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SONIA GOES EAST

By MOLLY THORP

Author of "STRANGER THAN FICTION," "WHY BE AFRAID?" Etc.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

SONIA LATIMER, having lost her parents in India, was brought to England as a child by her uncle and aunt and left in the charge of her schoolmistresses.

JUSTIN GEDGE: Her uncle, a planter in Behar, India.

EMILY GEDGE: Her aunt.

RONNIE EASTWOOD: A captain in the Indian Army, who meets Sonia on her voyage to India to stay with the Gedges.

PHILIP BRIERLY: A Deputy Commissioner of the Indian Civil Service, stationed at Siswa, in Behar.

The characters in this story are entirely imaginary. No reference is intended to any living person or to any public or private company.

Synopsis of Previous Chapters

Sonia Latimer who lost both her parents as a child in India, was brought to England by the Gedges and left at school. Later she worked as a secretary in London, her only link with India being the letters of Mrs. Gedge, who unexpectedly sent her an urgent invitation to visit Behar, with expenses paid. Her schoolmistress and guardian, Miss Peake advised her to go.

On the voyage, Ronnie Eastwood asked Sonia to marry him, but she refused, being uncertain of herself and her future.

Mr. Macfarlane met Sonia's boat in Calcutta and escorted her on the twenty hours' journey to Behar.

She found her aunt worn and aged. Her uncle had grown very silent and detached and she felt he would be difficult to know.

Her aunt accepted an invitation for her to stay with Dr. Bluet and his wife at the civil station of Siswa. Sonia did not want to go, but eventually consented.

(Now Read On)

CHAPTER V INDIAN AFTERNOON

The Siswa polo ground was an island of grass among the ricefields beyond the station (which term, in India, commonly means a European military or civil settlement). The old racecourse, a relic of the prosperous, indigo days, encircled the polo ground, and the little brick pavilion still stood in a corner, by a straggling line of babil trees. A few women sat in a row of chairs in front of it. As Sonia and Mrs. Bluet arrived, the eight players, one side wearing red cotton waistcoats over their white vests were trotting out to the ground. Two or three English children were playing round the pavilion, and being warned away from the heels of waiting ponies by the groom who held them.

Sonia felt as if she was walking into a dream, for this scene, though she had not known she could find it here, was exact in her memory. When last she saw it, she had played round this pavilion with children now vanished.

Heads turned as she and Mrs. Bluet approached. Mrs. Macfarlane waved a casual hand, made room for them beside her, and introduced Sonia.

"Why didn't you make Mrs. Gedge come?" she asked, evidently disappointed.

"I tried, but she didn't seem to think she could."

"You must get her out a bit, now you're here."

She was brusque that Sonia did not feel like explaining she thought Aunt Emily really was not well enough.

On her other side was a girl she remembered meeting on the journey, who was introduced as Mrs. Bolton from Shahdia Factory. Her face was very sallow, rather peevish, but attractive and her pale grey suit and make-up would have looked smart in London. She began pointing out the players for Sonia.

"You know Dr. Bluet and Mr. Macfarlane. That's my husband on the blue roan. The other two on Dr. Bluet's side are Freddy Hawes, the Police Superintendent and Josephine Piggott, that one galloping after the ball."

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ayah, and she'll be ill herself next."

"One would think no one but Mrs. Hawes had ever had a baby up here from the fuss she makes. Why do you pamper her? When Gilbert was born, at the Mysore outwork, in the rains, I had no one but Mrs. Gedge, and my young sister. You tell Mrs. Hawes that from me, and also that she's spoilt our four for bridge. I wish Mrs. Gedge had come. I'll have to ask Mrs. Piggott, I suppose."

"Where do the Piggotts live?" Sonia asked. "I wish I did remember them. He was so nice."

Mrs. Macfarlane gave her a look and said: "He's a kind old thing, though tactless."

"If you mean speaking about my father, I was glad he did. No one seems to say anything about my people."

