"Very good."

### A MOVING STORY OF A MAN WITH A PAST

# Second Chance

### HOLLOWAY HORN

'Author of "George," "Two Men and Mary" Etc.

some, prematurely grey. His past history is something of a mystery.

WILLIAM TREVOWE, head of Trevowes, Ltd., of Mossford. When the she said. "He's got the receipt with she brought in his tea. story opens Trevowe gives Ferguson a him.'

job in the office of his firm TEDDY WILSON, otherwise Stern- ing. berg, manager of a theatrical company

man with whom Ferguson lodges. MARY DONOVAN, a secretary on the staff of Trevowe's. She is also a niece in order . . ." he said doubtfully. "Mr. ation of the excellent meal she had "I suppose most of your friends are go." of Mrs. Gaddesden.

Wilson's company, and wife of Wilson, ford meaningly. SYNOPSIS

John Fingal Ferguson, 35, good-looking, but prematurely grey, is regarded in the office where he works as something of a mystery. He has not been in Mossford long. He was sent up to Trevowe's by William Trevowe, the managing director, who tells the manager Mr. Mumford, that he himself has seen to the references of the newcomer. The fact tends to prejudice him in the eyes of his colleagues on the staff. He keeps himself to himself, and the only person he is really friendly with is Mary Donovan, Mr. Mumford's secretary, He makes such good progress in the business that it is obvious he is used to more important work. He is an educated man too. But still he remains a mystery in Mossford.

Mary is warned by a Police-Inspector friend-in love with her-not to be too friendly with Ferguson. She cannot extract from him any reason for this warning, so she considers it just due to jealousy of her friendship. (Now read on).

#### CHAPTER IV. MARY WONDERS

There was a curious incident at Tre- Foskett began. vowe's a week or so after the meeting between Mary Donovan and Ferguson at the mill. For some days Ferguson had been in the cashier's department cwing to the obsence of several victims of a belated 'flu epidemic. It concerned a matter of a sum of seventeen pounds fifteen shillings which happened to be due to Messrs Trevowe's Ltd. from a seller of boots and shoes named Jacob Foskett in Mossford itself.

Mr. Foskett's son had called at the office and paid the amount in cash. Apparently, through some oversight, the account was sent him again, with the result that Mr. Foskett himself came to the office the following morning in a very bad temper. He was ushered into Mr. Mumford's office.

Mr. Mumford did his best to placate the angry customer and sent for Mr Rathbone, who was temporarily in charge of the cashier's office. Mary Donovan herself took the message.

"It's old Jacob Foskett." she explained to Rathbone. "He's tearing mad.

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RAL Railway.

You've sent his account again for seven- why his life should be that of a hermit JOHN FINGAL FERGUSON, other- teen pounds fifteen shillings which he Besides, it would attract attention to wise Hallett, a man about 35; hand- says he's paid." Rathbone consulted the ledger. "He ever.

hasn't," he said.

Foskett is naturally very annoyed." "May I see the receipt? That seems He smiled and turned to the consider- change the subject.

Ferguson apparently received the provided. Lucia Desmund, Principal actress in money," he added, looking at Mr. Mum- In any case, he decided, as he walked ever,

rang through to the cashier's depart- fine and valuable thing. He was not "Aye. It's nearly eleven," Mrs. Dono- night. She heard midnight strike and do so. ment: "Do you mind stepping up here, in love with Mary Donovan, nor had he van said.

and was greatly relieved to hear him of loneliness. say, "Yes, I remember it perfectly. A

"That's him," said Jacob Foskett. I had stayed on."

"But it isn't entered in the ledger," Rathbone pointed out.

"There's evidently some mistake," ad- voice suddenly, as she fell in by his Lucia Desmund is in it." mitted Ferguson. He was clearly ner- side.

"What . . . what happened?" Mr. Mumford asked.

The bill was handed over in the usual sit with me?" way to Mr. Jones when he came in." "I'm very sorry, Mr. Foskett, that you hould have been occasioned this an- fer?"

noyance," said Mr. Mumford, "Please accept my personal apology." "I don't want to cause any trouble,

"It's evidently some slip." Donovan had noticed in Ferguson had ern young woman with a job and don't "You'd better. Two and four in the left him. He was quite calm and when you forget it." no doubt it was duly paid into the cinema!" tank. But it wasn't written off in the | "I don't believe in privileges at all,"

This turned out to be the case, but dinary clerk, conscious that the worst chief picture was in a different class, walk hurriedly away. that could have happened was a mis- There were brains behind it and, more- "You are right, Mary?" her mother take that could be rectified, would not over, what is rare in films, imagination, asked when she returned to the sitting

future. Good chap, that."

