

# Hunting a House

By FRANK H. WILLIAMS.

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Wilson jangled the big bunch of keys as he inserted one of the number into the lock of a door on a large empty house, turned the key and threw the door open.

"Step in, Miss House Hunter For Another," he exclaimed, with a magnificent wave of his hand.

Dorothy White laughed as she entered.

"I only hope Bertha likes the house we pick out for her," she replied. "Bertha's the first prospective bride I ever knew that couldn't find time to go house hunting herself. And Jo is just as bad. It's a wonder to me they ever found time enough to decide to get married."

"While we," assented Wilson, "not only have time enough to investigate innumerable dwellings for them, but also have so much leisure that we could get married several times if we cared to."

"Which we don't," the girl promptly cried. "I'm going to be a bachelor girl," she added, with a certain air of defiance.

Wilson laughed. "What," he cried, "a bachelor girl? And with those rose petal cheeks and those twinkling eyes and—"

"You mustn't say those things," Dorothy, blushing prettily, stopped him.

"It's a cousin's privilege," declared Wilson.

"But you're only a third cousin."

"That's a good enough excuse," declared Wilson and continued as though



"There's only one thing to do now," he had not been interrupted, "and with those lips—those kissable lips!"

He advanced toward her. "I've heard something more about cousins' privileges," he exclaimed.

The girl made a quick retreat across the length of the big room in which they were standing to the big bay window that overlooked the porch.

"This house seems almost too big," she exclaimed hurriedly. "It would take a lot of furniture to make it seem cheerful and a lot of people, too, I think. I—"

"I guess you don't like your little cousin," she murmured Wilson from his post across the room.

"Oh, pshaw, of course I do!" Dorothy exclaimed, laughing and blushing. "Don't be a goose!" She hurried on: "I'm sure Bertha and Jo wouldn't care for this place. Let's try another house."

"Plenty more to try," declared Wilson. "I've got the keys here for about a million and a half." And he jangled the keys again.

They left the big house, with its big rooms, big bay window and big veranda, and turned away. Wilson consulted a list which he had in his pocket and then directed their steps into a quiet, pretty, little side street where the houses were mainly cottages with miniature gardens and lawns in front and where a general air of homely coziness and comfort seem to prevail.

In the middle of one of the squares stood an especially attractive little home, with a tiny veranda and a tree or two in the front yard. The house seemed to have a sunny air, as though it were saying to every one: "I'm all nice and cozy. Don't you wish you were as comfortable as I am?"

The girl clapped her hands when she saw it.

"Oh, what a dear little house!" she cried. "Oh, I just love it!"

"It's one of those I've got a key for, too," said Wilson.

The girl clapped her hands again and, opening the gate, ran up the little path to the veranda, where, shading her face with her hands, she peered into the interior.

"It's just a dear!" she cried again as Wilson opened the door and she ran in.

From room to room she darted breathlessly; then, the inspection finished, she sat down on the third step of the stairs which ran from the hall to the second story.

"It's just the thing for Bertha and Jo!" she cried at last. "I know just how they can arrange everything. The front room they'll have fixed up nice and livable. Jo will have a big easy chair there by the window, where he can smoke and read in the evening,

and the piano will be opposite the window, with its side to the wall, so that Bertha can play and yet see Jo while he smokes. And then that open fire—

think how cozy it will be for them in the winter!"

"Yes, that would be all right for some couples," said Wilson, "but honestly, Dorothy, do you think that you and Bertha with all their money would be content to begin life in a humble cottage like this, in the humble way you suggest?"

"Why, Harry, of course they will!" the girl exclaimed in a hurt tone. "When they see what a dear house it is they'll just fall in love with it, as I have."

"Maybe," said Wilson dubiously, "but it strikes me that it would be more suited to—well, say, for example, a couple like us—if we were married. The rent of this house can't be much, and I haven't got much money. You're in love with the house, and I'm in love with—it too. Now—"

"Goodness!" she exclaimed. "We'll have to hurry if we're going to investigate all those other houses!"

Somewhat sulkily Wilson locked the door of the little house. But he and the girl visited no more houses that afternoon, for Wilson very suddenly became converted to the idea that Bertha and Jo would be charmed by the little house, and nothing would do but he must see the real estate agent and secure an option on it. The girl demurred at this at first, but Wilson finally convinced her that Bertha and Jo would be mightily pleased at their action in securing such a desirable home for them.

The real estate dealer's office was finally found and the option secured. Then the couple started on their journey to Bertha's home, where they would acquaint her with what they had done.

