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Mr. and Mrs. Sallie ... being the Confessions of a new wife ... Illustrated by Paul Robinson ... Gladys Baker

A Dream Shattered In my own delight over the picturesque appearance the house presented after it was completely furnished, I had failed to notice that Curtis was not over-enthusiastic about it and not until the next morning at breakfast did I ask him what he thought of my taste in interior decoration.

"I don't want to hurt your feelings, honey," he said kindly, "and I had resolved not to say anything about your selections, but since you have asked me, I'll be absolutely frank about it. The house is pretty and dainty, but there isn't a thing in it that is practical or usable or that will last for more than a few months at the longest."

"Why, what do you mean by that?" I demanded.

"Well, for instance, the bed I slept in last night is just about four inches shorter than I am and I had to sleep all night in a cramped position. In the first place I wouldn't have recognized it for a bed, if you hadn't told me; with the foot-board gone the blankets wouldn't stay put and in the winter it will be impossible to keep them tucked in at the bottom and if last night is a sample, I guess I'll be pretty uncomfortable during the cold weather."

"Well, what else is wrong?" I questioned, "you said there wasn't anything in the house that wasn't silly."

"No, I didn't say that, dearest, but well, take those chairs in the living room, for instance. They're too small heavy. They'd be all right for a girl's tea party, but, my idea of a place to sit is in a big, he-chair with lots of room and nice squashy cushions." He hesitated.

"Go on," I prompted, "you might as well finish."

"Well, there isn't a man living who doesn't want a decent light to read by," he continued.

"But there's one by every chair," I interrupted.

"Yes, I believe there is, but such dinky, fluffy little things that they don't give as much light as a candle—and, speaking of candles reminds me that I want to SEE when I'm eating. You had the chandelier removed in the dining room and those candles last night made my dinner worse than a cross-word puzzle."

"Please be reasonable," I pleaded, "glaring electric lights are not artistic honey, and besides, I love candlelight—it's so romantic," I concluded.

silence. "What did all this fol-de-rol cost any way? Not a great deal, I shouldn't imagine."

"Monsieur Simonia promised to keep it under eight thousand."

"Ye Gods, Sallie! I told you to consult Letitia Evans. She told me she had furnished houses this size before and she mentioned half that figure. I've seen some of her places too, and they're real homes—not—CHINA CLOSETS!"

Thus our first meal ended—the first meal in our own little home about which I had woven romance, and poetry and beauty. In that moment I realized that it was the cruelty of little things in married life that caused heartache and misunderstanding.

If Curtis had come to me with blood on his hands and announced that he had committed murder I could have forgiven him and known that he was justified—whatever the reason. But that he should criticize and even ridicule my painstaking efforts to make his home attractive—was, in itself, a savage unkindness. He used diplomacy in his friendships and in business—and yet in dealing with me he had been brusque to the point of rudeness. Slowly my disappointment grew to anger. He had no right to tear down my illusions and be impolite to me—even if we were married.

I stood facing him.

"Your tirade against the things I bought for our home has been inexcusable!" I flung at him. "For weeks I've done nothing but work and plan and scheme and wear myself out getting everything ready. I bought each little chair and table with the enthusiasm of love in my heart—all the time thrillingly interested in making a love-nest for us to be happy in together. And what appreciation from you do I get for it? None at all except to be reminded that Letitia Evans could have done it much better. I hate that 'I-told-you-so' attitude, Curtis. And you know it. If you were not pleased with some of my selections couldn't you have told me so with more tact and consideration? I'll wager if you had been dealing with Letitia Evans you would have been more thoughtful. Besides I'm tired of hearing about her, I tell you. It's 'Tish' this and 'Tish' that—as if she were perfect! If you don't like the furniture I've chosen you can break it up—or give it away—do anything with it you like—but I won't

and you see I've known her since she was almost an infant." He hesitated—then smiled sheepishly. "Well, what's on your mind? Go on. Tell me. Is it something else about Letitia?" I had regained my composure.

"Yes, as it so happens, it is," he came across the room and patted my cheek affectionately, "I ran across her yesterday and she seemed so interested in the new house that I invited her to come over tonight for the housewarming. I knew you wouldn't mind, sweetheart, and."

"Yes?" "She accepted."

(Continued next week)

DISCUSSE COLORS FOR BEDROOM WALLS

And Other Decorations in These Portions of the House; Talk By Dudley Warner

Yellow and violet and lavender colors are most suitable for bedrooms, was the message Dudley Crafts Watson gave to a large audience in Fullerton Hall recently in his series of talks on home decoration. The lavender shades have restful qualities and induce repose.

