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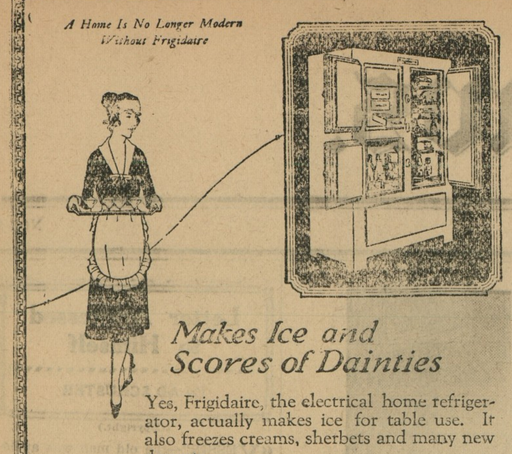

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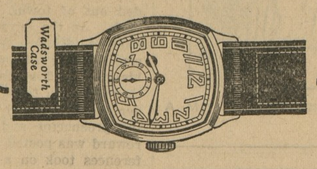

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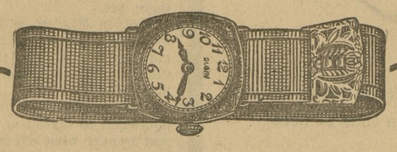

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What One's Fiance Is For

By DOROTHY DOUGLAS

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TOM GILBERT was always thankful that he had been standing in the doorway of his shop when the incident, just outside, took place.

He watched the girl, as he had many times watched her, while she put a great bundle of magazines in the mail box which was on the sidewalk just in front of his shop.

While Gilbert gazed at her, quite satisfied with her from the tips of her well-shod feet to the mass of red-gold hair, his expression suddenly darkened.

He saw a good-looking man approaching the mail box, most obviously intent on a flirtation with the girl.

Gilbert never knew exactly how it happened, but what he did see was the bundle of magazines bumped out of the girl's arms and a swift stooping of both the man and the girl to pick them up.

Apparently their heads came into violent collision for the girl crumpled into an unconscious heap on the sidewalk.

Gilbert didn't like the look on the man's face as he picked the girl up. Without a moment's hesitation Gilbert rushed out.

"See here, what's happened?" he questioned belligerently.

The other held firmly to the limp form of the girl.

"This young lady, a friend of mine, has bumped her head, that's all—no need to make a fuss about it," he said.

"Since the young lady happens to be engaged to me— I think we will make a fuss—give her to me at once!"

The stranger relinquished his burden.

"Oh, that's a different matter," he said with assumed politeness, and escaped from the quickly gathering crowd.

Gilbert scattered them all and carried the girl of his dreams tenderly into the shop and from thence to the big living-room behind, where his mother sat.

"She evidently got a nasty bump," said Gilbert, and gazed anxiously at the fluttering eyelids of the girl. "I don't know whether that dirty dog who tried to claim her did it deliberately or not—it looked mighty suspicious," he growled.

"There, there," said Mrs. Gilbert soothingly. "Don't be judging the man too harshly. Now you run along and mind the shop—she mustn't be frightened when she comes around—by so many people."

"Many people! Just you and me!" laughed Tom, but he obeyed instructions after a lingering glance at her.

"You're quite safe, my dear," said Mrs. Gilbert. "You had a bump on the mail box and you are in the shop just beside it." Did Mrs. Gilbert fancy it or did a light flush stain the girl's cheeks at mention of the shop beside the mail box?

"You are a dear, and how horribly silly of me to bump my head. I think I can stand now." She smiled into Mrs. Gilbert's eyes. "I'm so sorry to have put you to this trouble."

"It was no trouble. I am just thankful my son was looking out the window and—well, my dear, he fancies he rescued you from the clutches of a flirt—but don't breathe a word to him about it."

The blush was very evident now and Tom burst into the room to make inquiries just when it was at its height.

"Well, what a change from the little Pale Face I carried in, mother," he said joyfully.

Peggy Underwood looked up and held out a slim hand.

"It was very, very kind of you, she said sweetly with a swift shy glance at Tom. "And your mother has been so good to me. I am Peggy Underwood and have charge of the library just around the corner." She rose. "If you don't mind, I must rush back as there is no one in charge, but if I may I should love to come in this afternoon. I have an hour off at four."

"Good," said Tom. "I'll be here, too."

And when four o'clock came Mrs. Gilbert bustled about happily making tea. She loved young people and only hoped that Tom and this lovely girl would find happiness together.