"They'll be very happy there," said Dorothy somewhat wistfully as they left the office.

"Sure they will," assented Wilson. "Any one could be happy in a little house like that."

For some reason Wilson's mood had become rather joyous. He solicitously took Dorothy's arm and skillfully guided her through the crowds. It was becoming dusk, and the street lights were not yet out. They turned into a side street on a short cut to Bertha's home, which was a big, ornate affair. It looked blatant and uncomfortable. The little house from which Dorothy and Wilson had come by the comparison to them seemed much more desirable.

Bertha had not yet arrived when they entered, but a moment after they had seated themselves in the drawing room she flew in. As usual, she seemed very busy and was in a tremendous hurry.

"Oh, I'm so glad you came, people!" Bertha exclaimed. "I won't have to put you people to any more trouble trying to find a house for us. Jo and I managed to find time to look at one this afternoon. It is a nice big one, has large rooms and a big bay window, and we're just delighted to get it. The agent said you had been looking at it. Wait a minute until I take off my wraps."

She left the room. The two young people she had left looked at each other. "And you've signed the option?" exclaimed Dorothy.

"Yes," said Wilson, suppressed and eager. "There's only one thing to do now."

"What's that?" asked the girl shyly and with averted face.

"Take the house ourselves."

When Bertha came to the door of the room a moment later she did not enter, as she had intended. She gave one look, saw Dorothy and Wilson standing in the middle of the room, very close together, and then she fled. As she fled, though, she heard Wilson say somewhat tremulously:

"Don't blush so, dear. It's a cousin's privilege, you know."

What He Enjoyed.

Mr. Makinbrakes was trying to say something complimentary to the distinguished actor to whom he had just been introduced.

"What I particularly enjoy about your acting, Mr. Strutters," he said, "is your perfect naturalness. You can take an old man's part, you know, without the slightest necessity for making up—that is, I mean you don't have to change your—your voice, you know, or—why, take it in that play I saw you in the other night, when you appeared as an old man. All you had to do was to be just your natural—er—self, though, of course, there were plenty of wigs and wrinkles you could have put on if you had—er—needed them—which isn't quite what I was trying to get at either—for anybody could see how admirably you fitted the—er part, you know, without any—and all that sort of—what do you think of this new theory, Mr. Strutters, that a man can live on peanuts?"—Chicago Tribune.

Reciprocity. Men are enlisted for the labor that kills—the labor of war. They are counted, trained, fed, dressed and praised for that. Let them be enlisted also for the labor that feeds. Let them be counted, trained, fed, dressed, praised for that. Teach the plow exercise as carefully as you do the sword exercise and let the officers of troops of life be held as much gentlemen as the officers of troops of death, and all is done. But neither this nor any other right thing can be accomplished—you can't even see your way to it—unless, first of all, both servant and master are resolved that, come what will of it, they will do each other justice. People are perpetually squabbling about what will be

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best to do, or easiest to do, or advisablest to do, or profitablest to do, but they never, so far as I hear them talk, ever ask what it is just to do. And it is the law of heaven that you shall not be able to judge what is wise or easy unless you are first resolved to judge what is just and to do it.—John Ruskin.

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More than half of mankind over 60 years of age suffer from kidney and bladder disorders, usually enlargement of prostate glands. This is both painful and dangerous, and Foley's Kidney Cure should be taken at the first sign of danger, as it corrects irregularities and has cured many old men of this disease. Mr. Rodney Burnett, Rockport, Mo., writes: "I suffered with enlarged prostate gland and kidney trouble for years and after taking two bottles of Foley's Kidney Cure, I feel better than I have for twenty years, although I am now 91 years old." T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

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M. T. Lynch, editor of the Phillipsburg, N. J., Daily Post, writes: "I have used many kinds of medicines for coughs and colds in my family but never anything so good as Foley's Honey and Tar. I cannot say too much in praise of it." T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

### Ten Years In Bed.

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### A New One For Him.

"The climate here is salubrious, isn't it?" remarked the tourist. "Say, friend," replied the native, "jest write that there word down fur me, will yer? I git tired o' swearin' at this climate in the same old way. That's a new one."—Philadelphia Press.

It is not the strength but the duration of great sentiments that makes great men.—Friedrich Nietzsche.

### Proud.

"So you enjoy seeing your boy play football?"

"I should say I do," answered Father or Cornstossel. "It makes me mighty glad to see him out there an' realize that he is the gentleman I was once used to whip."—Washington Star.

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