Armenian mothers are aware of this quality and hang lavender curtains before the cribs of their children that they may drift the more easily into the land of dreams. The speaker paid a tribute to the present styles of bedroom furniture, saying that it was the most perfect made, because it suggests its proper use. The beds, the highboys, the dressers, the chests, are all suggestive of the purpose for which they are designed.

The speaker approved of painted furniture for the bedrooms, with cream colored woodwork, with drapes of a light lavender or violet. Some Chicago apartment house bedrooms are about the size of steamer state rooms, but however small they may be they should be provided with good closets—preferably large enough to be used as dressing rooms, with plenty of space for hanging garments. A closet for mother and one for father will save a world of family trouble.

Speaking of the living room Mr. Watson said that rose was the proper color, and blue for the dining room. Whoever invented the gas log was a genius and the man who sold it

should be given the palm for salesmanship, for no more useless thing could possibly be sold. A party of bridge players would never be able to finish their evening if the gas log was lit because they would be put to sleep before the game was finished.

Rocking chairs are an American concoction. They are scarcely known in Europe, and where in France for instance they have been introduced it is due to American influence. In Spain one encounters the American sewing machine and in every Spanish home there is hung in some conspicuous place a large picture—a reproduction of the Singer Sewing Machine building in New York. They have come to regard this building as the Capitol of the United States.

OBSERVANT PUPIL

The school teacher, in trying to explain the meaning of the word "slowly," illustrated it by walking across the floor.

When she asked the class to tell her how she walked, she nearly fainted when little Mabel shouted, "Bow-legged!"—Pathfinder.

ARTISTS SEEKING FOR NEW BEAUTY

Continually Making Effort to Find New Paths, As Are Other Workers

As workers in the field of science, in the field of medicine, in the field of commerce, are ever seeking new paths to explore that they may add to the sum total of human accomplishments, so artists are ever seeking new beauty, new results, new designs, that they may do their share toward making this old world of ours a more interesting place to live in. While painters, beginning with the Impressionists, were breaking away from the old traditional schools, the decorative designers were also staging a revolt of their own. In Paris in 1900 the new movement appeared in the work of the jeweler Lalique, in the glass of Galle, in the ceramics of Delaherche, and in the creations of the Bing establishment. Since then it has gained momentum year by year, finally culminating in the International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Art, re-

cently held in Paris. From this unique exposition a selected collection of objects has been chosen by the American Association of Museums and is now being shown in the East Wing Galleries of the Art Institute. Here, one may see unique designs in almost every conceivable article of interior furnishings, hangings, rugs, decorative bronzes, bath room, living room, dining room, and library furniture, lighting fixtures, table ware, ornamental screens and panels, prints and printed fabrics, hardware fixtures and ironwork, books and bindings, and many other unusual objects.

SMALL-TOWN STOMACHS

Stomach customs in small towns are very interesting. I have noticed, says Will Rose in the May Scribner's Magazine, that at the social evenings of the Kitchen Bible Class—do you catch the name?—mixtures of hot dogs, buns, dill pickles, sweet-potato salad, limburger cheese, cider, coffee, pumpkin pie, and ice-cream make up a gastronomic conglomeration taken without a wince or a wrinkled brow of inquiry. We have three doctors, but two others have already retired.

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"That's all right, Sallie, in novels, but I want a real home, a comfortable place to live in. The deuce with all this sham and pretense. I won't sacrifice comfort to being aesthetic. And," he hurried on, determined evidently to point out all the defects, "once he had started, 'look at this table! The darn thing's sticking.' He referred to my adorable gate-leg table that I had found in an antique shop and had paid a fancy price to have redecorated. 'If you'd bought it from a regular furniture store instead of that darn Frenchman the paint would have been hard and drylike varnish. And those benches that you've got in the dining room, instead of chairs to sit on. Our guests will have a back-ache for a week after one of our dinners. I'd rather bring in a normal kind of chair from the kitchen. At least they'd enjoy the meal better.' He ate for a few moments in

stand for being criticized—and," my voice broke—"being stormed at—and told about Letitia Evans!" "Don't be unjust now Sallie," he replied to my vehement accusations, "it's silly your bringing Tish into this business. She has nothing to do with it, except to offer her services—it isn't like you to be so unappreciative. I'm sorry I was so outspoken this morning. But, although you women don't know it, men too, have some ideas about the sort of things they want about a house they're going to live in. For the main part it doesn't matter but there are just a few things that I had always sorta pictured in a home of my own and when I didn't find any of them, I was—well, a little, disappointed. But I apologize Sallie," he hurried on, "you have worked hard to get the things assembled and I didn't have to be so frank about it. But please don't bring in Tish honey, because she is a real friend of yours