

# Thursday's Child

Written by  
Lyse Beck & Dawn Johnston

Based on the memoir Thursday's Child  
by Richarda Morrow-Tait

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## **Title: Thursday's Child**

Genre: adventure, biopic

Feature script

### **Logline**

In 1948, a discontented, young mother encounters sexism, scandal and love in her bold attempt to be the first woman to fly around the world.

### **Synopsis**

**Dikki Morrow-Tait** (24), is a feisty redhead. Restless and feeling trapped in the 1940's world that holds her back, Dikki longs to make her mark. So when the flying club reopens after the war, Dikki is first in line. After a single lesson, she declares to her husband, the conventional **Norman Morrow-Tait** (35), that she will not just learn to fly, she will fly around the world. And once she's said the words aloud, nothing will stop her.

With just 80 hours of flying time, she maps out her course and persuades their good friend **Mike Townsend** (25) to navigate her. Mike is a quiet man, but they share a love of adventure and the courage to take on this crazy idea.

Dikki spends her small inheritance on a wood and canvas twin-engine plane, which she christens "*Thursday's Child*." They calculate a 6-week trip. It's the greatest underestimate of their lives.

And their greatest adventure. The press eat it up, this pretty young housewife charming them with her spirit, and she loves it. However, after an accident in India grounds them, Mike is ready to pack it in. But Dikki won't give up. She convinces him to make an illegal repair, they forge customs papers and, like two naughty kids, they flee Calcutta in the dead of night to avoid questions.

Ahead of them is their greatest obstacle -- the icy North Pacific. Soon after take off, their generator breaks down, taking out their radio and lights. Scared and tired they fly 13 hours in the dark over the frozen waves. Desperate, and down to their last 5 gallons of fuel, they finally spot the airstrip. Dikki becomes the first woman to fly across the Pacific. Relieved she's not dead, her husband just wants her to come home, but Mike couldn't be more proud of her.

Thinking the worst is over, the engine fails over Alaska. They crash and the plane's destroyed. Dikki, crushed but determined, resolves to stay, while Mike reluctantly leaves her to complete his studies. She can't ask him to stay and he won't ask her to give up on her dream. Through all their adventures, Dikki and Mike have fallen for each other, though neither will admit it. She's married to Mike's friend.

Dikki spends 6 months courting the press, desperately lonely and surviving on handouts, until she finally raises the money to buy another plane and resume her journey. Optimistic that her

goal is in sight, she finds a new navigator for the trip back. But they bounce between Canada and the U.S. running from bureaucratic threats. When they make it to Toronto, it's taken so long her navigator quits.

Dikki, nearly broken from chasing this goal alone, accepts that she needs help. She asks Mike to see her home. Together again, she realizes how much she loves him. They begin a passionate affair.

When they arrive home, a year and a day after leaving England, Dikki becomes the first woman to pilot a plane around the world. But it's taken so long, the press have turned on her. Instead of praise, she's mocked as "The Flying Housewife," and her husband is ridiculed as Britain's most famous babysitter. When he learns of her affair, he offers to stay married so they can avoid a scandal. But Dikki no longer cares what the world thinks of her. She shocks the nation, choosing love. She marries Mike and never speaks to the press again.

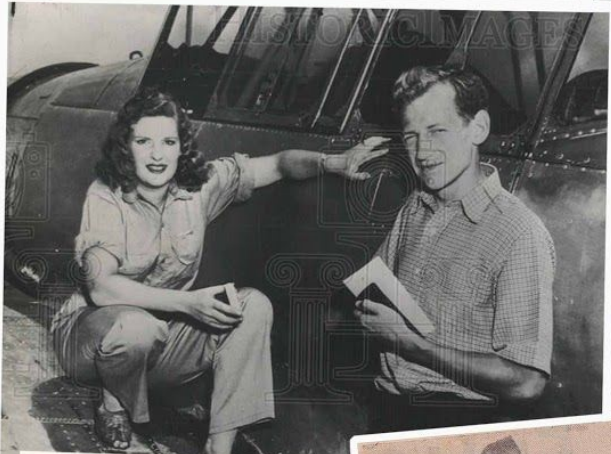
Dikki is in the record books as the first woman to pilot a flight round the world. Although she never received accolades, her record will stand for all time.

## Characters

**Richarda "Dikki" Morrow-Tait** (24) is a truly larger-than-life character. Feisty, sexy and witty, she has a love of adventure and a competitive nature. A skilled aviator, Dikki constantly battles to be taken seriously, but her bravado covers a world of insecurities. She's a square peg in a round hole, craving adventure over family life at a time when women have few choices. In the end, that prevents her from getting the recognition she both needs and deserves.

**Mike Townsend** (25) is a studious young man, reserved in behaviour but adventurous in his spirit. Excited by the challenge Dikki presents, he's swept along in her adrenaline rush, supportive and never holding her back. Though a quiet chap, he was confident enough to stand up to Dikki, as many were not. Dikki relies on him deeply.

