THE LIBERAL SHORT STORY

CHAMPAGNE FOR THREE By Elita Wilson

Patricia said, picking up her bag you," Mrs. Thayer said wistfully. "I Newport next month." and gloves. "And if you take my had such a wonderful time at your advice, Gerry, you'll keep your eyes age. Europe every summer, Florida open for a rich husband instead of in the winter. It doesn't seem fair."

looking for a job." making twenty dollars a week and she had asked Patricia to meet her. that isn't a drop in the bucket. Col- The waiter came over and removed er!' lege graduates are a dime a dozen her empty glass. in this town. Keep your chin up, "The young gentleman over at the youngster. With a face like yours bar would like to buy you a drink," you won't have any trouble."

slumped disconsolately in her chair. gentleman" was smiling. Some Patricia was undoubtedly right. A nerve! year with an employment agency had given her a true picture of the situation in the city. Marriage probably was the best solution.

With that thought her eyes again tini." met those of the good looking chap at the bar whom she had earlier discovered watching her as he sipped his scotch and soda. This time he was whispering to her waiter.

Gerry swept the fashionable cocktail lounge, gay with a smart assemblage of debs and young-menwho-work in Wall Street and wondered when she would see the inside of the place again. Only this morning her mother and she had sat down together in the small quarters they received in exchange for Mrs. Thayer's services as housekeeper of a fashionable Park avenue apartment, and faced the fact that it was up to Gerry to go to work.

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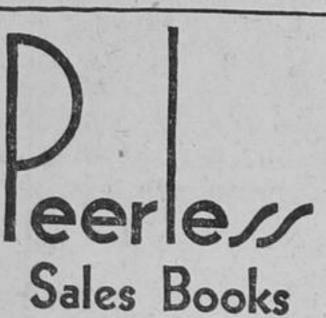
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ORDERS TAKEN AT THE LIBERAL OFFICE

All day Gerry had been trying to "It will be a year before you're figure out some way. That was why will pretend that that is our home?

he said.

Now Patricia was gone and Gerry Gerry's head shot up. The "young

"Bring me my check," she said crisply, reaching for her purse. Then, on a sudden impulse, added: "And tell the gentleman I'll have a mar-

Her eyes were smiling as she turned them back to the bar. The waiter nodded discreetly and drew out a chair-and then Gerry was looking into the nicest pair of eyes and trying to accept the situation with poise and casualness.

didn't try to be properly introduced,"

"I'm Stephen Winslow. Want the ese lamp.

"Not necessary," Gerry declared. er. "I know all about you. Your father has a brokerage house and he's in Europe. Your sister was married in June. I read the papers. You rowed that Gerry had said. on the Harvard crew in 1933.."

glasses.

at her wrist watch.

must go."

Winslow called for the cheque. As said as Gerry and she sat down. drew back.

"Oh you needn't take me home." He left them. Gerry reached over distance. I'll walk."

you will have dinner with me?" "I'll. I'll meet you at the Waldorf dear," she said.

will dress?"

8 b'clock."

"Of course. Now I must go- her eyes." looking curiously after her. At the doorway. corner she turned and waved.

With troubled eyes, Mrs. Thayer manded. listened to Gerry's account of her meeting with young Winslow. At no sound came from his lips. wiser to tell him the truth."

think I'm a fortune hunter. No we sternation turned to surprise. have got to figure out something

Winslow bowed to friends but seem- ed hand. "This is a surprise. I ed anxious to keep Gerry to himself: didn't expect you back for weeks. nevver see him again this will be a offer to let me use the apartment." night to remember."

Stephen drew her closer and said "She is the-" softly: "I wish this night never had | "Yes-she is the housekeeper here.

Gerry had known was inevitable sud- John?" denly was staring at her They were him her address. When he had re- Newport in the morning after a con-

back and asked curiously: "Have you lived there long?" "Oh about two years. That is my

Maybe you know them-" Gerry's heart contracted. "I don't me. Come, mother."

know any one there," she interrupt-

all your life and never know them." time that I knew everything about Before he let her out of the cab you ever since our first meeting." he took her hand and said whimsically: "At this stage Emily Post lowed you home the other day. I

young man to call." smiled but it was the brave smile that way. Gerry, look at me." Unof one who is facing certain disas- willingly Gerry lifted her eyes and

want you to meet my mother." Mrs. Thayer met her at the door. "Little lunatic," he laughed softwants to call."

this friendship?"

er's arms. "That's just it," she cried. proposed with his mother-in-law "I do. Don't think I'm silly, mother looking on. Look! Your mother is -but I love him. Love can come on my side, Gerry!"

like that-all at once can't it?"

"It came that way to me," Mrs. Thayer answered quietly, "and it was "Now I've really got to be going," | "It's not what I had planned for apartment until they return from ful golden hair. As he gazed at her "The Frasers?"

