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The Salad Woman

By CLARISSA MACKIE

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MARK LONSDALE sat down at the yellow painted table and looked with a bored and weary eye at the flocks of black geese that flew in triangles over the yellow walls. Geese everywhere, all sizes, but always black, either waddled up and down or flew across the walls. "Good huntin' here," he grinned to himself as a waitress approached. He rather expected her to be attired as the famous Goose Girl, and leading a black goose in leash, but she was just a plain everyday little waitress.

Mark studied the menu thoughtfully. He was lunching early, and his appetite was fickle.

"A salad—some tea—and you might bring me some cake."

"What kind of salad?" she asked.

"Something good, that's all," and he opened the magazine he had bought.

As he surveyed the delectable luncheon placed before him, Mark felt a pang of homesickness.

"May Appleby's own recipe," he thought, startled out of his weariness; "there's that trick of flavoring that she would never tell a soul—no one could guess what it was!" He leaned back in his chair and beckoned to the waitress.

"This salad," he tried to speak carelessly, but the matter was of such great importance to him that his voice shook, "this salad is very good."

She beamed upon him. "Yes, sir, it is one of our specialties."

"Of course it is made here—at the Black Goose?"

"Yes, sir."

"Perhaps it is the manager's own recipe?" he suggested.

"No, sir, we have a very good salad woman," she said primly and moved away. She thought the pale, stern young man was trying to flirt with her.

Mark ate the salad slowly, dwelling painfully on his one romance—a pitiable romance whose aroma was not that of rose or violet, the delicate pungency of a salad. But in the old days they had called it "Mayapple Salad," because May Appleby had contrived its peculiar deliciousness.

He had been on the point of asking May Appleby to marry him when business suddenly called him to the Far West. From there he had gone to British Columbia, and finally Alaska. He wrote letters to May and never had a reply. His own people wrote that Mr. Appleby had suddenly died, the family had scattered, and May and her mother had disappeared.

When Mark came home he went to the Appleby farm and found it in the hands of strangers. No one knew where May and her mother were at present, but they had "gone to the city," and as the city happened to be a very large one, Mark was still going through the needle-and-haystack experience.

At last the salad came to an end and a delicious chocolate layer cake was set before him.

"What is the name of the salad I have just eaten?" he asked.

She referred to the menu. "That is mayapple salad," she said, and hurried away.

Mark went out of the place in a daze. Somebody was making May's own particular salad, and he was a poor sleuth if he could not discover his love's whereabouts through the medium of that delectable dish. He knew that in the busy tea shop there was little chance of obtaining such information, but he did try the telephone in a nearby drug store.

"I am so sorry," trilled a sweet voice, "but Miss Appleby went home at eleven o'clock. Her home address?" a sudden congealing of the sweetness, "I am very sorry, but that is quite impossible."

"She will come tomororw morning," argued Mark doggedly, "and I will take my early stand in this drug store window even if I have to pay a rental for it—and I will wait until she does come!" Having made this threat he finished the day contentedly enough and slept wonderfully well for a harassed man. At seven o'clock the next morning he took his stand on the corner near the drug store, which did not open until eight. In the drug store it is a matter of history that he waited two mortal hours before he recognized a certain slim, erect form come swinging around the corner. His dash from the store was in record time, and he managed to catapult into May Appleby in front of the tea shop. The basket she carried went flying.

"Mark Lonsdale!" gasped Miss Appleby. "Why—Mark, you've upset my salad forever!" She bent over him as he picked up the basket and found the well-packed salad quite unharmed.

"May, do you love me?" he asked, desperately, after she had hurriedly explained her mother's mortified pride at their fallen fortunes had compelled their hiding themselves for awhile. "May, do you love me as much as I love you?"

"To ask such a question at such a time! Well, if you insist, Mark," she lowered her voice to a whisper and blushed rosily, "I don't know how much you care—but I do!"

If it had not been for the crowds on the sidewalk and the curious eyes looking from the tea shop, Mark would have embraced her then and there. "I will not kiss you now," he threatened, "if you will promise never to make mayapple salad for anyone except me!"

Red Light Easily Best for Signaling Purposes

It is ascertained from the bureau of standards, in the Department of Commerce, that the red light leads all the rest for signaling purposes, its visibility far outranging lights of any other color. A grasp of the truth now scientifically demonstrated of course accounts for the selection of red in the railroad service, on the highway and in theaters for the "danger" light. Its use in theaters and public halls, where it might suddenly become necessary for a crowd of people to seek safety through emergency exits, has been criticized on the ground that green, not red, is the "safety" light. But there is common understanding of the meaning of the red light when it marks a fire-exit, and the use of it to guide a panicky assemblage to safety is justified, inasmuch as for catching the eye there is no color so effective as red.

