#### Won by a Dinner

By DELIA V. AMES

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Edgar Borland, though a bachelor, was a sufferer from the servant question. He lived alone in apartments, a cook and a maid respectively providing his meals and taking care of his rooms. He had told the maid that she must be in by 11 o'clock at night, and she had departed. He had carelessly left a bottle of 1865 brandy unlocked, and this had deprived him of his cook, for she had drunk it all, and it was necessary to remove her. Mr. Borland's stomach was very delicate and could stand nothing but home cooking.

Mr. Borland that morning had taken his breakfast in his room-a boiled egg, which was the extent of his own culinary accomplishments. He had gone without his luncheon and was now ruefully wondering what he should do for dinner. He caught sight of his face in a mirror and there saw a sour, dyspeptic look that made him shiver. At that moment the bell rang He opened the door. There stood a young woman decorated with a widow's cap, holding by the hand a little girl of five.

"Is this my flat?" asked the lady. "I wish it were," replied Borland rue-

"But isn't it?"

"I hold a lease of it."

"What floor is this?" "The sixth."

"East or west suit?"

"East" "There! I told you so! That's the flat I leased from today, Oct. 1."

Mr. Borland stood thinking. It occurred to him that he had said something to the agent about giving up his apartments, but nothing definite. "Madame," he said, "can you cook?"

"Yes. But what has that got to do with it?"

"I'm hungry. If you wish to get anything out of a man never make the attempt while his stomach is empty. Come in here and cook me a dinner and we'll talk about who is the lessee of the apartments afterward."

"The very thing. I haven't had a bite since breakfast, and my little girl is starving. We are to move early tomorrow, and our present quarters are in a horrible condition."

Mr. Borland had plenty in his larder, so there was nothing for the widow to do but go into the kitchen, open the icebox and take out the principal viands for a dinner. Borland took the little girl into his library, selected books with pictures for her and left her immured in them. Then he went to a closet and took out a bottle of wine, and the lady in the kitchen heard that sound, agreeable at any time, but especially so before dinner, the drawing of a cork.

Presently the lady in the kitchen opened the door leading into the dining room for the purpose of going in to set the table. Borland was placing

"Anything wanting?" he asked, looking at her doubtfully.

"Only napkins, forks, salt and pep-

per and plates for the salad." "That reminds me-do you like may-

onnalse?" "I prefer it to all other kinds of

dressing."

"Very well. I'll make a mayonnaise. That's the only thing in the preparation of food that I can do well, and I do that to perfection."

By the time the dressing was finished the dinner was ready. The widow placed it on the table. Borland put some books on a chair to make a higher seat for the little girl, and the host and cook took seats opposite each other. As Borland began to eat the sour, dyspeptic look left his face, his eye brightened and a smile hovered upon his lips. Filling the lady's glass, he raised his own to his lips and held it poised, while he said:

"I drink to the best dinner I've eaten in years and to the most accomplished chef. Your health, Mrs."-

"Greenough." "The devil!"

"I said Greenough."

"What Greenough?"

"Edith Sherman Greenough or Mrs. James C. Greenough, whichever you "The devil!" repeated Borland, set-

ting down his glass, rising from his seat, lenning over the table and grasping the widow's hand. "Not at all: Edith Greenough."

"Jim Greenough's widow! By Jove! What a coincidence!" "You are"-

"Edgar Borland." My husband's bosom "What! friend?" "The same."

"Oh. dear! Isn't it funny?" "Funny! Why, your coming here at all was a godsend to me, but your being my old chum's widow is delightful. My servants are gone, and I was

"How pleasant for me too. I hate restaurants. I was expecting to go to bed on crackers and cheese.'

"Rather a hard bed to sleep on." When the dinner was finished Borland lighted a cigar and said:

"Well, I decline to vacate." The widow looked surprised.

"I will give you the lease if you like, but you must keep me as well."

Nevertheless Borland moved out the next morning, and the widow moved in. But he moved back again within six months as Mrs. Greenough's husband. He says that he was won by a sinner, and he admits he needed the dinner badly.

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