It was a wonderful tea party in the big living-room and, when some one entered the shop, it was Mrs. Gilbert who arose to attend.

The man who entered was the one whom Tom considered a cad.

"Oh—I have just come in to inquire after the young lady your son is engaged to," he said, and noticed the surprise in Mrs. Gilbert's face.

But she was quite equal to the occasion. "She is all right now, thank you, and is having tea with us. Oh, Peggy dear," she called out, and Peggy appeared at the door. "This is the gentleman whose head came into collision with yours—he has called to see how you are."

"And to apologize. Your fiance rescued you from the hands of the villain," the man said and watched her closely. "He was a bit of a caveman about it, too."

Peggy cast a swift glance at Tom, who had followed close on her heels. There was not the flicker of one long, silky eyelash as she said softly, "Well—that is what one's fiance is for—isn't it?"

And Tom exchanged a broad grin with the mail box outside.

Karakul Mutton

The mutton of karakul sheep is said to be the most palatable of any breed, and the fat is also considered a delicacy by the Bokharans, being used by them instead of butter.

Roger Bacon's Error

Columbus was misled into discovering America by the false reasoning of Roger Bacon, who thought that there was only a small ocean between Europe and eastern Asia.

The Sandman Story

By Martha Martin

THE BARNYARD CONCERT

"SHRIEK, shriek," said Mrs. Goose.

"Shriek, shriek," yelled Mr. Gander.

"Let's go off by ourselves," said Mrs. Goose. "The others aren't good enough for us."

"True," yelled Mr. Gander. "They're not for us to bother about."

So the other geese did as Mrs. Goose and Mr. Gander suggested and went off by themselves.

"Cock-a-doodle-do, cock-a-doodle-do," said Red Top, the Rooster, "I have found a worm. First come, first served."

Red Top Got Up on a Stump and Crowed His Little Song.

Up hurried Miss Brown Hen, but then she saw an automobile going along the road and out she rushed to the road and ran across to the other side, hurrying before the automobile as fast as she could go.

"That was a foolish thing to do," said Mrs. White Hen, when Miss Brown Hen came back again.

"You were perfectly safe on this side of the road and you went away out of your way to rush across to the other," Mrs. White Hen added.

"I forgot that I was safe," said Miss Brown Hen. "I heard the tooting of that horn and I thought I must rush. That was my own idea."

"Well, I can't blame you much, if at all," said Mrs. White Hen. "That is the sort of thing I'd do, too."

But by this time Miss Fidgety Fashionable Hen had eaten the nice juicy worm, for she had been the first to get to it and Red Top had said:

"First come, first served."

So he had acted as he had said he would and had given the worm to the one who had reached him first.

"Cackle, cackle," said Miss Red Hen. "I am all a-flutter. There is going to be a barnyard concert tomorrow and I am going to sing a solo."

"Were you asked to sing a solo?" asked Miss Fidgety Fashionable Hen.

"No," admitted Miss Red Hen, "but I shall take my music along with me. Then when some one says:

"'Dear Miss Hen, won't you please sing?' I shall say I am quite out of practice, and really I don't believe I can, and that had I known I would be called upon I would have brought along a song or two.

"And then when I am urged still harder, I shall say:

"'Dear me, dear me, now isn't this fortunate? I've just discovered that under my right wing is a piece or two of music which I must have put there without thinking.'

"That is what I shall say."

"Who are getting up the concert?" asked Red Top.

"The Ducks," said Miss Red Hen.

"Well, I'm glad to know about it," said Red Top, "for I shall be prepared myself to crow.

"I know a splendid early morning bugle song which I made up myself not long ago, and it goes like this."

Red Top got upon a stump and crowed this little song:

Cock-a-doodle-do,
This I say to you,
Cock-a-doodle-do,
I also say this, too,
There's nothing very new
In my cock-a-doodle-do,
But oh how very few
Can cock-a-doodle-do.
It is the rooster's art,
From it he'll never part.
Cock-a-doodle-do,
Cock-a-doodle-do.

Well, the word got around the barnyard that there was going to be an entertainment and a concert the following day, and all the animals except the geese began practicing songs so they'd be all ready if they were called upon, and they did, indeed, hope they would be called upon.

And they all saw to it that they were called upon.

Maybe you would have said the barnyard concert was a very queer kind of a concert, but one thing they all did do—they all made a terrific barnyard noise.

So it was voted a great success!

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