

WITHIN THE LAW



By MARVIN DANA
FROM THE PLAY OF
BAYARD VEILLER

SYNOPSIS

Mary Turner, a department store clerk, is sentenced to prison for three years for a theft she did not commit.

Edward Gilder, owner of the department store, consents to see Mary before she goes to prison, expecting her to confess.

Mary protests her innocence to Gilder and begs him to pay better wages to his clerks to save them from temptation.

After three years in prison Mary is freed, but the police prevent her holding her life, but is rescued by Joe Garson, a lawyer.

Mary forms a partnership with Garson and his gang, by which they must rich in the law.

Mary is warned by the police to leave town after she has formed the acquaintance of Richard Gilder, her former employer's son.

Edelen Morris, the girl who had committed the theft for which Mary was imprisoned, sees Mary and confesses her guilt.

Mary marries Dick Gilder without his father's knowledge and then refuses to sail for Europe with him.

Joe Garson, against Mary's protest, agrees to help commit a burglary in Gilder's home.

Edward Gilder sees his son's bride and tries to induce her to give up her husband. Dick refuses to leave her even when she tells him she is an ex-convict.

Inspector Burke calls on Gilder and tells him that a burglary at his home that night has been arranged through Griggs, a stool pigeon, to trap Mary Turner and her gang.

Garson and his gang break into Gilder's home and are followed by Mary, who is there Dick returns home.

Garson learns that Griggs had helped put up the job on him, and he kills Griggs with a noiseless revolver. Inspector Burke arrives, finding only Mary and Dick with Griggs' body.

Mary and Dick are arrested after Mary says Dick killed Griggs, a burglar. Other members of the gang are arrested and "sweated" by Burke.

Inspector Burke has interviews with Aggie Lynch, a member of Mary's gang, and Mary, in which he gets little information.

Joe Garson, who has been arrested, is taken to Burke's office, from where he upsets his nerves.

When Burke calls Mary in and tells her she is under arrest for the murder of Pigeon, Garson admits he killed the stool pigeon.

Garson, rather proud of his notoriety, is graphed. Mary and Dick, left together, are soon in each other's arms.



"Is that all you've got about her?" Garson demanded.

blocks of distance to Sigismund Harris' office.

Harris regarded his client with an appreciative eye as he bowed in greeting and invited her to a seat.

"I sent your cousin, Miss Agnes Lynch, the release which she is to sign," he explained, "when she gets that money from General Hastings. I wish you'd look it over when you have time. It's all right, I'm sure, but I appreciate your opinion of things, Miss Turner—particularly of legal documents."

"Thank you," Mary said. "And have you heard from them yet?"

"No," the lawyer replied. "I gave them until tomorrow. If I don't hear then I shall start suit at once." Then the lawyer's manner became unusually bland and self-satisfied as he opened a drawer of the desk and brought forth a rather formidable appearing document, bearing a most impressive seal.

"You will be glad to know," he went on unctuously, "that I was entirely successful in carrying out that idea of yours as to the injunction. My dear Miss Turner, Portia was a squawking baby compared with you."

"Thank you again," Mary answered as she took the legal paper. For a moment her glance ran over the words of the page.

"It's splendid!" she declared. "Did you have much trouble in getting it?"

"Why, no," he declared. "But at the outset when I made the request the judge just nearly fell off the bench. Then I showed him that Detroit case and the upshot of it all was that he gave me what I wanted without a whimper. He couldn't help himself, you know."

That mysterious document with the imposing seal reposed safely in Mary's bag when she returned to the apartment.

Mary had scarcely received from Aggie an account of Cassidy's threatening invasion when the maid announced that Mr. Irwin had called.

"Show him in," Mary directed.

"Who's the gink?" Aggie demanded.

"You ought to know. He's the lawyer retained by General Hastings in the matter of a certain breach of promise suit."

"Hope he's brought the money."

"When I call on you come in, but merely follow my lead. And, Agnes—be very inquisitive."

"Nothing in your record of her coming out without a friend in the world and trying to go straight? You ain't got nothing in that pretty little book of yours about your going to the millinery store where she finally got a job and tipping them off to where she come from?"

"Sure, they was tipped off. We got to protect the city."

"Got anything in that record of 'bout her getting another job and your following her up again and having the letter you had old Gilder write, so called?"

"Oh, we had her right the first time." "You did not. She was railroaded for a job she never done. She went in honest, and she came out honest."

"And that's why she's here now with a gang of crooks," Cassidy retorted.

"Where else should she be?" Garson demanded violently. "You ain't got nothing in that record about my jumping where I found her—a girl that never done nobody any harm, starving because you police wouldn't give her a chance to work. In the river because she wouldn't take the only other way cause she was keeping straight! Have you got any of that in your book?"

"Anyway," the officer went on, with a new confidence, now that his eyes were free from the gaze that had burned into his soul, "you've got to do it quick."

"We don't scare worth a cent," Aggie snapped, with the virulence of a vixen. "You can't do anything to us. We ain't broke the law." There came a sudden ripple of laughter, and the charming lips curved joyously as she added, "Though perhaps we have beat it a bit."

"Well, you've got the tip," Cassidy returned, somewhat disconcerted, after a stolid fashion of his own. "It's up to you to take it, that's all. If you don't one of you will make a long visit probably be Mary. Remember, I'm giving it to you straight."

Cassidy turned and went noisily out the drawing room. As she heard the outer door close behind the detective Aggie's expression grew vicious.

"The truck horse detective," she sneered. "An eighteen collar and a six and a half hat." He sure had his nerve trying to bluff us."

"Perhaps it wasn't a bluff, Aggie," Garson suggested.

"Well, what have we done, I'd like to know?"

Garson answered with a note of weariness that was unlike him.

"It ain't what you have done," he said quietly. "It's what they can make a jury think you've done. And once they can frame things! If they ever start out after Mary— He did not finish the sentence, but sank down into his chair with a groan that was almost of despair."

CHAPTER VII.

A Legal Document.

MARY TURNER spent less than an hour in that mysteriously important engagement with Dick Gilder of which she had spoken to Aggie. After separating from the young man she went alone down Broadway, walking the few

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