> "They have the penthouse, exquisitely furnished. I have the keys ... " Gerry's face brightened. "And we

Oh, mother you're a miracle work-At 8.30 the telephone rang. Mr.

Winslow was calling. "Send him up," Gerry instructed. She hurried out of the small suite and was waiting at the elevator

when it reached the top floor. "I came to show you the ropes," Gerry smiled brightly, taking Winslow by the hand. She led him to the small self-running elevator that served the penthouse occupants. He appeared to hesitate. "Come on," Gerry laughed. "It's safe enough."

They entered and she pushed the button. "Next time you can do it | yourself," she said.

The door slid open. They stepped into a large foyer decorated with exquisite murals. They went into a drawing room where carpets muf-"Well, nobody can say that we fled the sound of their footsteps. Gerry's mother in a dinner gown-Gerry laughed. "I'm Geraldine relic of better days - was reading by the soft glow of a priceless Chin-

"This is Stephen Winslow, moth-

The mother measured the young man as she acknowledged the introduction. Yes, he seemed to be all

The evening was all that mother "And I'm twenty six, have no en- and daughter had wished for. Wintanglements and right at this mo- slow talked interestingly of his spring ment I'm having a perfectly swell trip to China. Then the three of time-thanks to you." They clinked them went into the big dining room where the table was gleaming with Suddenly Gerry noticed that the the Frasers' best linen and silver. crowd had thinned out. She glanced In a wine bucket was the champagne. chilled to just the right temperature.

"It's six thirty!" she exclaimed. "I "I'm afraid you will have to open it, Mr. Winslow," Mrs. Thayer

they emerged onto Madison evenue | "Then I'll take it to the pantry," he beckoned to a taxi, but Gerry he laughed. "I once decorated our ceiling with champagne."

she said quickly. "It's only a short and squeezed her mother's hand but Mrs. Thayer put a warning finger "Then I'll walk with vou. Maybe to her lips and picked up the salad fork and spoon, "Pass your plate,

later," she suggested desperately. "At | "Gerry picked up the plate but it | never reached her mother's hand. In-"Eight o'clock," he nodded. "You stead, it went crashing to the floor as she half rose fear staring out of

really." She knew that after she A man, who had entered the aparthad hurried off he was standing there | ment unheard was standing in the

"What does this mean?" he de-

Mrs. Thayer tried to answer but

last she said: "Perhaps it might be At that moment Stephen Winslow came out of the pantry. The strang-"Never!" declared Gerry. "He'll er looked up quickly, then his con-

"Uncle John!" Stephen cried setting the bottle down and going to-They dined on the Starlit Roof. | ward the older man with outstretch-From the Roof they went to one of I want you to meet my guests, Mrs. the smartest night clubs. As they Thayer and her daughter, Gerry. You danced, Gerry kept thinking: "If I see I took Aunt Emma up on her

"I have met Mrs. Thayer," said And as if echoing her thoughts Fraser, bowing but not unbending.

And we are just having a bite of But it did. And now the moment supper. Won't you join us Uncle l

"Thanks, but I think I will turn getting into a taxi. She had to give in," he smiled. "I'm returning to

peated it to the driver he settled ference. Make yourself at home." When he was gone, Gerry jumped up and ran around to Stephen.

"If this is your idea of a prank, mother has. I've been away at col- then I hope you've had your fun. Personally I think-I think it was "I know people in that building. pretty cruel of you. You could have told me you knew about mother and

"Gerry," he said earnestly, "I never meant to hurt you. I didn't know "That's New York," he laughed. my uncle was coming home. I wasn't "You can live next door to people going to let you know for a long

"I asked the doorman after I folsays the young lady should ask the felt it was all a lark with you and that I might never see you again. "You didn't give me time," Gerry I couldn't let you go out of my life ter. "Come next Friday evening. I when Stephen saw the hurt in them he caught her to him.

"You needn't tell me," she said. "He ly. "Don't you know that when a fellow loves a girl the way I love The mother caught her daughter's you it doesn't matter where or how hands. "Tell me, dear, does he mean she lives? That nothing matters to something to you? If we weren't in him as long as he gets her? Right such a desperate plight would you from the start I loved you because still want something to come out of you were different from the other Park avenue brats. Say, I'll bet this Gerry flung herself into her moth- is the first time a fellow has ever

POOR ENCOURAGEMENT

THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY.

He had been trying all evening to summon the courage to tell her. It a beautiful experience. But now you was a thing that really required a mustn't worry because I have a plan. great deal of intrepidity. She was The Frasers won't be occupying their his ideal. Slim, brown-eyed, beautihe finally made up his mind.

"Darling," he said, "I love you. If I asked you to be my wife, what would be the outcome?"

"It depends," came the reply, "very much on the income."

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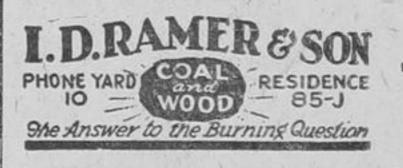
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