. She crept out of bed quietly, so not to disturb the sleeping Beryl, and slipped over to a window that faced the ocean. Breathlessly she stood and looked at the scene. The first slanting rays of the morning sun were flinging a tremulous golden path across the water. The tide was coming in, but it had not yet reached the outer edge of the wide strip of sand. Soon an ever-narrowing band of glistening sand would intervene as the waves broke on the shore. The far horizon was smudged with the smoke of some big steamer; here and there the sails of fishing boats gleamed picturesque, red and white; a motor-boat was chugging across the shimmering golden path the sunlight had flung across the waters.

Spell-bound, Hedda drank in the picture spread out before her like a painting. Swiftly she dressed herself and hurried out on the board-walk. This she found deserted to her astonishment. How could anyone sleep when the beautiful sea was at their doors, it's timeless waves beating a joyous melody on the shore.

For a few minutes Hedda could think of nothing save the rhythmic crash as the breakers flung themselves against the sand, and the whine with which they fell away again, a fresh onslaught to gather,

How long she stood there, Hedda could never afterwards tell. At times she was half-conscious of people passing along the walk behind her. Suddenly she became aware of how ravenously hungry she was. When she re-turned to her room in the hotel she found Beryl dressed and a bit worried over her absence.

"Oh, here you are," Beryl cried. "I was wondering of you'd lost your way. Come let's have a dip before breakfast. The water's fine this morning."

"I've never been in anything but our bath tub at home, Beryl. How do I know that I won't be scared to death-my heart might give out."

"You haven't any heart," Beryl laughed. "Neil Cramer has it for keeps !'

"If he was only here," Hedda said regretfully.

Well, Davy-Carruthers-said-he'd-bring-along an-

other boy for you. Let's go." To Hedda's surprise she felt no fear of the water and enjoyed the inrush of the breakers as much as Beryl did. When the girls returned to the hotel they found breakfast laid in the sitting room occupied by the girls and Beryl's mother. Beryl's mother wasn't fat; but she had one of the fat sounding voices as she purred: "The idea of you girls getting up so early. Hedda, do you remem-ber when we lived in Glenville how Beryl would be up to your house every morning before breakfast. She's never slept late since she has grown up either unless she danced the night before."

"Davey's coming down, Mother, so we'll probably dance late every other night we are here."

To Hedda, the exquisite meals, the luxurious appointments of the hotel, the well-trained help to execute the slightest wish of every guest, was a peep into a world hitherfore unknown to her.

Davey Carruther arrived on the scene in time to dine with the girls and their mother. The friend he brought was Gregg Sloane who was at present resting, which was more than his mother could ever afford to do. Hardworking little Mrs. Sloane represented Gregg's income. She ran a dress shop on the avenue.

There were worse places in Atlantic City. Meanwhile here-set in a pool of mellow amber light, here breathing an atmosphere of perfume, rich food, and cigarette smoke, with her pulses responding to gaily pulsing music, Hedda gazed about her.

"Nobody much yet," drawled Hedda's boy friend,-"except our good selves."

Davey Carruthers was supposed to be engaged to Berly although her father refused to sanction it until he had a real job and money enough to take care of his daughter. Still, he always had enough to give choice little parties at the 'Niblons'

Presently the quartette split up into a couple of duets. Gregg telling Hedda how much better he could

play a saxaphone than the fellow in the band. "He away," thought Carruthers, who something to say to Beryl.

"My circumstances, Beryl dear," he talked sotto voice, "you know how far from brilliant they are? Even if I do wear more or less decent clothes, live at a more or less decent address, keep a man, run a car, its all for useful introductions; openings; chances of jobs. So one's forced to keep up appearances that are for the crowd. Glittering poverty, my dear. I don't suppose there's a man here to night who is as badly off as I am.?? "Then why bring us here, standing us dimners and

every thing?