But Mary Donovan was thinking of the momentary fear she had seen in Ferguson's face. She couldn't understand it and she was a young woman | walk to-night," Mary said.

who liked to understand things. As it fell out they met on the steps you think of it?" walked along together to the corner of was wonderful, but, particularly to- Mrs. Donovan shrugged her should-Market Street and London Road, where wards the end, the characters struck ers: "When I was a girl!" she usually caught a bus.

"That business of Foskett's account ligence and reason." eemed to upset you," she said.

ing the money, but I didn't remember in the space ship to what seemed like "Then she shouldn't. There's not anything else about it. I simply hand- certain death, was all very heroic of the slightest need for her to take lodged the whole thing over to Jones when course, but it wasn't human." he came in. But I don't like queries | Ferguson nodded in agreement: "You gossip about them." about money."

"Yes." "I was going to the pictures this eve- dull affair, don't you think?" ning, although it seems a sin to be! "I suppose it would," he said doubt- "And why doesn't he?" Mrs. Donondoors," she said. "It's rather a won- fully. derful film.

ather like to see it, too."

casually. "Then I may be there,' he said.

I may see you this evening."

he walked along London Road he was come to think of it. Not as suitable as know about him." thinking whether he would go. There that of a girl who wears a tweed coat "Every mortal thing there is to be was no question whether he wanted to; and skirt and sensible shoes in the known, I should say," her daughter he did. There was equally no question country." whether he wanted to see Mary Dono- "But more beautiful, perhaps?" van; he did. Nevertheless, he hesi- "And another weakness was the tend- education as this Mr. Ferguson, but he's

AT THE PICTURES

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he ran into her to be guided by her could possibly avoid it." attitude whether to suggest sitting to- "I agree," he smiled. "It's men whose come a clerk?"

him if he made no social contacts what- Ferguson?" Mrs. Donovan asked, turn-

"I'm going to the pictures to-night, "Er . . . I've lived in London," he "Mr. Mumford wants you, anyway," Mrs. Gaddesden," he announced when said.

"Anyway, there's the ledger open- shut yourself up with your reading and lessly, wireless far too much. It's all very "Yes."

Mr. Mumford picked up the 'phone and woman was possible, and could be a He rose as he was speaking. And a minute later Ferguson came in. her kindness to him, he realized, was you." Mary Donovan from her desk at the merely part of her instinctive good na- Mary Donovan went to the door with far side of the room was watching him. ture. Moreover, the past was dead and him. he noticed the change that came over | done with; he was a normal human behis face as he glanced at the receipt, ing again with the normal human dread "She's curious about everybody."

But, in all probability, he realized as much." he approached the cinema, he would not see her at all, for the film was an at- people like she does." "He came in during the lunch hour, traction and people were surging into "What is the play at the Theatre the theatre.

> Nevertheless he did meet her. "So you came after all," he heard her Love,' or something silly like that. But

"Yes. You on your own?" "For a change," she smiled.

"Then take pity on my loneliness and

"I shall be pleased to." "What part of the house do you pre-

"The front of the balcony. One and was very good indeed." six. You get both tickets, will you?' She slipped a shilling and sixpence into one evening? I'm free every evening. his hand as she was speaking.

"But surely . . ." he began. The momentary look of fear Mary "Nonsense. Fifty-fifty. I'm a mod- "And me. I'll book some seats."

Foskett had left the office he said: "Just as you say," he laughed. "But look forward to seeing Lucia Desmund "It's obvious what has happened. It I thought that it was one of man's few again. appears in the receipt book and I've privileges to pay for the seats at a

Besides the big film there were two me, Miss Donovan."

Some of the people sitting around room. Mr. Mumford was in the cashier's de- them wondered what it was all about. partment for some time and when he and openly sighed for the films they "You look tired. Anything upset came back he said to Mary: "It's not were used to, the films which made no you?" the first time it's happened. Ferguson demand on their intelligence, but Mary "No! Why should it?" has suggested a way of avoiding it in Donovan and her companion followed it "Does George know you've been out in silence.

starlit night.

