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Dinner in a Diner

By JANE OSBORN

To begin with, Gregory lives merely knew her as the girl with the green hat. She commuted in a green hat for months. Then she changed to French blue, and the first night Gregory nearly missed his train because he didn't have the usual green hat to follow. But he quickly adjusted his eyes to the hat of French blue.

Gregory lives read what he found worth while of the evening papers and got through a good many magazines besides, because from the time he left his office until he reached his house an hour and a quarter later he read whenever it was possible.

He reached the station a few minutes before train time and used the few minutes reading. Occasionally he would give a quick glance to see whether the green hat—later the bright blue hat—was in sight. If he saw it moving toward the trainshed, then he knew it was train time.

One evening when Gregory lives was especially interested in an article in a scientific magazine he followed the blue hat without really thinking that it boarded the train on the right of the runway, whereas his train always made up on the left; and it was not until the train had drawn out of the great shed and was already going at a pretty good rate of speed that he noticed that except for the young woman in the seat opposite who wore the blue hat there were no familiar faces in the car.

Moreover, the conductor as he approached was none of those who usually punched his ticket.

He jumped up, looked about and then sat down again.

To the conductor, when he reached him, he handed his commutation ticket with an inquiring glance.

The conductor looked at the ticket and then critically at the man.

"Guess I'm on the wrong train," said Gregory. "This doesn't stop at Arden, does it?"

"This is a through express," said the conductor. "We make a straight run without stop," and he mentioned a city that was three hours distant.

"Don't you stop at Arden even if there are passengers to get off there?" came a sharp query from across the aisle—and Gregory lives noticed that beneath the hat there were very pretty eyes and a face that somehow looked familiar.

"No, we don't," said the conductor with something of contempt.

"You used to stop there. You'll just have to get the engineer to stop tonight. I've got to get off there."

"Sorry, miss," said the conductor. "They may have stopped there on request once, but not for a year or two. And of course we can't make special stops."

"I think that's perfectly outrageous," said the girl as she fumbled in her purse to get the necessary car fare demanded by the conductor. Then, having collected fare from Gregory also, the conductor moved on.

"Two thought we stopped at Arden, didn't you?" said the girl.

"I imagined so," said Gregory. "But it doesn't make any difference—I—"

"Doesn't make any difference?" exclaimed the girl. "It certainly does make a difference to me. I won't get home till all hours. It's dreadful."

"I only mean that it didn't make any great difference to me," said Gregory.

"Well, I think if two persons could be mistaken like this," said the pretty young woman, "then the railroad company must be to blame. I certainly thought this train stopped at Arden, and you must have thought so, too, or you wouldn't have got on it."

"I got on because you did," said Gregory quite calmly.

"You followed me?" said the girl with low-voiced rage.

"I always do. It's convenient—not you, but your hat. When I can go on reading or thinking, I usually take the five-thirteen. This time for some reason you took the five-ten. I have just looked it up in my time-table and the conductor is right. It is not marked to stop at Arden. It doesn't stop again until eight-three."

"I should think you were excessively rude, if not a little crazy, to talk the way you have been talking," said the girl. "If it were not that I know who you are. You're Mr. Gregory lives and I met you at a country club dance with my brother. He introduced you—but you have quite forgotten."

"Not at all," assured Gregory, leaning across the aisle. "Now that I see you I remember. You're Miss Ferguson, Max Ferguson's sister—Marcia, I believe. I merely knew your hat. Charming hat. Most girls wear such somber hats you can't follow them. You always wear something nice and bright. I got quite attached to that green one, though this is charming."

Marcia Ferguson was frankly pleased with the rather blatant flattery she suggested to Mr. lives that he take the seat beside her.

For once he was quite content not to read.

"New," he said, "I've told you why I got on this train. You haven't told me why you led me astray. I'm really rather curious."

"I was hungry," said Marcia simply. "It's cornucopia and cabbage night at home and I hate it, and I had a very skimpy lunch. But we got paid this afternoon and—well, as I was

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A Parisian bed of silver and wood built for an Indian prince was ornamented at each corner by a large female figure holding a fan. The weight of the prince's body set mechanism in motion, which caused the fans to oscillate.

One's True Self.
The noblest thing you ever did, the noblest emotion you ever felt, the deepest and most self-sacrificing love ever in your soul, that is your true self still, through all the baser life into which you have fallen. — Phillips Brooks.

Dancing Ants.
When ants are happy, according to one of the best known students of ant life, they have a way of standing up and making little skips, which may correspond to our dancing.

Popular Idea Is Wrong.
There is no instrument that will indicate the presence of gold and silver or their ores. Iron attracts the "needle," but neither gold nor silver is magnetic.

Small Son—"I say, daddy, when people go to heaven do they become angels right away, or have they to pass a lot of stupid examinations first?"

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WAS TOO MUCH FOR DUTCH
Island of Marken Has No Dikes to Protect It From Invasion by the Sea.

There is one piece of Holland soil from which even Dutch determination does not restrain the invading waters—one battleground which for generations has been held under tribute by the foe. It is the Island of Marken, in the Zuider Zee, about a dozen miles from Amsterdam.

This island, detached from the mainland at the Thirteenth century, lies out of the ordinary routes of travel, hence its inhabitants have perpetuated the quaint costumes and queer customs that prevailed when their land became an island.

The ground is barely above the water at high tide, so that any unusual storm would sweep completely over such protecting dikes as the people could afford to build. With characteristic shrewdness, they long ago counted the cost of such fortifications as the exposed position would necessitate and wisely concluded that the grounds at stake would not justify the expenditure.

They therefore dug such canals as would drain the soil under ordinary conditions, and used the earth thus obtained in building hillocks on which houses are erected. On seven of these mounds houses are grouped, while on the eighth is the silent home of the dead.

The buildings that are not so favorably situated with respect to the highest point of the hill are built on stilts, the lower story being merely framework and only the upper part occupied. A gangway connects with adjacent houses, so that in case of an overflow isolation cannot be complete. —James Howard Gore in the National Geographic Magazine.

Indians in the United States.
There are about 340,000 Indians outside of Alaska. Of these about 130,000 have been released from the personal guardianship of the United States government, though many of this number retain an interest in tribal funds or tribal lands. To receive a parcel of land in individual ownership is, for an Indian, the usual path out of wardship into citizenship. About 210,000 Indians remain in personal as well as property wardship, and in these "unemancipated" Indians the governmental, ethnic and cultural problem of the Indian is summed up. The following, with other states, have interesting or numerically important groups of Indians: Florida, North Carolina, Mississippi, New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Oklahoma, North and South Dakota, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, California, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico. There are 219 reservations; their area is 120,000 square miles. —Current History Magazine.

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