"We haven't, on purpose, because we thought it would upset you, said Mrs. Macfarlane in a kinder tone. "Of course, one can't help thinking of them with you here. Khryi is about 16 miles North-West of Siswa. The Piggotts were your nearest neighbours. He comes from an old planting family, with a touch of country blood, as you can see from his complexion. Since he stopped indigo, he's gone in for horse-dealing as much as planting. He's in with all the importers and the racing people in Calcutta, and Josephine and Eric are in the business too. We all have to find some ways of making ends meet in these days."

"Except the Boltons," said Mrs. Bluet with a laugh.

"Oh, everything he touches turns to money. When we're all sunk, he'll be running all the sugar mills in the district on a fabulous salary."

"Well, I always look forward to seeing what she's wearing," said Mrs. Bluet.

"It's nice to know how you ought to be looking, even if it's beyond you. Wasn't she smart to-day?"

The Club was at the far end of the station standing by a row of tennis courts on another of the chain of lakes that ran through his part of Behar. It was quite small, and looked pleasant and friendly with the lights shining out between square creeper-covered veranda pillars. Hardly anyone had arrived when Mrs. Macfarlane and Sonia went into the big room with a bright wood fire at one end, where wicker chairs were grouped round little tables.

They sat by it, looking at the papers and magazines, till Sonia heard someone call "Miss Latimer," and saw Dr. Bluet at one of the doorways. She got up rather surprised, and followed him out into the veranda.

"Look here," he said, "your man's just arrived back at my house, with the car, and a message that Mrs. Gedge had been taken ill. You'd better come out with me, and he can follow with your things. My wife's packing them up for you. She told me say how sorry she was about all this. Are you ready to come?"

"Yes, I must tell Mrs. Macfarlane. Is she very bad?"

"Can't say till I see her, but it doesn't sound too good."

Mrs. Macfarlane said at once, "Jim and I will follow you as soon as he has changed. If you want a hand, I can stay."

Dr. Bluet drove fast and skillfully along the white moonlit road that still seemed endless.

"I wish I hadn't left her," said Sonia. "I ought to have stayed and insisted on her seeing you as soon as she had that attack."

"What attack?"

She described it, ending "I really came because I wanted to ask you about her. She wouldn't take any notice of it."

"She's the kind that won't notice warnings until they're laid by the heels. I haven't liked the look of her for some time, but a doctor can't force his advice where it isn't asked."

"Couldn't you have spoken to my uncle?"

"I've tried that. It didn't seem to penetrate. Your uncle is an unusually detached person, you know. A fatalist, I should think. You'd better be prepared to take most of the responsibility in this. There may be a stiff time ahead of you."

"I've never done any nursing. I wish I had."

Mrs. Macfarlane can cope with most things. You'll find her a great standby, and she doesn't spare herself where she's wanted. If it's beyond her, I can get a trained nurse from Calcutta."

"What do you think it may be?"

"No good making guesses without seeing her," said the doctor again. "I haven't examined her since she had a bad go of malaria about two years ago. She hasn't worn well; not like your uncle, whose physical make-up is younger than his years. She drives herself all the time."

"I've seen that, and wished she wouldn't in such a quiet sort of life, with servants to do everything."

"A life that comes very hard on active women like your aunt, who must be doing something. Cut off from outside interests and worn down by the climate. When was she last in England?"

"Fourteen years ago, when they took me to school."

It occurred to Sonia then, for the first time, that the cost of her education was the reason why Aunt Emily had had to stay in India all these years. Why had she not thought of it before? And she had taken it all so lightly. The moment Aunt Emily was better, she would show her that now, at least, she knew what had been done and given up for her.

The car turned in between the gate pillars of Mysore. As they drove up the dark avenue, both were silent with the suspense of what they were to find.

To be Continued.

Toronto Telegram:— Instead of man power, the umph girl has power over men.

