

Lily Elsie's Romance Shattered-Doomed *from the Start!*



Miss Lily Elsie In a Row of Five Charming Poses

Broke Every Law of "Bride's Luck" and Then Just Couldn't Give Up Her Stage Friends in Order to Please a Mere Husband.

their own homes. The young husbands complained that they did not get a reasonable share of their wives' society. When one of them wished to spend the evening with his wife in that delightful "solitude a deux" which most young married people enjoy, he found a bevy of charming but no less de trop actresses running all over the house.

Some wonder is expressed that the two beauties should have married at all if they regarded the relationship so lightly. Probably the explanation is that they could not entirely disregard the wealth and social position that were to be expected from marrying young millionaires of noble family. But when they were married they found domesticity too distasteful and the attraction of the old life too strong to permit them to make home reasonably attractive to their husbands.

One of Lily Elsie's friends has explained that she made a bet that she would marry Ian Bullough, and that having won her bet she lost interest in the matter.

Lily Elsie was the most popular "Merry Widow" who ever played the title role of that very popular comic opera in England. As a test of her popularity it was shown that she had been photographed over 3,000 times, and that her photographs had sold more than those of any other woman in England.

She has a very tender, appealing type of beauty, and this has made many people very indignant to think that a man could desert her.

In spite of the extreme popularity of Lily Elsie, connoisseurs consider that Gabrielle Ray is the most perfect beauty on the musical comedy stage. She is a very statuesque beauty, having Greek purity of form combined with the delightful coloring of the fair-haired English woman.

Gabrielle Ray appears at her best in pajamas, this simple costume displaying her purity of outline and grace of limb in the most perfect manner. Her seductiveness in this costume proved irresistible even to her colleagues of the stage, accustomed as they were to the display of womanly charms in every conceivable setting.

The affairs of Gertie Millar, the star of the Gaiety Theatre, are naturally discussed in connection with those of her two lovely colleagues. It is no secret that the millionaire Duke of Westminster, who is parted from his wife, has long had an intense admiration for the talents of Miss Millar. Now people are wondering whether she could endure the boredom of matrimony with the Duke if both of them were free to marry.

The manner in which the various young gentlemen involved in these cases have been treated by their wives has tended to further diminish the prestige of the British aristocracy with the public.

London, August 23.
WHEN Lily Elsie, the most photographed beauty on the English stage, married Ian Bullough, the son of a Scotch baronet and immensely rich landowner, two years ago she defied every rule of what is known as "bride's luck."

She had a supper with thirteen at table, clasped her hands before her knees, thus "hugging sorrow," walked through a funeral procession, broke two mirrors, tipped over every salt cellar on the table, had thirteen buttons on the front of her newest gown, put up three umbrellas in her room and stood under them, walked under a ladder and put her left slipper on first.

Now Lily Elsie is bringing a suit for divorce, and many people naturally believe that her marriage was doomed from the start by her defiance of superstition. From the first day she and her husband made each other as miserable as they could be, and she is compared to the classic Pandora, who opened a box in which the gods kept every evil, and let them all escape.

In bringing her divorce suit she has also drawn attention to the strong friendships that exist among the Gaiety girls and the stars of the musical comedy stage. Her case is discussed in connection with that of Gabrielle Ray, the other famous beauty, who a few weeks ago won the first step in her proceedings for divorce against her husband, Eric Loder, also the son of a baronet and the possessor of a fortune of \$10,000,000.

In each case the husband was madly in love with his wife at the time of the marriage. In neither case was the man brutal or unfaithful as long as he remained under the conjugal roof. Yet in each case he deserted his wife and obstinately refused to return.

Evidently there is a mystery here. Gradually an explanation leaked out. The friendships among the girls that had grown through years of work on the stage could not be broken by matrimony. In each case the husband wished his wife to break entirely away from her stage life, fearing no doubt that constant contact would lure her back again to the footlights. And in each case the wife refused to drop her friends of the old days. These musical comedy girls found matrimony and the devotion of the richest young husbands in England a bore, and preferred the company of their own kind.

In Gabrielle Ray's divorce suit the husband hinted at the existence of this state of affairs.

Many curious incidents that have occurred are explained by this revelation. Both the actresses displayed an astonishing indifference at the time the marriage was to take place, in spite of the wealth and social position of the bridegrooms. Gabrielle Ray failed to appear at the church on the day first fixed, but came on another day, after much urging,

"Like Pandora, the fair Lily touched the spring of that chest of superstitions, and, like a jack-in-the-box, up popped the spirit of divorce."

This did not indicate a high regard for the bridegroom.

Perhaps Lily Elsie's defiance of superstition was really a sign that she did not care if misfortune dogged her marriage anyhow. That is how a psychologist would explain it. Within three weeks of her wedding it was reported that she had quarrelled with her husband and would return to the stage. She looked so miserable that she lost her beauty,

and did not improve until she separated from her husband.

Neither Lily Elsie nor Gabrielle Ray, it seems, took marriage seriously or expected it to be permanent. To the young husbands this was more than a disappointment. They hoped to embrace "the beautiful angels of their dreams," to use the language of the young Marquis of Northampton, and they found that they were rather superfluous in



A New Photograph of Lily Elsie.



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