Efficiency Did Not Show

By CORONA REMINGTON

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JOSEPHINE MACLANE took two soapy hands out of the dish water, dabbed them against her fresh gingham apron, picked up a stubby pencil and scratched off the last item on the list that hung just above the sink.

"Almost washed away," she said as she plunged back into the water and scanned the memorandum once more. "Then I guess I'd better gather the vegetables. It'll soon be so hot. Oh, dear, I wish—"

Josephine stopped short. She couldn't see why fate should have made her mother so frail and unable to carry her share of the load. Nor why, if her mother had to be frail, fate shouldn't have given them enough money to permit her hiring help, nor why she should have been the kind of girl that gets little attention from men. They were always nice to her, but they never sought her out and told her those lovely little nothings that girls adore. She was too practical—that was it—and men didn't like practical girls. They liked light and airy, fluffy girls, who could flirt and spend their lives in one endless round of parties and dances.

At this point in her musing Josephine glanced at her reflection in the distorted little cheap mirror, also over the sink, and saw a rather serious oval face with big brown eyes that seemed to hold a perpetual question, and soft brown hair, knotted severely at the nape of her pretty neck.

The face was almost Madonna-like in its sweet simplicity—even she could see that. But heavens! men don't like that sort of thing! They want ruffles and fluff and jazz. Josephine laughed almost harshly as she pondered over these things.

It was getting late and so much to do yet. Soon it would be dinner time, and she must be punctual today, for Mr. Waring, their one boarder, taken on to help with the grocer's bill, might revolt. He had been so patient—never a murmur of complaint. He had been with the Maclanes for over three months recuperating from an almost fatal attack of pneumonia, and never once had he made a single complaint. At the thought of him, Josephine's face clouded. There it was again; he was simply the nicest man she had ever known, but his manner toward her was as impersonal as if she'd been the coal hod or the cook stove or any other bit of kitchen furniture. Often he'd even come out in the kitchen and help her serve the meals and laugh and joke with her, but never a single little thing like:

"Oh, you look so tired. Let me do it while you sit down," or "Come on, let's take a walk after supper, won't you?"

Why shouldn't he like her a little bit? She wasn't fluffy enough. That was it—bitterly.

Then if that's what all men want, why not give it to them? At first the idea seemed so preposterous that Josephine felt as if it were some one else daring her to try it, but as she thought it over it seemed more and more reasonable. Why shouldn't she look as pretty as possible?

With feverish eagerness she hurried through dinner and the dishes afterward, then rushed upstairs to experiment. For an hour she worked over her hair, and the result was worth while. She was prettier and softer looking and more girlish—more feminine, she decided at last. That was the word that exactly covered it. Then she put on her one little frilly organdie dress that a cousin had sent her and that she had been keeping for great occasions. The effect was amazing. As she pirouetted in front of the mirror she smiled at her own reflection.

"If you weren't Josephine Maclane I'd think you were awfully pretty," she said.

At supper that evening Bill Waring stared at Josephine as if he had never seen her before.

"You—you're lovely," he said, quite naturally. "But why so dressed up?" he laughed.

"Oh, not so awfully dressed up," she answered. "Lately I haven't had time to take care of myself," glibly, "and this morning I just decided to turn over a new leaf, if the dust got knee deep in the house."

It was a fib, but there were some things that the other sex simply must not know.

"Good for you! Just to celebrate the new leaf, let's take a walk after supper. I'll help wash the dishes."

It was the day of days for Josephine. The evening was cool and fragrant, with the moon casting a light of mystery over all. The man by her side was quiet, but it was a pleasant quiet—the quiet of congeniality.

"Do you know, Josephine," he said after a while, "you're the girl of my dreams? You're sweet and feminine and womanly, yet you're not light and flippant and empty-headed. You're efficient, but it doesn't show."

Josephine laughed a happy laugh.

"What a funny idea—efficient but it doesn't show."

"I mean it. So many capable women are bossy and dictatorial and severe looking. You know the type, but you're—you're—" he swept her into his arms. "You're adorable," he said, breathlessly.

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	7.25	.....FREDERICKALSBURG.....		7.45	
	8.00	.....DENTON.....		7.05	
	8.20	.....GREENSBORO.....		6.45	
	8.30	.....GOLDSBORO.....		6.35	
	8.45	.....INGLESIDE.....		6.20	
	9.00	.....SUDLERSVILLE.....		6.05	
	9.15	.....CHURCH HILL.....		5.45	
	9.30	Ar.....CHESTERTOWN.....Lv.		5.30	
4.15	9.35	Lv. .....CHESTERTOWN.....Ar.	10.40	5.25	
4.30	9.50	.....FAIRLEE.....	10.25	5.10	
4.40	10.00	Ar.....TOLCHESTER.....Lv.	10.15	5.00	
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READ DOWN				READ UP
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	10.15	Lv.....TOLCHESTER.....Ar	4.40	
	10.25	.....FAIRLEE.....	4.30	
	10.40	Ar.....CHESTERTOWN.....Lv.	4.15	
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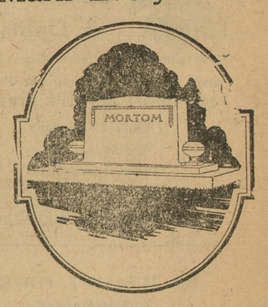
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