TEN YEARS AGO IN TIMMINS

From Data in the Porcupine Advance Files

A special feature of the last regular meeting of the Timmings Town Council on December 28th, 1933, was the presentation of a handsome silver tray, suitably engraved to the retiring mayor and lady, Geo. S. Drew and Mrs. Drew. The presentation was made by the councillors of 1933 as an expression of their appreciation of the notable services given the town by Mr. Drew as well as of their esteem for his friendliness and other personal qualities, and to note the part taken by Mrs. Drew in the success achieved by Mr. Drew as mayor of the town. When the council met for its last regular session, Mayor Geo. S. Drew was in the chair and councillors R. Richardson, Dr. S. L. Honey, J. K. Massie, Geo. W. Parsons, J. Morrison and Moise Maltais.

Other business matters taking place at the council meeting ten years ago included the annual report of A. Borland, chief of the fire department, on which the chief and his men were congratulated on the excellent showing made for the year. Chief Borland suggested that a comparison be made between the recommendations he had made and those urged in the Underwriters' report to the town, and stated that he thought something should be done to assure further protection for the town. He suggested a sub-station or further apparatus, as there were times when all the apparatus was out and if another call were reported the trouble would be apparent. Also he advised an extension of the alarm system.

At one of the November meetings of the 1933 council Councillor R. Richardson, then chairman of the public works committee of the council, proposed that the town accept an offer made for the rent or purchase of a power snow plough. The suggestion was accepted and a motion was duly passed to put it into effect. The plan was to enter an agreement with a machinery company whereby the town would hire a new power snow plough at the rate of \$650. per month, with the option of purchase at any time, the amount paid in rental to apply on the purchase price. Under this plan the new motor snow plough was secured and was in use in January of the new year, 1934, for the first time. It was speedy and much more efficient than the old style of ploughs.

The banquet and dance given by the Porcupine Badminton Club in their hall on New Year's Eve and New Year's day, 1933, proved both successful and enjoyable and an outstanding event among the social affairs of the district. There were 206 at the tables for the lucheon served on New Year's eve, and another fifty were added to the gathering for the dancing after midnight. Tables were set throughout the hall, from four to twelve people at each table. The ladies had the hall very artistically and appropriately decorated for the occasion with coloured lights floor lamps and novel features. The floor show ushering in the dancing was a special feature, the Ukrainian dancers in costume winning much applause. The midnight festivities to usher in the New Year were a special feature of the occasion, all joining hands for the singing of "Auld Lang Syne". For the dancing Tommy Stephens and his capable orchestra furnished the best of music. Great credit was given those in charge of the arrangements for the very enjoyable success of the event. The committee included:— John Knox, chairman, Mrs. Skavien, Mrs. Darline, Mrs. Knox, J. J. Denny, A. D. Campbell, and Dr. Robson, chairman of the house committee.

On Monday morning, January 1st, 1934, when the train from Toronto to Timmings was on its way north, a head-on collision with a freight train occurred at Tomiko, about 23 miles north of North Bay. The fireman on No. 47 M. Johnston was trapped beneath the engine in the crash and received injuries from which he died. The engineer, J. Beauchamp, was also injured but not seriously, though he was taken to North Bay hospital, with seven of the passengers who were hurt. Among those injured, the passenger most hurt was Miss F. Evans, of the Timmings H. S. Staff, who was cut about the face and head, and suffered from shock. It is understood that no serious injuries resulted from the unfortunate accident. Although the fireman lost his life in the wreck, the T.&N.O. record of never killing a passenger still held.

The Christmas tree and entertainment of the Timmings Salvation Army was held on Thursday evening, December 28th, 1933, at the Army Citadel Fourth Ave. There was a large attendance, especially of the children, and all enjoyed the evening throughout. Major Hillier presided and introduced the programme in very effective way. The programme for the evening was one of special merit and interests and every item was much enjoyed.

Among the local and personal items appearing in The Advance ten years ago were the following:—"J. Sloan was a visitor to New Liskeard last week." "Mr. Duncan Campbell, of Halesbury is a business visitor in town this week." "Rev. T. J. McManus was a visitor last week to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. McManus, at Noranda." "Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Walker and son, Bruce, have returned from spending the Christmas holidays in Toronto and points south." "Mrs. P. J. Lainsbury spent the New Year with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Arpin, Kirkland Lake." "Mrs. Ann Roach and son, Franklin, returned home after spending the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Roach's mother, Mrs.