"I usually get a 'bus, but I think I'll "He won't like it."

as they left the office that evening and "I don't quite know. The photography it."

me as being swayed too much by intel- "Yes, I know, dear. But I don't be-"Can one be?" he hazarded. "For a moment. I remembered tak- "Yes. The way he let his son go off Ferguson."

mistrust intelligence?" She nodded: "Isn't it a lovely even- "No. Not exactly. But I don't think bothered. Of course she talked about

it's enough; a life that was controlled him. Why shouldn't she?"

"Understanding and sympathy are Because they're his private affairs, I "I've heard a lot about it; I should just as important," she said after a imagine. I'm for bed!"

"It's on at eight-fifteen," she said "But they should be allied with in- like as much as I like George." teligence?"

"Here's my 'bus!" she said. "Cheerio! the girl was wearing, either. It seemed laughed. as if they were straining at an effect. "There's a great deal to be said for It was all casual and friendly, but as And it wasn't a very practical rig, if you George," Mrs. Donovan insisted. "We

don't believe that people, certainly not Don't you think it funny that gentle-In the end he decided to go and if women, would ever dress alike if they man like Mr. Ferguson should suddengether. After all, there was no reason minds turn to uniforms. But nurses "Yes, I do."

always look nice. And nuns," he added. "There's something behind him, "So do the Life Guards in London be- Mary." cause the uniforms are attractive. But "I think there is. And I feel certain forms, however attractive, if they could he'll tell me." avoid them." And so on.

short time. "COME IN FOR COCOA?"

"Mother's still up. Come in for five me a great deal." minutes?"

"Well . . , thank you very much," he "I've heard about you from my sister- Then wheres his wife?" in-law," Mrs. Donovan said when Mary "He may not have one. If he has

there." "Indeed I am." "Do you drink cocoa? I always have men one time and another."

it for Mary and her young men after "But this is different. You're not a

she's been to the pictures or the thea- | very experienced person, Mary," her guson, twisting the facts as she saw

mother said warningly. "I should like some very much," he "No. I wish I were."

said, and noticed that Mary was smil-"Well, what was it like?" Mrs. Dono- my duty to tell you so," ner mother drawn over his life before he came to van went on as she watched them drink insisted.

"Oh, bother George!" Mary said that life, he had come into contact with "Too much picture-going, if you ask "He's a very decent man and he's as certain as if he had told her himself.

life tapping a typewriter."

beats me," her mother exclaimed.

"Why you can't go and fall in love mistake.

socks, either."

very much in love with you." "But I'm not in love with him a bit, in London and once, a year before, at "But we didn't ask you, dear." Mary said with a smile. and I've told him so-a hundred times." the Theatre Royal in Mossford. She "Inspector Garrod was saying the

other evening that they do a lot of little contemptuously. "I dont suppose I shall marry any- that she should have remembered her "Or was it that he agreed with you, body," said Mary Donovan. "A woman's better married," said her that evening on the little bill at the dear, when you said it?" Mary suggest-

mother firmly. "Well, that's the same thing, surely?" "But there's no point in just marry- following week's play. "Hardly," Mary smiled.

"You are a Londoner, I hear, Mr. and a good one." ing to her visitor.

"And you're settling down in Moss-"Do you good, Mr. Ferguson. You ford?" Mrs. Donovan pursued relent-

"Now what's all this about, Rath- well for an old woman like me. Not "By the way, there's a very good show it? But apparently I can't." , MRS. GADDESDEN. A motherly wo- bone?" Mr. Mumford demanded. "Mr. that I see much in the films. They all at the Theatre Royal next week," Mary seem very much of a muchness to me." put in, apparently in an attempt to

in London?" her mother went on, how-

back into the town that evening, "Yes. Thanks very much for the kissing her mother, went up to her vinced it was—and taken up the posi- national renaissance. It is a movement "There's evidently some mistake," friendship between a modern man and cocoa, Mrs. Donovan. It's getting late."

any intention of falling in love. And "Good-night!" he said. "And thank mind everything she knew about Fer- William Trevowe himself, for example, the world.

"You mustn't mind mother," she said.