Lifting his head, he smiled as he looked about the smart place. "There's no place too good for you. Wait until I'm somebody and you're Mrs. Somebody, bless your little heart—

Beryl's face fell. What an optimist was Davey! Always imagining himself on the evo of some coup which never materialized. She didn't know how he made a living. He had warned her they couldn't marry on what he had. His credit appeared to be good. He followed the races. He had Stock Exchange friends. Just now he talked of openings-chances of jobs. Beryl had herdoubts about those.

Carruthers thought-Poor little Beryl! Tough luck on her that she ever met me!"

Then, he exclaimed aloud: "Hello! Here comes Niblons, himself!"

The man he indicated towered above the groups as he moved up the room. He stopped. He faced a wall-mirror and stood gazing. In the wall-mirror Hedda re-turning from dancing first saw him. In the mirror his eyes met hers. Eyes said to eyes.—"Who are you?" Following Gregg's steps, she wondered why she was

so fed up. Why was Adventure suddenly tame?"

"I feel as if I were suddenly slumping," she mused, even as Gregg complained: "What's wrong with you, tonight, Hedda? Not dancing up to form?" "Aren't I? I was thinking the same thing about

you."

"Better sit down and have a rest then."

Not far from their table he stood, watching the dancers; that noticeable young man whom Carrithers had said was Niblons. Some might have pronounced him handsome, yet he was not good looking in the same way Grogg was. He was different. He stood still and wellpoised. Just a big outdoor young man with face and hair showing much the same golden tan. Suddenly to Hedda,

everyone else seemed over-made-up, neurotic, fatigued. "Who is he, I wonder? Of course I shall never know," thought Hedda. "Isn't life irritating..."

Hereyes widened as something extraordinary seemed about to happen; was he? was that man coming to their

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is a city of almost a million popula-tion, nestling high in a mountain val-ley. Its climate is said to be unex-celled any place on earth, with the warment days of summer never reach-ing 70 degrees. In Mexico City one may see a most cosmopolitan city with brilliant cafes and theaters, a sub-lime stchitecture, elegant stores to bountry. But there is no chosen

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Hedda began by liking Gregg's crinkly hair, his tall lithe profile. She felt flattered at his notice. He actually told her that she suited his dancing, in fact that he liked her in many ways.

Very soon, however, she had begun to realize that this was merely that Nineteen-Twenty odd brand of-'going around with a boy-friend like Gregg Sloane was Adventure; to possess a boy-friend like Gregg Sloane was thrilling.

But toward the last the exquisite Gregg had begun to disappoint Hedda. Each time she saw him he seemed to get more on her nerves. Of the marvelous receptions given for him, of the millionaires houses where he had spent recent week-ends, were his sole topics for conversation.

"Is it because he's only twenty-two?" Hedda wondered. "Will he ever be different? More like a real man? More like Neil Cramer?"

A table set for four at the upper end of the long. amber-lighted room, a tall girl fluttering in pale pink, a small girl in glittery black, squired by a nice-looking boy of twenty-two and a carefully turned out, soldierly. man of thirty odd.

"The Noblons," was a smart Atlantic City rendezvous, where supposedly nice people would dine, dance, enjoy the latest Americanmusic, and look at frocks and celebri-

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Disappointment!-Of course he was not coming to

speak to her party. He turned to the band-complimenting them, asked for a special tune. Then returning to his table he sat down beside two other men.

"I never saw Niblons in any of his place before," Carruthers commented. In fact I think it poor policy for him with all the raiding going on."

"Ah, he'd be tipped off, all right," Gregg insisted. What happened next was not customary. Two men had advanced from opposite directions to the table at which Niblons was seated. Carruthers understood in a moment. The place was to be pinched. He looked around for a possible way to get the girls out. There was no exit near.

Niblons made no effort to resist. He walked out between two of the officers. The other two went about the place ordering the patrons out. Carruthers and Beryl,

Gregg and Hedda hurried along. You take the girls home," Carruthers ordered. must see what I can do to help Niblons." He stepped into a taxi and drove away.

