

Notes for The Woman of Shanghai
(The Woman of Shanghai)

Henry Wallace must take a sea voyage because he is nervously exhausted. He has worked very hard on the President's campaign and because of his liberal ideas and speeches, he has been attacked ruthlessly in the press. Nevertheless, the President gives him an important seat in the cabinet, much to the consternation of the conservatives. Secretary of Commerce and the Chairman of the Federal [xxx] Corp, etc. There is much opposition in the Senate to his elected position in the Cabinet and both the vested interests and the press do everything in their means to try and stop his appointment to this important position.

It means that the Federal Banking Loan Association is no longer a close compensation point for the big guys to have a finger in the pie. It means that the little businessman will have a chance, if W is elected. We can stand for democracy in everything but money. If these rats start nibbling at our key institutions, God knows when this democracy will end. A few of the big boys decide to scheme against W and to do everything they can to discredit him with the American people.

They hear he is going to take a trip to the Orient. They detail a detective to spy on him.

The President warns Wallace to be careful to expect anything and to watch his step while on his voyage.

On this trip he takes his old college friend, a man who is a ??, a drunk and a cynic, who laughs at Wallace and his ambitions, and kids him about the whole political game.

Wallace likes him because of his bitter perseverance and because underneath he has a good heart. Wallace thinks that on this voyage, he can straighten his friend out, can put him on the ?? wagon. They have many a philosophical discussion.

Wallace tells him of his ambitions,

what he wants to do for the American people. - the little people. But his friend tells him he hasn't got a chance. That already his liberal speeches have cooked his goose. The big boys find a way to get him out. He tells Wallace how they work, the political medium [?] How they confuse the American public, by being for minor reforms, how they get people excited patriotically. How they work on their patriotism.

The political machine has got everybody buffaloed, even the President. He tells Wallace his attack on the press has killed him. That's one thing you cannot do: attack the press. And remember, the press are the big boys. It

has the power of industry, the power of all the wealth in America behind it. That's why they play up the freedom of the press as sacred. But that freedom is only for themselves. The individual has no chance against them. The moment anybody speaks their mind or deviates from the path of conservatism, he is a marked man, and the press will start to hone in and destroy him. Anyone that is a friend of the people is looked upon with suspicion. "No," his friend declares, "You haven't got a chance." The press plays one against the other and will use any device to take the power away from those they don't approve of. It is the garrulous press in America and it's in the hands of the big boys.

Wallace is full of hope and is more or less an optimist, while his friend is a pessimist.

On the boat, they discuss many topics: policies, love, the press. Wallace's friend was once a liberal and was once considered a brilliant lawyer. He once defended a so-called Communist, that's how he became a red, as the press labeled him. The big boys don't want reform. They're afraid it means taking their millions away from them. On the boat, there is a detective spying on W. Neither he or his friend is aware of this fact. However, Wallace's friend flirts with one of the passengers and W is alarmed about it.

There! You see, you don't know it yourself, but this political game is making you become a stuffed shirt. You used to be human, but were you kidding that sex and a little malarkey doesn't exist? Phew, the political game makes opponents of everyone. In Shanghai, W is to make a speech at the American Democratic Society. Afterwards, he joins his friend who has picked up some friends - female, much to the consternation of W.

The detectives follow them. Later, they put something (dope) in W's wine glass.

Towards the end of the story, the detective finds out that Wallace has been harboring a woman in his cabin, a stowaway.

He warns Wallace's enemies to be prepared and also the American Customs to be on the lookout for a stowaway, but the girl overhears the detective and when it comes time to get off the boat, she takes the keys or at least steals the keys from the detective or gets Ogden to do it, and hides in the detective's trunk. W's trunks are searched in spite of the fact that he is a diplomat.

The detective who has been expecting to make a killing by smuggling into America a lot of valuables, who brought a large trunk especially in order to carry out his smugglings, is surprised to find that his trunk is empty of the [xxx].

Wallace, who has seen her making up to the diplomat, is disgusted with her. He thinks she's cheap and promiscuous. Only when he finds out that she did it in order to hide in his trunk so that she could get ashore past the customs officer, did he forgive her, etc.

There is more political [xxx] he says before marrying her. They both kiss.

Story Notes

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The detective is the one that follows the girl down to her cabin...

The detective, not knowing who the girl is, might make a play for her in order to win her confidence, so that he can conspire with her to implicate W in a scandal. The girl tells W's friend and they decide to frame the detective. It is then that Ogden and the girl plan to hid in the detective's trunk or the diplomat's trunk.

Just as the boat lands in San Francisco, and the customs officials come aboard, the diplomat tells them that a stowaway is on board. They search the ship from top to bottom, but she cannot be found.

They even go into Wallace's cabin and the diplomat explains that he knows that Wallace won't mind if the customs officer opens his trunk. Wallace refuses. The diplomat hints that perhaps W has hidden the girl there.

When W is adamant about not having his trunk opened, the diplomat even goes so far as demanding it to be opened and accusing W of harboring a stowaway. The customs officer accepts that under those conditions they are forced to search his trunk and to their surprise and W's, they find nothing.

Ogden suggests that they search the diplomat's trunk. He says that he is perfectly willing. When they open his trunks they find the girl hidden in one. "This is a conspiracy!" shouts the diplomat. "Yes," says the girl. "but it did not work." She tells the officer and the press the whole story. How they had paid her to stowaway in W's cabin and how she was told to lie about him.

In the meantime, the newspapers are ready with big headlines. "Girl accuses Wallace of abducting her and hiding her in his cabin."

At the newspaper office, they are ready with the proof sheets. Then the telephone rings and they are told what's happened. "Kill the headline," the editor shouts.

Later the girl and W are walking up the main street of San Francisco. "It will be a simple matter," he said. "They are bound to let you into the country because I'm going to marry you," says W. They buy a newspaper. There is a two-inch paragraph of what happened: "Stowaway Hides in Diplomat's Trunk."

The End