"On the contrary, I like her very

"But she shouldn't cross-examine

next week?" he asked. "It's a revue called 'Laugh . . and

He started almost as if she had struck "What . . . what name did you say?

"Lucia Desmund," she said in a wondering tone. "Do you know her?"

"I . . . I've seen her, of course." "She was here last year," Mary Donovan went on in a different tone. "She

"Would you care to come with me "Yes, I would," she said. "Monday would suit me-to-day week."

circle are quite good enough. I shall

"I once saw her when I was in Lon-

"I shall look forward to Monday Thank you very much for coming with

he flash of fear Mary Donovan had shorter ones and the news reel. The She watched him go down the steps of noticed in him worried her. An or- small films were very ordinary, but the the rather old-fashioned house and

with Mr. Ferguson?" In silence, too, they went out into the "The Inspector? He'll probably detect it." Mary laughed.

"Then he can do the other thing "Good. I need a walk too. What did mother mine! I'm a free agent. As a matter of fact, it was I who suggested

lieve a word of it." Mary laughted. "Your Aunt was talking about Mr

ers at all, and if she does she needn't "There's no need to get all hot and

simply by intelligence would be a very "It's quite clear that he doesn't want his private affairs gossiped about."

van asked.

So am I. I don't like him anything

WHAT IS HIS SECRET? "Of course. I didn't like the dress "The Inspector will be pleased!" Mary

"I don't suppose he's had such an ency to informity in the clothes. I done very well with what he has had.

ly come to a firm in Mossford and be-

I don't think people would wear uni- that one of these days, in his own time, "I've got no patience with all this

romantic nonsense. It comes from go-

Quite an interesting talk and they ing to these pictures so much," Mrs. reached the street where her mother Donovan said sharply. lived in what seemed a surprisingly "It isn't romantic, mother, and it isn't nonsense. He's just a friend of mine—a man who happens to interest

> "He might be married. Probably is." "I don't think he is. But he certainly has not said that he wasn't."

introduced him. "You're lucky to be they have obviously separated. But why all the fuss, mother? I've been to the pictures with quite a lot of other

them, this way and that. For a moment, as they had stood at "And I think it very unwise to play the front door that evening, she had fast and loose with George. And it's glimpsed beyond the veil which was Mossford. Somewhere, somehow, in Cleans Dirty Hands

You could discuss things with him Twice she had seen the actress. Once George just liked a film or he didn't and that was an end of it; but Fergu-"Love!" exclaimed Mrs. Donovan, a had a very attractive, husky voice, and son could talk about films, and ideas she was very beautiful. It was curious and experiences.

One day he would tell her. The thought returned to her.

One day she would understand

And until he saw fit to tell her she side of the theatre where they gave the would never ask him a single question. ing for a job or a living. I've got a job But gradually her thoughts centred It was a kind of faith she had in him.

> And with that thought she fell asleep. (To be Continued).

was no cause to fear anything beyond a Hong Kong Press:-A mighty spiritual revival, more than anything else, in with a nice young man like George Curious, too, the way he had put that my opinion, is drawing the people of fish back in the water. He couldn't China closer and closer together in the great cause of a united and unified na-Even her mother, prejudiced as she tion. In every school, college and uni-"Of course, it isn't as if you had to was in George's favour, had recognized versity; in every factory and business marry; I see that. You'll have my little that he belonged to a different class, house; in the villages and in the great cities, the gospel of the New Life Move-She was right; it was strange that he ment is being preached with a fervor "Now don't get morbid, mother, and had come to a place like Mossford-im- and persistency which has reached the I'll tell George!" Mary laughed and, portant as Mossford people were con- apex of a grand crusade for China's tion he had done. Stranger still that unique in the history of the world; it But sleep came to her rejuctantly that he should have been glad to be able to constitutes an inspiring example to the materialistic West. That is one of the one o'clock. She went over in her He evidently had influential friends- many lessons which China can teach

## THE FOOD WAY

Lucia Desmund. She was certain of it

so clearly. She had noticed the name

of dishonesty had upset him strangely.