No departure from long customary traffic practice is to be expected as a consequence of the intensive study of signal lights, which the bureau of standards is making in co-operation with the national safety council, the railroads and highway organizations, although some difference in the shades of the colors now in use may be recommended. Green is scientifically proved to be a far second to red in visibility, yellow and blue following in order, concludes the Providence Journal.

Man Long Has Sought Dominion of the Air

The desire to conquer the air and emulate the birds is no modern fancy, but has agitated the minds of men mechanically inclined for ages. Records of a meeting of the Royal society, held in London, England, in 1679, give the information that "Mr. Hooke read a paper containing a description of the way of flying, invented and practiced by one M. Besnier, a smith, the contrivance of which consisted in ordering four wings folding and shutting to be moved by his hands before and his legs behind, by which he was, it was said, able to fly from a high place across a river to a pretty distance," the Montreal Star says. One of the members of the Royal society apparently cast some doubts upon the practicability of the invention. "Mr. Henshawe conceived that by reason of the weakness of a man's arms for such kind of motions, it would be much more probable to make a chariot or such like machine with springs and wheels, that should serve to carry one or more men in it to act and guide it."

Ivy Not Harmful

Ivy on the walls does not make a house damp. The leaves of the ivy act as tiny umbrellas to deflect much of the rain from the wall. Of that which reaches the wall, some would be absorbed by the rootlets of the ivy, so the net result would be to keep the wall dried. While it is true the ivy might prevent some of the water absorbed by the wall from evaporating quickly, yet this effect would be very small compared with the quantity of water screened off. A fair growth of ivy on sound walls that afford no entrance beyond the superficial attachment of the rootlets, or claspers, is very beneficial, as it promotes dryness and warmth and reduces to a minimum the corrosive action of the atmosphere.

Buttons Denote Rank

A button is worn on the headgear of Chinese officials, both civil and military, as a badge of rank. There are nine ranks, the first and highest being distinguished by a transparent red (ruby) button; the second by opaque red (coral); the third by transparent blue (sapphire); the fourth by opaque (lapis lazuli); the fifth by transparent white (crystal); the sixth by opaque white; the seventh by plain gold; the eighth by worked gold, and the ninth by plain gold with a certain character engraved upon it.

Bold Forgeries

The name "Ireland Forgeries" is given to certain Shakesperean autographs, private letters and plays, which a youth named Ireland claimed to have discovered, but which he had in reality forged. One of the plays, called "Vortigern," was produced at the Drury Lane theater, April 2, 1796, but proved to be a vapid and senseless production. Ireland soon after acknowledged the forgery and published his "Confessions" in 1805.—Kansas City Star.

Didn't Exhibit Themselves

The old gentleman was very fond of golf, but his play seemed to get worse and worse.

Finally, after missing the ball every time, he turned to his patient caddie and remarked: "Dear, dear! There can't possibly be worse players than myself."

"Well, perhaps there may be worse players," said the boy consolingly, "but of course they don't play!"

Color Blindness Permanent

Color blindness is not curable, and sometimes exists in eyes that are otherwise normal. It is found in 3 to 4 per cent of men and less than 1 per cent of women. It is particularly important that railway and marine employees do not have this defect, since the safety of the traveling public depends in a large measure upon the accuracy with which red and green signals are observed.

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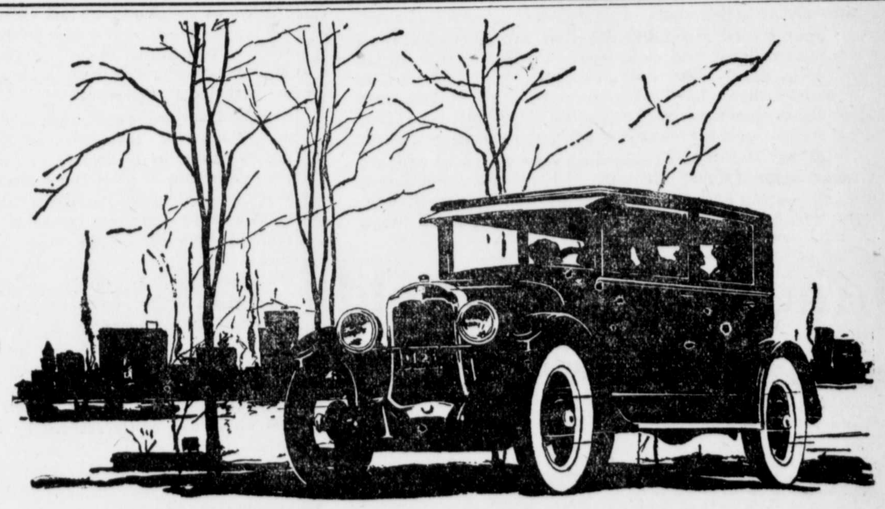
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