

yet always striving to make her husband and herself happy in spite of their straightened circumstances. She faces life with great nobility and refinement and with a fortitude and courage born of true aristocracy. In their refined poverty, they give an air of beauty, strength of character, and an idealism that cannot be marred by their surroundings. They live as they have always lived, ~~xxx~~ with all the [xxx] and refinement as though they were still living in their country palace in Russia.

whereas they were actually living in P's small flat. Among the Chinese in the squalid part of Shanghai.

The mother would occasionally help her Chinese neighbors, administering her impoverished might with all the *noblesse oblige*, as she would have done on her magnificent estate in the Russia of the past.

The Chinese loved her for her kindness and would do anything to repay her for her many kindnesses.

When times were hard for the Ling family, the Tongs and the Hoyes, Paulette and her mother would cook a big bowl of rice or the Chinese would cook it, and P and her family would meet there for a feed. On one occasion, when P had been quarrelling with one of the Chinamen at the nightclub and had been calling him an old mean Chink, declaring she would not speak to any Chinks or stoop so

so low as to argue with him. She finds when she returns home that a whole bunch of them are invited for dinner.

She is amused with the Chinese children and makes them laugh. They are very sweet and thoughtful.

Halfway through dinner, a little Chinese child comes into the feast late. Everyone has been helped and all the food in the bowl has gone, but a thin emaciated child offers her half her plate. Of course, the rest of the family takes a little

From each of the guests and all are made happy.

The P family is happy until the father loses his job. Paulette has been ill and they are left to the mercy of chance.

In Shanghai, the Russians have no consulate and they have no country. Only the Russian colonists are able to help each other and they have very little.

As a consequence, Russians who are destitute are in desperate circumstances. They have nobody they can go to, no consulate or official representative and many destitute Russians

have died from starvation and neglect, like the Chinese coolies.

~~[xxx]~~

P's father, like his daughter, is generous to a fault and spends what little he has left to help his fellow white Russians.

P is the same with her girlfriends at the night club. On the surface, she seems to be hard, but she never refuses a girl or a fellow worker who is really in want.

P is a taxi dancer at the night club. She sits at the tables and smiles at the men as they come in. Miscreants of various kinds, local, national, and international are habitués of the club. Chinese and every known nationality are customers.

And P's job is to dance with any one of them at their request.

She dances with drunks, reprobates, remittance men, escaped embezzlers and all the dregs of human society. She is just as gay and witty with one as she is with the other.

Many of the customers like her, but others, after having danced with her declare that she is as tough as nails.