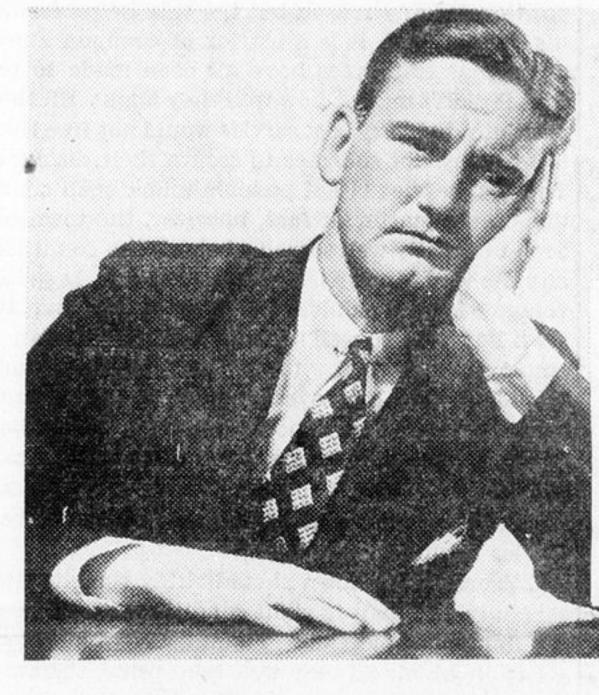
on Ferguson.

"You don't want to spend your whole The mere possibility of an imputation

"Thats true. Or darning George's Why? He must have known that there

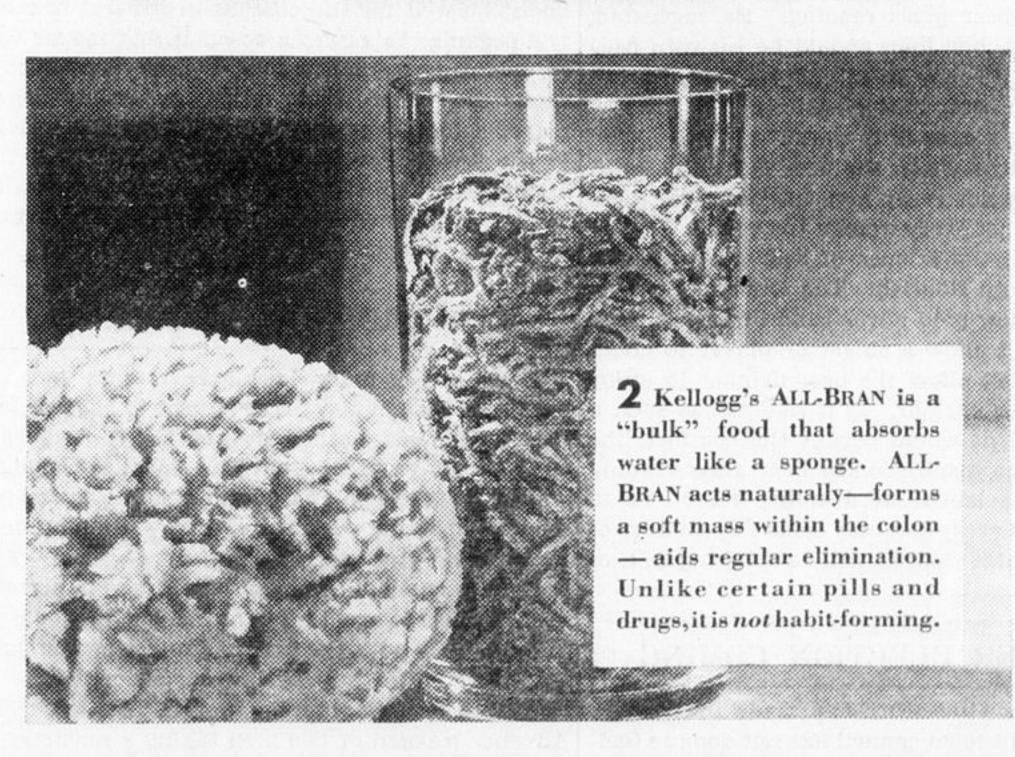
"It would simplify matters, wouldn't bear to see anything trapped.

bit and your aunt's as well when we had spoken of his education.



I Did you know that the most common type of constipation is caused usually by insufficient "bulk" in meals? Neglect of constipation may bring headaches, loss of appetite and energy. You feel miserable.

## TO RELIEVE



### CONSTIPATION

