

PHOTOPLAY

M A Y , 1939

THE name is pronounced "Lee." She is very beautiful, with red-brown hair and sea-green eyes. She is very talented. At first, she wasn't sure she wanted the rôle of *Scarlett O'Hara*; but now she has it . . . which means that Vivien Leigh, the British actress comparatively unknown in this country, finally selected for the heroine of "Gone with the Wind," is a name that's on the tip of everyone's tongue.

It also means that Vivien Leigh is in what Hollywood terms a "tough spot." Already we are describing her natural English reserve as "high-hattedness." Already we are complaining, "At least, they could have chosen an American girl!"

But Vivien Leigh is a trouser. She is tackling her hazardous assignment with quiet courage. David Selznick chose her for the rôle. Well, she will do her best. "It is all I can do," she said to me the other day. And then she added, and I liked her for it, "But between you and me, I am frightened to death!"

Despite the fact that we call her English, Vivien Leigh has the ancestry of *Scarlett*. Her father, Ernest Richard Hartley, onetime stock broker of Calcutta, India, came of French forebears and her mother was Irish. Vivien, however, has a far more cosmopolitan background and education than that of *Scarlett*. Born in the town of Darjeeling, India, at the foot of the Himalayas, she was educated in schools scattered throughout Europe, always the finest. She speaks German, French and Italian as well as she does English and her dramatic education was gained at the famous Academy of Dramatic Art, in London. We Americans will remember her as the hussy wife of the book dealer in Bob Taylor's picture, "A Yank at Oxford."

She is married to Leigh Holman, a barrister of London, and they have a five year-old daughter, Suzanne.

Will she succeed as *Scarlett*? That, of course, remains to be seen. Meanwhile, wouldn't it be sporting to withhold judgment until "Gone with the Wind" is finished?



(color image added)