DINNER FOR TWO

By D. ALDRICH

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TO JUDGE by the frequent consulting of her jeweled wrist watch and the impatient heel and toe movement of her small foot, she had been waiting some time.

The mezzanine of a hotel which had become rather questionable was no place for an extremely pretty young woman to wait.

She hated the ogling of the habitues who passed and repassed her. That was the reason she gave herself for going into a telephone booth near at hand and calling a number.

"Four-six-five-four! . . . Why, Plaza, of course. I said Plaza three times!" She dropped a coin in the box. "Well, there's your money but I'm sure it isn't the right number . . . Oh—Miss Carleton please. Doris? I've had a perfectly terrible time trying to get you. Yes—this is Peggy. Nothing special but I had to talk to somebody or I should go mad . . . No—Sedgwick hotel . . . Sedgwick . . . Waiting for Jim. No wonder you're astonished . . . No—haven't laid eyes on him for six weeks. He hasn't been home since the last flare-up. First time I've even heard his voice was yesterday when he called up and asked me for a final interview to arrange the details of the divorce I told him I wanted. Certainly I told him that! . . . He said to meet him on the Sedgwick hotel mezzanine at five-thirty and I got here exactly on the dot of six. What? No—Sedgwick, darling. Why not? . . . Oh—isn't it? Well, anyway, Jim said Sedgwick and here I am. I suppose he'll forget to come. Business—as usual. Oh . . . Wait—I've simply got to open this door. It's stifling in here. There . . . No—I don't care if the playboys hear what I'm saying. I've reached the point where I shall elope with the first man who asks me . . . Why—Doris Carleton! I believe you're in love with Jim yourself. You're simply poisonous to me! Good-by!"

Blinded by tears, she came out of the booth swiftly, nearly colliding with a tall, good-looking man who had been awaiting his turn.

She stepped back startled.

He smiled hesitantly into her flushed face.

"I'm sorry."

Then: "May I use the telephone for a minute?"

"I have not leased the telephone for the evening."

"But your conversation seems to have been cut off at the most interesting and emotional moment."

"What right had you to listen?"

"Merely the right of anyone whose hearing is not affected."

As he slipped quickly into the booth after this, she moved to the far end of the couch and gazed stormy-eyed into vacancy.

As he reappeared he mentioned casually, "Now—if you care to use the telephone again?"

"How generous of you! Unfortunately I'm just leaving. I had an appointment for five-thirty and it's now nearly seven."

He pursed his lips slightly as he checked this up with his watch but did not correct her. Instead:

"I can't imagine anyone's suggesting this as a place to meet—er—a woman of your sort. It's just a little—"

"I know." She flung up her chin and blinked rapidly.

"But nobody cares what happens to me any more."

He sat down beside her and smiled tenderly:

"So—it makes you feel that way, does it?"

"Certainly not. I'm not feeling any way at all. I'm just nervous—queer men about, staring. And I'm faint with hunger. I've been waiting here two hours without a mouthful to eat."

"Poor little girl! It's such a long two hours from six to six-thirty. He's a brute to keep you waiting for dinner!"

"But—I never intended to have dinner with him. Never!"

"Oh—didn't you?"

He raised an eyebrow, then he bent over her tenderly in the way that made all women thrill to him.

"In view of what you have said—I—I hesitate to suggest it, but—I have a corking little table for two already reserved at the Cedric."

"The—Cedric?"

He nodded.

"Nice quiet little hotel. Not a bit like this hang-out. I hope you can see your way clear to accept."

"It might be misunderstood."

"Women are always misunderstood. Especially" — daringly — "wives."

She flushed.

"You seem to know a great deal about women," she added bitingly.

He grew suddenly grave.

"There have been only three in my life that registered. But I've realized within the past five minutes that there is likely to be a fourth."

"Evidently sure of yourself."

"No. On the contrary that is the fatal flaw in my technique. There may be other flaws. Will you help me? I need a confidante."

"About your three women?" she shrugged. "But if I must sing for my supper—Do we begin with the first love?"

