

"I Could Get Any Woman's Husband"

So Says Camilla Horn,
Artist In Pajamas
And Photodramas

By WINIFRED REEVE

(Onoto Wasana)

"AMERICAN married men very easy to take from wife," said Camilla Horn. "I could get any husband if I want. On'y I don' want!"

Camilla is unique. Camilla is extraordinary. Camilla is unbelievable. No publicity genius speaks for Camilla. Imagine a publicity man making such a statement as that. She may indeed be said to be the *enfant terrible* of the United Artists lot, for off the screen Camilla cannot act or pose.

She came into the room with a rush, on the heels of the studio executive who introduced us. She was wearing an unlovely drab colored muskrat coat and her natural blonde hair was tucked under a tight little toque. I thought at first her eyes were the color of the Danube, but then she told me they were "Any color you like. Maybe brown, blue—green." They are changing eyes, black-lashed, wide and clear. She grasped my hand, smiled at me eagerly:

"Ach! I t'ink maybe I have also already met you before? No? So many writers I have meet. It is a great pleasure some time. When first I come from Germany, big crowd from newspapers meet me, and I cannot speak English. So they look at me and I see on their face what they think: 'Ach! This Camilla Horn—she is dumb!'"

I laughed, I don't know why; and after a moment she joined in heartily. We became instant friends. Camilla put her arm around my shoulders, as if we had known each other for years and, "Come," said Camilla, "I will feed you."

Camilla Not Dumb

SHE took me to her bungalow dressing-room, where a beaming waiter who looked like von Stroheim served us a colossal meal. Camilla studied me thoughtfully. What was I thinking of her? Her fair candid brows



Camilla Horn, above, contends that there is but one man in the world for her, her husband, with her at the left. But she is content to let her career draw her six thousand miles away from his side

knitted. She spoke with genuine regret upon the end of a sigh.

"Everybody t'ink of me that I am—dumb! You, too? Is because I do not mix so well. I go to some party, I sit in some quiet corner, I do not make the handspring or dance the jazzy bottom. So then they say: 'Ach! she is

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I Could Get Any Woman's Husband

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no fun. She is dumb." But is not true. I am not dumb," said Camilla Horn with intense earnestness.

"I suppose," said I, "that like most of the foreign stars who come here, you are a countess or of some high nobility in your country."

"Oh, no. Oh, no. Very simple people. Nice. Not so rich. When my father die, then I go to work. I have little brother and mother to feed . . . What did I do?" She lowered her voice confidentially. There was a warm, friendly look in her now brown eyes. "I will tell you what I do. I make pajamas. I design them. I sew on them. I go out to store and I sell them."

There was genuine pride in her voice, and she explained moreover that she made good pajamas. "Very pretty and nice to look at and feel."

Her Big-Top Day

"BUT how did you get into the movies?" "Ach! I will tell you," said Camilla, who prefaces most remarks with these words. "One day Mr. Murnau sees me on street. He stop and look hard. He say: 'You are *Marguerite* for my *Faust*.' I laugh and say: 'Is silly. I am not lovely like *Marguerite*.' He replies that I come to his studio next day. Still I think it a joke and I do not tell my mother, but I go. That day he signs me up on contract. Is for beeg money. Seem oh, so big to me then. I cannot breathe for t'rill. I t'ink I will buy a chateau for my family. Ach! I am so happy. Never, never will I be so happy as on that day. It is the big top day on my life." A tear came to her eyes and unashamedly she wiped them. She was homesick.

"But it's fine here, isn't it; and you're doing splendid work."

"Not so good sometimes. I cry when I see preview of 'The Tempest.' Every good acting I do is cut out. Only leave me for be pretty girl. *Das* is all. But in new picture I am just finish with Barrymore—ach! is different! Mr. Lubitsch makes me every chance, and I am very wonderful. You shall see and say so, too."

"You like working for Barrymore?"

"We-ll ye-es. I t'ink so. He is very fine to me when we come alone, but on the set—cannot get near him. He sits and smokes cigarettes and one hundred people come around him. He is king and I am nothing."

As She Sees 'Em

"WHAT do you think of our American stars?"

"Oh—Greta Garbo marvelous—but she does not need act. She just be Greta. Mary Pickford do some very nice acting. One picture I see, she acts with greatness. It is simple story. Her father is just a cop-man. Mary prepares a birthday party for him. She makes a little tie for his neck, and she puts by his plate a little brush-teeth. Mary's father does not come, and her face when sees other cop-man—it was very great acting. I never see more better. Then there is Norma Talmadge. Some people say: 'Her husband Joe Schenck. He make her.'

Not so. Anywhere she will make success—because Norma is very great actress. I very much adore also Lillian Gish. Mary Philbin is so sweet, but too shy. It is pity. She must wake up."

There were other people waiting, waiting for Camilla, and I pushed back my chair.

"Ach!" said she, regarding mournfully our totally empty plates, "You have not eat so much. I will get some more feed."

"No, no. Oh, by the way—what do you think of American men? Do you prefer them to European?"

Camilla shook her head vigorously.

"I will tell you. For me—is better European," she said, the first foreign star who failed to eulogize our American men. On the contrary Camilla lowered her voice and glanced surreptitiously toward the door, as though she feared someone might be listening at the keyhole.

"I will tell you. When European marries, is wife for all time. American married men very easy to take from wife. Even if got nice pretty wife and little baby. Is all same. I could get any husband if I want. So easy. Five minutes, maybe. Only I don't want."

The Scandal Speakers

"AND what do you think of Hollywood?" "Is nice city, maybe—but is too much scandal speak. I will tell you: Even me they make scandal for. When first I come I am so lonely. All day I am lonely, and I t'ink all the time of my mother, who is afraid to cross ocean, and of my home in Frankfort. So I tell Mr. Schenck. I say: 'Maybe I will go back home, for my heart is very lonely.' He replies: 'Don't be silly, Camilla, I will take you out and show you things.' This he do. Then soon when I go into restaurant or any place with him, I see people put heads together and go 'Pss! Pss! Pss!' They whisper. And then I can hear scandal about me."

Camilla stamped a little foot. Her eyes were flaming now and they looked almost black. "Is not true!" she cried.

"Well, don't mind it. It's just part of the Hollywood game. Besides, you wouldn't be a star if you didn't have love affairs."

To my surprise a deep blush spread over the girl's fair face. Imagine a movie star blushing! I bear witness to it. She gave me a little wisp of a smile. "Is not good to have love affair when one is married," said Camilla Horn. Which brought us to the detail of the husband in Germany. Camilla brought from under a blotter on her desk a thirty- or forty-page letter, very closely written.

"The more I see other men, the more I better like my husband. Sometimes in this Hollywood men must scrape and cringe and bow for favors—but not my husband. He is just—man, *das* is all."

She extended the letter, a small book-size manuscript. "Read," she invited.

"I can't read German."

"Ach! I will do so." She read: "How I miss you! How I wish you were not a movie star, but just my nice little wife cooking my meals in our nice little home."

Well, we never thought so, either. And that fact that we didn't, just goes to show that you never know who has and you never know, either, how much. Meaning that you'll probably be astonished to find out that Lois Wilson will give you her confessions; and you'll more than probably be astonished to find out how interesting they are. As you will find out in an early forthcoming issue of *Classic*.

And another thing: you've seen college life on the screen. So you know what the movies think of college boys. But now these hitherto helpless victims are going to get in their whacks: they're going to tell what they think of the movies. Watch for this one, a series of articles by the editors of the college papers of every representative university in the country. In *Classic*, again, of course.