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Alicia Hammerly A Woman Who Wouldn't Remarry

By Edith McGee Gibson
The Novel Writer

Alicia Gets A Surprise

Hal's exclamatory, "What!" told me that he had secured neither a drawing room or compartment, and here I was in a much be-ruffled, shell pink negligee covered with a motor coat,—nice sort of togs for a wedding journey. What would he think of me?

I suppressed a sob, because I knew that Hal recognized how near to tears I was, and I didn't want him to think I was snobbish and must travel that way.

"Alix, I never thought of getting a drawing room. I never rode in one in my life," he said. "And we can't begin on that scale of living now. I lost my position the other day, and if I had had a job with him, I'm afraid there would have been no wedding bells for us."

"Oh, why didn't you tell me, why didn't you tell me, Hal. Surely you ought to know I could wait. Would not it have been better to put off our marriage?"

"Fraid of marrying a poor man, Alix?" And again Hal's face changed and I trembled as I saw a sneering man I did not know at all.

"No, dear, but I would have done a little differently had I known. We need not have had a big wedding, a satin wedding gown and other things which I probably will have no use for now." While I spoke I thought, "That newspaper reporter was right. I shall have to live with Hal's people."

A picture of his mother rose up before me. Almost panic stricken, I realized how different Hal's mother was from mine. I had never been taught how to keep house or any of the things which a girl marrying a poor man ought to know.

I felt that Hal's mother would expect me to know all about the different things to do about the house, almost as well as she, who had had thirty years of it as housekeeper. Hal had told me that his father and mother had begun life in very poor circumstances and that his mother had learned in the great school of economy how to make one dollar go as far as two.

In the two or three days I had spent at their house, it seemed to me that there was nothing comfortable in the whole place. It seemed to me that everyone there seemed bent on the most parsimonious economy in everything.

One of my visits to Hal's home was in the winter, and Hal's mother would not permit none of the windows to be opened for fear that some warmth of the room would be dissipated and so make it necessary to use perhaps a little more coal. The bath towels were also distributed with great care, and one bath in several days was looked upon as all that was necessary to keep one next to godliness. One's table napkin was

made to do for more than even one day's service and a spot on the table cloth was more than an accident—it was a catastrophe.

I decided at that time that I could not live in that kind of a house, even as the wife of Hal, whom I loved so devotedly. "I would rather die," I said to myself as I returned home after a visit to my own dear parents' cozy home—so full of sunshine and comfort—yes, one might as well own up—extravagance and irresponsibility.

"I think I could have stretched a point dear, if I had realized that you wanted a drawing room so much, but it had never entered my mind that you would care a whoop about it!" Hal said interrupting my thoughts.

"Oh, I don't, I don't, Hal dear," and the tears began to stream down my face.

"Then what are you crying about? and an ugly little tone crept into his voice.

"Well, you see, the housekeeper seemed to think that you had engaged a drawing room or compartment and she suggested that, with my crippled foot, it would be well for me to wear my motor coat over my negligee and I would be all comfy when I got in the car. And now, what am I going to do?"

Hal laughed.

I looked up quickly through my tears. I sometimes think that one of the reasons that a man decides a woman has no sense of humor is because things she regards as tragedy, he always regards as a joke. I certainly could see no reason for laughing at my predicament, and I was not mollified even when Hal pulled me over to him again and smiling down in my face, said:

"Why, dear, can't you wear your motor coat in the dining car? Any way, that meddling old woman must have put your traveling clothes in a suitcase. I'll have the porter take it into the dressing room and you can do yourself up as much as you like for our first public appearance as bride and groom. I suggest that we go right into the diner, and get all settled before the crowd comes in."

I acquiesced at first although I knew that I was going to be very uncomfortable. I wondered if Hal was going to make all our arrangements through life without consulting me, and I began to get a little stubborn. Some of the things that I had read in newspapers about "beginning right when you were first married" came to my mind.

Finally I said: "If you don't mind Hal, I will change my mind as well as my dress. You know how hot the cars usually are, and I really feel uncomfortable in this motor coat, even in this cab."

Tomorrow—The Wedding Journey.

Hot Cross Buns for sale at Model Bakery. Good Friday, March 25.

Movie Closeups

Those who enjoy the silent drama in its most popular form will find a feature patterned to their taste in "Colorado" being presented at the Antlers theatre tonight with Frank Mayo as the star. This photodrama has its first local showing tonight and will undoubtedly please a large audience who are attracted by this favorite star and will be delighted by his splendid vehicle.

"Colorado" was a huge success on the stage a few years ago. It is the work of Augustus Thomas, foremost of American playwrights, and one of that series of state plays which included "Alabama," "Arizona," "Missouri" and several others. In making the screen adaptation of "Colorado" Wallace Clifton has brought the story up to the minute.

In the role of Frank Austin, alias Lieutenant Hayden, who thinks he has deserted from the army to save a woman's good name, and who tries to carve a new career for himself in the mining country of Colorado, Mr. Mayo has one of the most interesting roles of his career. It is eminently suited to his robust, manly, character and gives him opportunity to use all the skill he possesses. Alone on the desert he saves the life of an old man, who takes him to the home and shows him a new path to happiness. The man's daughter wins the fugitive's heart, and he is under a cloud, is unable to tell her of his own great love for her.

Gloria Hope as the girl gives another one of those sympathetic characterizations which screen fans always expect of her. Leonard Clapham so popular in the Red Rider stories, here plays the part of the villain, while his partner in crime in the story is Charles LeMayne. Rosa Gore and Dan Crimmine have comedy roles, Charles Newton is the father, Lillian West is the wife and other parts are well played. The splendid direction is credited to Reeves Easton.

Fatty Arbuckle in the screamingly funny comedy, "The Life of the Party," that delighted a large crowd at the Antlers theatre last night will be the attraction at the Majestic theatre best in this picture.

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See Marion Schwarz in "The Huntress," Liberty theatre, March 22nd, 7:30 p. m. Admission 25c.

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