G. T. Foyle, of Cobalt." "Born — In Timmings, on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd, 1934, to Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Hartlieb, 175 Balsam St. N. — a daughter." "Miss Claire Halperin, who spent the holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. Halperin, Timmings, returned this week to Kingston to resume her studies at Queen's University." "His many friends will be pleased to know that E. H. Hill, who has been confined to his home through illness, is making good progress to recovery." "Every year for some years past the Northern Lights Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons has remembered the Children's Aid Society. During the present holiday season the Chapter sent to the C.A.S. a cheque for \$25.00 which is much appreciated and will help in the carrying on of the work of the society in its efforts for the children." "Both Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hefferan are ill in Toronto at present, but reports from the city suggest that they are making some progress to recovery. Mrs. Hefferan has been ill in Toronto for some time and Mr. Hefferan went to the city to see her and was himself ordered to bed by the doctor there. Wide circles of friends in Timmings and district will wish Mr. and Mrs. Hefferan early return to health and town."

Health-Giving Food for the Week After the Holidays

Menus May Help Health in Post-Holiday Times.

The week after the holiday season is a prime one for colds, nervous indigestion and hysteria of a mild form. Part of this is because of tiredness and exhaustion. But an added factor is that we overload our systems with rich foods, and so tired and nervous as our poor bodies are, they can't cope with the extra job of digestion they are asked to do.

Therefore, the thoughtful housewife can be a great purveyor of health if she will keep the salad bowl active this week, and see that the ice box is well supplied with fruit juices.

If she is really extra solicitous, she'll scrub some carrots, a creamy parsnip or two, cut them into thin fingers, and keep them in a tall covered container in the ice box. Surprisingly enough people will eat this often maligned rabbit-food if it's handy and is appetizing form. In following the menu for this week, you will notice that an attempt is made to keep up the Vitamin E1 content in order to assure the proper assimilation of the starches and sugars which surround holiday time.

Fanned Potatoes and Codfish
4 oz. dried, shredded codfish.
1 lb. potatoes
3 tablespoons lard
1 cup milk, heated
Pepper.

Soak codfish in cold water, drain thoroughly. Peel and boil potatoes until tender. Mash, and add heated milk and drained codfish. Beat well. Heat half the lard in a heavy frying pan. Put fish potato mixture therein, spreading it out until the pan is covered. Keep over medium, steady heat until a brown crust is formed on bottom. Turn, as you would an omelet, adding more lard to insure a bottom crust. Add pepper and serve.

Day's menu to Serve Four:—
Breakfast
Steamed prunes with lemon
Cooked cereal with wheat germ
Bread Butter
Milk Coffee

Lunch
Creamed eggs on toast
Apple and celery salad
Milk

Dinner
Potatoes panned with codfish
Cauliflower in cream sauce
Bread Butter
Frozen fruit salad
Tea Milk
(Released by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

Nine Births Registered in Timmings Last Week-end

Born — On December 19, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Skov, Avenue Rd. at St. Mary's Hospital — a son (Harry Clifford)

Born — On December 26, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Conroy, Cedar N. — a daughter (Marie, Simone, Lina)

Born — On December 22, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. L. Seguin, Bannerman Ave., at St. Mary's Hospital — a daughter (Pierrette)

Born — On December 11, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. D. J. McNamara, Cedar N. at St. Mary's Hospital — a son (Robert Emmett)

Born — On December 26, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. H. J. A. Coghill, Main Ave. — a daughter (Joyce May)

Born — On December 22, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. D. Ruddy, Commercial Ave. — a daughter (Shirley Lillian)

Born — On December 18, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. J. G. MacKenzie, Cedar St. at St. Mary's Hospital — a son (George Monk)

Born — On December 17, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Westcott, Commercial Ave. — a daughter (Hazel)

Born — On December 23, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Larche, Windsor Ave. — a son (Joseph Louis)

Kelowna Courier:— Patronize home industry because indirectly it will patronize you.