He nodded dreamily. "I met her one night at a fraternity party, my senior year at college. She wore some sort of a fluffy white dress, I remember, and looked like an angel."

His eyes were shining. There was a queer feeling in her throat so she said: "Men are always sentimental about their first loves. Who came next?"

He laughed shortly.

"The next was a bride—married to an awful dub who didn't understand her at all. She was a beauty, radiant, laughing . . . sometimes I think I loved her best of all."

As he hesitated, she asked gently, "There was another, you said?"

"It's hard to tell you about the last one," he answered. "I—I lost her only recently."

She steeled herself against the pain in his voice.

"She was different somehow. I didn't realize it at first. She wasn't all light-hearted gayety. She was just a slip of a girl and yet she had gone through hell—hell a man knows nothing about. Her boy—our boy didn't live. I—God, how I wanted my son! But I wanted her more. Maybe she didn't know that . . . When she came back, out of the shadows, the doctor told me that she could get well only on condition she have certain things. Those things took a lot of money. I had just dropped a fortune. I hadn't told her for fear it would worry her. So—I put every thought out of my mind save thought for her. I ate, drank and slept business. Well—I won the money that brought her back—but I had lost her."

"She couldn't have understood," the girl said softly.

"No woman understands—" bitterly. "She is always the one misunderstood." The other winced. "That is why I said I'm cleared away now for a new romance."

He laughed suddenly, teasingly.

"And when I heard you say that you were ready to elope with any—"

She blazed at him:

"Jim Langley, you listened to every word I said to Doris!"

"It was a mighty lucky thing for you, Peggins, that I was the one. Jove, I have heart failure when I think of what might have happened to you in this hole of a place."

"But Jim, you said 'Sedgwick' as plainly as you could speak."

"Precious girl, I fairly shouted 'Cedric' where I've been stewing my head off until I happened to think that a little dumb-bell like you would—"

"Don't talk like a husband, not after—Jimmy, I didn't know you remembered the white dress . . . and you never even mentioned the baby—" He lifted her hand and pressed his lips into the palm. "Did you really love me as a bride best?"

"I'll answer that at dinner, Honey. It's five minutes to seven!"

Pepper From Far East

Pepper was a luxury until comparatively recent times. A man named Vasco da Gama was responsible for that. About the year 1500 he found a trade route to the Far East round the Cape of Good Hope, according to an authority in London Answers Magazine. Most of the world's pepper comes from the Far East. It is extracted from the dried berries of a vine-like plant. Vasco da Gama obtained for his native Portugal a monopoly of the pepper trade. The monopoly lasted until nearly the middle of the last century, and as late as 1830 the English had to pay a tax of 2s. 6d. a lb. Most people went without pepper in those days, or bought it from smugglers. Earlier still, about 400 A. D., pepper was so valuable that Alaric the Goth, after conquering Rome, demanded 3,000 pounds of it as an essential part of the city's ransom.

A Deserted Village

On the outskirts of the city of Gloucester, situated on Cape Ann, which juts out in the Atlantic some 30 miles northeast of Boston, is a lonely pasture strewn with rocks and boulders which over a hundred years ago was the site of a busy village. Why any human being should have chosen such a desolate, barren plain for their home, with all the wealth of Cape Ann's unrivaled beauty from which to pick a dwelling place, is an unsolved mystery. But here these vanished strangers lived, though it takes a sharp eye to detect the evidence of the existence of "Dogtown," as the deserted village is called.

Cool Organdy for Midsummer Dance

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

DURING midsummer moments when a high-registering thermometer gives promise that torrid weather has decided to prolong its stay even to the point of trespassing on the rights of autumn then is it that dainty cool lingerie frocks swing into the spotlight in all their glory.

Especially this season the craze seems not to have abated for frocks of simple, inexpensive, yet fine and lovely wash materials. The younger set adore the pretty dimities, organdies, dotted swisses for their party frocks and when they go away to school this fall many a college-faring girl will slip one or two of her summery wash frocks into her wardrobe trunk knowing full well that she will get any amount of wear out of them ere the cool fall days come upon us.

