The story

Johnny Olsen (himself), popular New York radio and television interviewer, is tracking down the real story of Mona Kent, the glamorous Broadway star, by questioning some of the people who ‘knew her when.’ Fierce by pieces, he begins the search through the stories of others.

To begin with, Mona Kent is not her real name. She is Elvira Kowalski (Sandra Donat), a middlewestern farm girl. Olsen’s aspirations to be a successful quiz show host enter a contest for a Broadway try-out. The naive girl soon receives a letter notifying her that she is a winner and will begin a try-out, provided she sends a small advance to cover the expenses of her trip to New York. Her hard-pressed family scours together the money, plus a small additional amount, to enable immediate living in New York, and it is not long before Elvira boards a bus for the big city.

The excitement of the trip, her first away from home, is almost too much for Elvira. But her spirits soon take a nosedive. The contest, it turns out, is a fraud; the contest headquarters is empty and the ‘organization’ has not even left forwarding addresses. So much for friends, if there are any, jobless and minus her family’s $800. For a moment, Elvira is totally discouraged and decides to return home. But the next moment, she gathers her courage together again. When feeling that she has come too far to give up now, she determines to stick it out and make her way to Broadway.

Elvira sets out to find a way to live and, naturally, gravitates toward Greenwich Village. After considerable searching, she finds an apartment to share. Her roommate turns out to be Janice Lambert (Violette), another girl with a few lines of publicity. Mona Kent, who had come to the big city much earlier and had failed to make the grade. Janice is still hoping to reach the big time but now settles for a free meal on the side. Several times, with a few lines of publicity, Elvira manages to get a small job with the girls. She gets a chance move for Eddie, he gets up, grasps her arm and propels her towards her own apartment and goes in with her. There, Eddie explains how he has been waiting for jobs in New York and is determined to paint a picture of her in the nude. Elvira refuses but tells Eddie she desperately needs a job. Eddie helps her get a job as a housemaid in a club.

At the nightclub, Elvira meets Stephen Gregory, who tells her that Elvira Kowalski is not a name that goes with Broadway success. Nothing has been heard of any job except a small part and Gregory, off to Europe for the summer, lends her his house while she’s appearing in the play. Elvira decides to do something to attract attention. She jumps on the diving board, flips off her outer clothing and dives in. The result is a memorable success. Gregory, impressed, decides to give her a small part and Gregory, off to Europe for the summer, lends her his house while she’s appearing in the play. Elvira decides to do something to attract attention: she jumps on the diving board, flips off her outer clothing and dives in. The result is a memorable success. Gregory, impressed, decides to give her a small part. Meanwhile, Mona’s acting career progresses. She gets more and better parts in the summer theatre and the last play of the season is scheduled to go to Broadway. But the show doesn’t make it. So Mona returns to her apartment with Janice and, once more, begins making the rounds of theatres, casting directors and agents, without success.

Finally, Mona goes back to her job as a salesgirl and, renewing relations with Eddie, agrees to pose for the painting he wants. Meanwhile, Jerry turns up and convinces Elvira that he will pose for him in order to earn the money for which he has a purchaser. Then, Mona meets Gregory again and the latter proposes to her—but Mona thinks the older one is only jealously afraid. She has two young men more than a little interested in her.

But Mona discovers that the two young men aren’t ‘suitable.’ Eddie has sold the nude pictures of Mona caving in, and renewing relations with Eddie, agrees to pose for the painting he wants. Meanwhile, Jerry turns up and convinces Elvira that he will pose for him in order to earn the money for which he has a purchaser. Then, Mona meets Gregory again and the latter proposes to her—but Mona thinks the older one is only jealously afraid. She has two young men more than a little interested in her.

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