Cobalt Mines Once Well Known Sold at Small Figures

Old-Timers of North Will be Interested in This Tax Sale.

Old-timers of Cobalt and the North will be specially interested in the recent tax sale at Cobalt, where properties once bearing well-known names were sold for a few dollars. In reference to this tax sale The Halesburyian says:—

"A number of claims that bear once well-known names in the Cobalt mining camp and located in different sections of that district, went under the hammer when the adjourned sale for taxes by the township of Coleman was held in the silver city on Monday afternoon. Altogether a total of \$345, was realized from the various transactions put through at that time, the amount including a couple of houses and a vacant lot, which accounted for \$115. of the money paid into the municipality.

The mining properties which were sold included the old Imperial Crown at Kerr Lake; the Airgold, which was formerly known as the Three Star and is located between the Faran and King Edward Mines near Cross Lake; four claims owned by the Penly Silver Mines and in the section west from Cobalt toward Portage Bay, and the Pontiac and Hayden mines. Also sold were the Lakefield Porcupine property and three claims of the Cross Lake Mining Co. and one owned by Carl Rheinhardt and in the Cross Lake section.

On behalf of the township, C. V. O'Shaughnessy, the assessor, bid in 23 parcels offered, this lot including 14 claims of the Penly holdings. Altogether, there were 119 different lots. Owners have until December 23, 1944, in which to redeem their holdings on the usual basis. In some cases, claims sold have government liens against them, these representing chiefly costs incurred in having open cuts and surface workings fenced in some years ago, the province, which did the work, assessing the costs against the registered owners.

Sales made were: Imperial Crown, \$15 to A. B. Pilmer, on which some work has been done and where there is a shaft, together with two liens for \$137.99, with interest at six per cent. Taxes owing are \$101.56, including costs. Airgold mine, bought by Mrs. Gladys Russell for \$25; taxes and costs are \$417.95, with lien of \$153.43. Some work was done three years ago also. J. H. Price bought two water claims on the Cross Lake interests paying \$20 for them, against dues of \$135.15.

W. R. Leith bought a Cross Lake Claim for \$20, and on which \$56.16 is owing. C. V. O'Shaughnessy got the old Hayden property on which \$113.59 is owing, for \$30. The Lakefield property went to E. M. Houghton for \$20; there is an execution of \$167.20 against this claim, together with \$172.09 in taxes and costs. The Pontiac property went to A. H. Moss for \$20, against dues outstanding of \$113.59 and a lien of \$81.63. Harry G. Miller bought four Penly claim for \$50, and costs exceed \$200, and A. B. Pilmer bought the Rheinhardt claim for \$30. Taxes and costs against it are \$31.15. Approximately 270 acres of land is included in the mining claims sold."

Try The Advance Want Advertisements

Returned for Fourteenth Time as Mayor of Englehart

Englehart apparently knows a good man when he is present, as is proven by the fact that for the fourteenth time H. Weeks was re-elected as mayor of the municipality. Speaking of the election The Halesburyian says:—

"Completing his thirteenth year in the chair, the last eight of them in succession, Mayor H. Weeks of Englehart on Monday was re-elected without opposition for another term in the railway town as its chief magistrate. With him, all members of the 1943 board went back by acclamation also, and there is only one change on the public school board, where Sid Bryan is a newcomer to public service.

"In other nominations held on Monday, Reeves M. A. Wilson of James and P. I. Honsinger of Harley, with all members of their respective councils, were re-elected, but a contest is being staged in Kerns township for both council and for membership on the new township school area board. Reeve Roy Armstrong will again head council, but he got the only acclamation there. No one turned up at Thornloe village nominations other than the clerk, J. V. Hamilton, and fresh proceedings will be necessary."

Exchange:— Passengers now have a standing invitation to ride street cars and buses.



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