If you have never tried shadow print organdie for your midsummer-night party frock, do it now! You can get this lovely material in pastels or white and it makes up beautifully, and best of all it costs such a trifle compared with luxury-type weaves, while it "looks a million." The charming gown on the seated figure is made of white shadow print organdie and we venture to say when this gown dances hither and thither on the ballroom floor or under the stars at the country club it will be voted among the prettiest. The fact that it is picturesquely and fashionably full-skirted makes it all the more enchanting. The corsage of flowers in realistic coloring is in gay contrast thus adding another beguiling note.

Some there are who prefer statuesque slenderizing lines rather than bouffancy.

The princess gown to the left will tune to the liking of those who prefer the slim and tall silhouette. There is an exquisiteness expressed which reflects the new trend toward meticulous detail such as fine hand-tucking and myriads of wee self-material covered buttons such as fasten this princess all the way down the front. Here is really a very charming way to make up organdie if you like to be outstanding in distinctive dress.

It is not only that delightsome lingerie materials are favored for party frocks but the tendency all the way through the season is to wear dainty frilly blouses in the daytime of exquisitely fine cotton sheers, also prettily feminine neckwear and beguiling accessories—jabots, ruffled halter fronts and other such flattering items. With the approach of fall, tailored suits are coming out in full force and the fad of the moment is to wear with them the frilliest fluttery blouses that fancy might picture. Fine handwork is lavished on the high-quality types.

For these handmade blouses sheerest of fine white organdie or daintiest batiste or filmy handkerchief linen are first in favor. Popular too and heartily to be recommended are the attractive allover embroidered organdies that are definitely practical and pretty for the making of the blouse to be worn with one's jacket-and-skirt tailleur. It should by all means have a sprightly frill fashioned after the manner of the model pictured in the inset to the right. Trimmed with lace edging, as is this blouse, makes the effect all the more daintily feminine and alluring.

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SHIRRED JACKET

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

As if the new sheer woolens for fall were not attractive enough in themselves designers are making them even more so in the clever way they are manipulating them via elaborate shirrings, tuckings, stitchings, bandings and other intriguing workings. Sheerest navy wool makes this graceful costume. Its full cut jacket is fascinatingly shirred and banded. The frock itself, which is a slim one-piece, is also beautified with shirred bodice and slenderly fashioned skirt.

TIGHT SLEEVES ON FROCKS FALL STYLE

While the designers are draping blouses, lowering waistlines and straightening out the hemlines of skirts they also are cutting out the fullness of sleeves. Advance autumn fashions which forecast the coming season's mode have sleeves that are straight and tight. Absence of shoulder pleats is especially noteworthy and if any fullness does appear it is in the form of a drapery on the forearm.

Sleek satins are the fabrics which show off the new straight sleeves and slender skirts to best advance so the shiny fabrics are the first to show the changes of fashion. Look for them not only of perennial black but flaunting such colors as bright blue and purple.

Dressmaker Details That Class as Important News

The continued importance of embroidery is noted. Gold embroidery on black is much employed; also fanciful effects on the new silk frocks. Much favor is expressed for appliqued felt motifs on black silk crepe day dresses.

Dressmakers are making use of any amount of shirring and tucking and they delight in scalloped and sawtooth hemlines, thus trimming the dark silk sheers and crepes effectively. The skirts of the newest silk print frocks are frequently pleated or vertically tucked all around.

Lace-Trimmed Lingerie

Black lace as a trimming on lingerie is a prominent note in the summer season's offerings. It is contrasted with pastel shades, particularly blues, greens and yellows, and sometimes worn with all-black.

French People Lean on Dueling; Fists Are Regarded as Unfair

Private dueling in France is still a custom that persists after centuries, and there is a real reason for French dueling, not just a Heidelberg custom of giving the other fellow a scar on his cheek, but really settling a grave affair, writes a Paris United Press correspondent.

