Following After

By DOROTHY DOUGLAS

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CRAWFORD was consuming chop suey with a speed that augered well for the medical profession—until she took the seat opposite him at the long marble table. After that Fletcher was not in it with him when it came to masticating his food.

She was a girl of modest demeanor whom Crawford had seen on one or two occasions in the restaurant. She had, however, been too far away for him to realize that she was the most lovely thing that ever graced a Chinese dining table. At close range he could see the fragments of smile that played about her eyes and lips and the curious reddish glow in her big eyes. He had missed those charms from across the room.

She ordered only a cupful of tea and some rice cakes and seemed in a bit of a hurry about it. Crawford watched her draw from her bag a lot of time tables and begin to jot down a regular itinerary on the back of the menu card.

And all the time she scarcely looked up, only a fleeting glance now and again that just shaved the corner of Crawford's eyes.

His chop suey was nearing a finish and rather than seem to be hanging about occupying a chair he ordered more. Then, when it was put before him, steaming and fragrant, the girl glanced at her watch, arose hurriedly, paid her check and was gone.

In her rush, she, of course, left the most important of her papers—the menu on which she had so carefully jotted down trains, hotels, etc. Crawford followed only to find that she had taken the elevator down to the street and was now lost among the thousands of released workers at Forty-second street.

Crawford did the best thing that came to his inspired mind. He made a hasty copy of all she had written down and left the menu as he had found it.

Had Crawford been anything but free footed for the next few weeks and possessed of sufficient coin to carry him on, he might have let the wonder girl go out of his life. As it was, he was free to take the same trip she was taking and would hope, by fair means or foul, to manage a meeting. He did not have to reach his home for another two months. After that, he would take up the splendid position open there to him.

However, meeting a lovely girl, who was entirely by herself and held out no encouragement, was not an easy matter. Crawford had fleeting glimpses of her in hotels in Washington, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, then after a long lapse, saw her in Denver, looking at the shops, had a room next door to hers in the hotel in Los Angeles and not once could he find even the slightest pretext on which to fix a meeting.

And still he followed after. His two months were fast drawing to a close. Discouragement held Crawford in its grip. He was not even quite sure that she was aware of his existence on earth.

And the day arrived when he took the only train that was not on the girl's itinerary. He had to be back home next day and had at last abandoned hope.

Crawford was a bit slow getting off the train at his home city and was the last to get a taxi.

As he drew up to the familiar gate on Second avenue, he was hardly conscious that a second taxi had immediately preceded his.

The front door was still ajar when he bounded onto the porch and plenty of feminine chatter greeted him. Apparently some one had unexpectedly arrived and the event was joyfully received.

He popped his head through the door to see his pet sister and some one in a most familiar suit, clasped in each other's arms.

"What ho!" laughed Crawford, "not a word of welcome to her brother." He stood by not quite believing his own senses.

"Oh, Dickey, I was so excited at seeing Joyce—" she turned then and gave him a sisterly hug and kiss, "that I forgot you were to be on the same train that brought her. You've heard me speak often of Joyce Kimble—well this is she—Joyce, this is Dick."

Of course, brother Dick nearly passed out during that moment when the girl's hand lay well within his own and the curiously glowing eyes gave him a complete glance, but he managed to make a show of common sense.

"I hope she has come to make a long stay," he said calmly to sister Jane, "I fancy this chum of yours already. Do you know," he added turning direct to Joyce, "I believe I saw you come in a Chinese restaurant in New York. Were you perchance—?"

"And I don't know whether you have a thousand doubles," she said demurely, "or perchance I merely fancy that I saw you in every train, hotel—"

"I'll just go and see that everything's all right," put in sister Jane.

"Everything's all right already," said Dick with a most deliberate look at Joyce, who blushed in a most satisfactory way.

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MILLINGTON

Mrs. R. J. Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Higman were guests of the latters aunt, Mrs. Mary Adams at Rehoboth Beach, Del., for a few days last week.

Mr. Franklyn Stevens, of Philadelphia, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Stevens.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Gillespie and Mr. and Mrs. James Jansen and little daughter, Nancy Jean, of Lansdowne, Pa., were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Lockerman.

Miss Sara Bamberger, Chester Bamberger, Jr., and Russell Good spent the week end with Miss Mary Stevens.

Mr. Harry R. Rasin Principal of Millington High school attended the Teachers Institute in Baltimore this week.

Mrs. Kate Hill and daughters, Misses Aris and Lucy, of Blackbird, Del., were guests last Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Lockerman.

Mrs. S. S. Comegys is spending this week with friends in Baltimore.

Mrs. Clara Baley spent several days this week the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Rasin.

Mrs. John A. Tobin, of Middletown, Del., spent a part of last week with her son, John H. Tobin.

Mrs. Paul Comegys is visiting friends at Westminster this week.

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WORTON

Mrs. Miller's Sunday School Class will hold a Hallowe'en Social in the Hall Monday evening, October 27, everybody come.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Baxter entertained Mr. and Mrs. Charles Joiner and children, Miss Ann Taylor and Mrs. Helen Schuyler at dinner Wednesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Rouse and daughter, Ann, of Aberdeen, spent last week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Rasin.

Miss Clara Matthews, of Wilmington, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Matthews last week end.

Mr. George T. Williams who has been quite sick is much better at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Taylor, of Wilmington, visited relatives here last week end.

Miss Virginia Hess spent last week end with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Joiner.

Miss Julia Williams who teaches at Rising Sun spent the week end at her home here.

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