"Will our names be in the papers?" Beryl cried. "No, they took no names," said Gregg. "But why did they take the young man?"

"He has a string of these places, so they say," Gregg informed them. "It's been rumored for sometime that he belongs to a powerful bootleg gang. I suppose Carruthers is on the inside too."

By this time Gregg and the two hysterical girls were speeding back to their hotel.

"I'm going to get Mother to go home, tomorrow," Beryl cried. "I wouldn't dare put my foot outside here again, for fear an officer would grab me and put me under arrest.'

"How do you get that way?" Gregg asked, "when there wasn't a drop of liquor served at our table to-night. All because we knew neither of you would drink. Mrs. Johnson was very glad to return to her home. Both girls seemed to have had enough of the popular resort.

Beryl's father had promised her a new roadster and awaited her return to choose the model she liked best. She and Hedda were up early the next morning and accomparied him to a beautiful showroom filled with cars that delighted the girls. A smart, shining, tan and green roadster was chosen as it seemed to the girls to be the outstanding car in the place.

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country. But there is no chosen people in the New Corenani. No people can live in "the faith of its forefathers." At shother lime I will say nothing of such pictures que staples. as the flower market and the thieves

market. Close at hand is Xochimileo, the "floating gardens," and the pyramids at San Juan de Teotifhuaran. In an other direction is Chernavaca, a re-sort oren in the days of the Emperor Maximilian and now connected with Mexico City by a paved highway. And over all brood the fwin volca-noes. Popocatepeti and Interchuati. Tassets as Tailors While many insects and spiders are content to go about in the clothes that nature gave them, others construct

apitals a great many of the Catho-lics did not go to the polls at all. I Myery American divide ad avera the There is a type of Catholic mentality stat the National Capital, set man nature gave them, others construct rober of their own. The oak tortrin. which imagines that nothing can be for example, is an accomplished tallor. gained, or prevented, by the ballot and builds its overcost out of a lesf. Using one that is slightly curled at

the edge, he runs a sliken thread from this edge to a point on the opposite edge, drawing the line taut. Then he constructs numerous parallel threads. By weighing down one or more of these cross threads, he causes the remaining ones to hang slack. These he

tightens, then takes up the slack in the ones with the weight. The leaf. as a consequence, is colled up a little. This operation is repeated until the This operation is repeated until the leaf has been curied into a portable theiter in which the insect can lide. Popular Science. Cotion in History

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could make it. I don't superstands But how any man no crashy ignorant of "actual conditions" in Spain should appear in print to isoture "a Catholic party in France or Italy or the U. S." for their ignorance sur-passes my conforchemion. There is not a provincial capital in Spain in which there was not a Republican organ in the Press, and most of them organs in the Press, and most of them by some of this world's inhabitants. from a very early time. But it was first introduced to Europe from Lidia. and the Arab traders who were the middle men in the transaction passed along their own name for it-quinn or quin. This Arab word, in various forms has entered into most of the European languages. Thus there have are dailles. I described their charbeen derived not only the English "cot-

acter in a previous article. In every industrial center there is a Socialist organ. The Socialist daily of Madrid circulates in every ton," but the French "cotton," German "kattun," Italian "colone," Portuguese "cotao," and so on. The origtown in the Peningula. Then come Inal word was probably a name applied to a people who employed cotton or to a place where it was grown. Van Dussen Hardware

quite Press whose name is leiton. Just a week before the elections Ri Sol of Madrid changed hands. Its whole staff, four of two of them smong the ablest journalists. In Spain, went out and founded another

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but the fact is that a majority -But the fact is that a majority—a vast majority—of "the Catholics who want to the polls". voted the mon-archical ticket. They had been ad-vised to do that, by the Catholic Press did not want a revolution, and sub-sequent events have shown that their fears were not entirely groundless.

House to Church