The cause of dueling is a legal one, according to J. Joseph-Renaud, who has officiated at many duels in France.

A man is insulted through an article which libels him, a slap in the face, or violation of the sanctity of the home. If a man were to bring a case of this sort to court he would receive perhaps 50 francs damages, rarely more, and the trial would make him a laughing stock. So he resorts to a challenge.

He finds two witnesses, usually his best friends, who call upon his insultor and present their demand for a public refutation. In most cases the opponent immediately turns the affair over to his two seconds. The four from then on handle the affair among themselves. They form a court of honor which discusses the terms of apology or retribution demanded. If they cannot reach agreement on some formula, the case has reached the stage of a duel. Ninety per cent of the cases are settled by the four seconds.

If the seconds have reached no agreement, they decide on a judge for the duel. Having found an experienced person whom all approve, the five then discuss terms of the duel. These terms are precise, and depend on the age of the combatants, the gravity of the insult, and the experience of the two duelists. The principle of dueling is that punishment with fists is not fair.

Enamel on Teeth Hard

Enamel on the teeth is the hardest tissue in the body.

What Women Want to Know About Fashions

Alix plays strong colors against white.

The redingote versus the short jacket offers a challenge in summer fashions.

A tailored hat for summer no longer is complete without some novel ornament.

Hats made of metal shavings are among the latest millinery creations from Paris.

There will be wide use of flowers, feathers and ornaments.

Black gowns of sophisticated simplicity prevail for day wear.

Recent tests indicate that straw is about the coolest possible material for a summer hat.

The trim little boutonnieres and nosegays which are being worn this summer must be discarded before autumn comes.

Ask Me Another?

A Quiz With Answers Offering Information on Various Subjects

1. What causes leaves to change color in autumn?
2. Who said, "It is much easier to be critical than to be correct"?
3. Which are the lightest birds in proportion to their size that fly?
4. There were how many signers of the Declaration of Independence?
5. What is the total number of war medals that have been given to soldiers? Which medal was most widely distributed?
6. Are car colors restricted in Japan?
7. When did Finland become an independent country?

Answers

1. Gradual formation of cells at the stem of the leaf finally shuts off the supply of chlorophyl, or green coloring matter, and starts the formation of the gaudy autumnal colors.

2. The expression was used by Benjamin Disraeli in the house of commons on January 24, 1860.

3. The birds with great powers of flight, such as the sea-gull, are the lightest birds to fly. The common gull weighs only a quarter of a pound. Its bones are hollow and filled with air.

4. There were 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence.

5. The total of medals on record at the War department is 1,543,721. The Victory medal, issued after the World war, is the most widely distributed.

6. In Japan only imperial household cars may be painted maroon, and no cars except hearses may be painted yellow, which to the natives signifies mourning.

7. Finland, which had been part of the Russian empire, declared its independence in December, 1917, after the Bolshevik revolution. It became a republic a year later, and was recognized in May, 1919, by the nations, including the United States, assembled at the Peace conference.

Favorite Recipe of the Week

Chocolate Wonder Frosting

3 ounces (1 pkg.) cream cheese
2 to 3 tablespoonfuls milk
2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar
2 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted
Dash of salt

Soften cream cheese with milk. Add sugar, 1 cup at a time, blending after each addition. Add chocolate and salt and beat until smooth. Makes enough frosting to cover 8 by 8 by 2-inch cake.

Smiles

In Line of Duty

Jones had occasion to reprimand his wife.

"I think," he said, soothingly, "that you fib a little occasionally."

"Well, I think it's a wife's duty. I spoke well of you."

ONE THOUGHT

Mollie—Weren't they married in a hurry?

Margaret—Yes, each was afraid the other would back out at the last minute.

Called upon at the wedding supper, the happy groom arose and said: "I'm—er—happy to say we've never—er—had a cross word in all our—er—married life."

Costly Knowledge

Pickpocket — I only took the gent's watch out of his pocket to know the time.

Judge—Well, I can tell you—twelve months.

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