**Norman "Morrow" Morrow-Tait** (35) is a fine, upper class gentleman. An educated intellectual, he's uncompetitive and stoic. In most ways, he's Dikki's opposite. He's passive when she needs to be challenged and he is, ultimately, a frustrating mismatch for Dikki.



## WORLD FLIER STALLED People Help--Not Government

By JACK STEPLER  
Aviation Editor of The Vancouver Daily Province  
Generosity of two Vancouver people and an Edmonton aircraft maintenance firm bodied with Richards Morrow-Tait's round-the-world flight home to England—until they were dashed again at noon by the Foreign Exchange Control Board.

Two anonymous city people—a man and a woman—offered to supply the \$300 needed to complete purchase of an ex-army plane in Seattle, but FECC ruled that it can not permit transfer of American dollars to a resident of a sterling area.

The only alternatives are to have Canadian dollars transferred to a sterling area, and re-transfer of American dollars to Seattle.

Mrs. Morrow-Tait crash-landed at Tok Junction, 200 miles south-east of Fairbanks, Nov. 21 during world flight. Her navigator, Michael Townsend, returned to England after the crash.

Since then, Mrs. Morrow-Tait has been endeavoring to raise funds to continue her flight.

Through assistance of The Vancouver Daily Province, she is endeavoring to clear aircraft license permit her to accept the Vancouver offers and buy a BT-13 in Seattle.

Mrs. Morrow-Tait's two city "angels" have left her—as she puts it—"purring."

"I didn't know there could be such real angels in Vancouver," she said today. "They have given me new heart just when everything was at such a low ebb."

Already the first half of the purchase price of the Seattle aircraft has been raised there through efforts of Dr. Lester Campbell.



MORROW-TAIT AND JACK STEPLER

## Will Continue Flight 'Round-World Aviatrix Lands Here In Bomber

From out of the darkness early Saturday morning 25-year-old Mrs. Richards Morrow-Tait landed at R.C.A.F. Station Edmonton after completing a flight from Fairbanks, Alaska. She was not at the controls of her own single-engine craft but was a passenger aboard an American B-17 four-engine bomber.

"I definitely have not abandoned my round-the-world flight. I am more anxious than ever to be the first woman to circle the globe in a light plane," the British aviatrix told reporters. Then the pretty red head reiterated an earlier statement: "I'm going to continue if I have to put the plane in a wheelbarrow."

Mrs. Morrow-Tait's plane was wrecked in a forced landing last Sunday but neither she nor her navigator, Michael Townsend, was injured. The crash landing, which the former world's model stated was due to an engine failure, occurred in 20 below-zero weather on a highway in Alaska between Fairbanks and Anchorage. It was near the village of Tok, 200 miles southeast of Fairbanks.

The special U.S.A.F. flight that brought Mrs. Morrow-Tait and her navigator, Michael Townsend, to Edmonton left Fairbanks at 6:21 a.m. Friday and landed here at 8:08 a.m. Saturday after the 1,664-mile hop. The plane piloted by First Lt. W. M. Shawer, will continue to Great Falls with another passenger.

Mrs. Morrow-Tait described her a bomber wearing her place on the jump from Anchorage to Edmonton dropped emergency provisions after the crash. Then it continued to Fairbanks where it landed and the Alaska highway point was notified.

The flight that Mrs. Morrow-Tait and her navigator to Fairbanks were being handled overnight by the military base at Fairbanks. The incident and both women are hospitalized and Mrs. Morrow-Tait is recovering from her injuries. She estimated that it would cost about \$1,000 to repair the plane and she must raise this money to enable to continue her flight. The land plane aircraft was used as a communications craft by the U.S.A.F. during the war.

Mrs. Morrow-Tait said that the Pioneer Company was not financing her flight. "I am financing it myself," she said and the insurance

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UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY was spent by British round-the-world aviatrix, Mrs. Richard Morrow-Tait, 25, after her plane was wrecked in landing near Fairbanks, Alaska. Thursday she was offered job as night club entertainer in Anchorage to help finance repair of aircraft. Until it's fixed up, global flight can't be completed.



## ***Lyse Bio***

Lyse has been in the film industry for 20 years as a visual effects artist, producer and manager. Her film credits can be found on IMDB. She most recently worked for Peter Jackson's VFX company.

She's won several screenwriting awards and has written on contract for others. She wrote and produced a short film, which was featured in a New Zealand film festival and distributed on two networks.

She's Canadian with New Zealand residence.

Lyse's Management: John Ferraro @ Valleywood Entertainment

## ***Dawn Bio***

Dawn's short script "Goodbye Today" was produced by filmmaker David Desoeur. Another short script was recently optioned by producer/actress Ayla Rose Barreau. Dawn's feature screenplay, "Mother" was a quarterfinalist in the Nicholl Fellowship, 2015.

She was hired this year by producers Barnet Bain ("What Dreams May Come") and Fred Fuchs ("The Godfather III") to write a feature script from an existing property. They are currently in development.

Dawn is Canadian, and lives near Toronto.