

dead soldiers. They haven't anything to lead."

Joyce burst into tears. "Every time I try to help you, you never appreciate it," she sniffed. "You are just as mean and hateful as you can be."

Leslie quieted her. "Don't cry," he soothed, "I'll be nice to them, I'll act

no blamed good when they come you will think I am sick. I had a tough day at the office and was a little out of sorts, that's all. A bromo will put me in tip-toe shape. Powder your nose. It's all red. There's the bell now."

The Hargraves were indeed a charming couple, but one that raised in one's mind an inquiry. He was easily fifty while she was hardly a day over twenty-two—the personification of gaiety with a vivacious air that put those with whom she came in contact immediately at their ease, but behind it all there was a twinkle in her eyes that revealed a deep cunning, a sort of lust, a desire—a determination to get what she wanted.

Leslie wondered at the couple as he struggled into his dress suit. Her exquisite beauty, her youth immediately erased the question as to why the doctor had married her. But why did she, with her charm that could win any man, marry the doctor? He was a widower; his life was well spent. But then he had piles of money, accumulated during the years of practice as Baltimore's most eminent and skilled physician. I wonder, mused Leslie, but instantly dismissed the thought from his mind. Surely, she was too solicitous of her husband's welfare not to love him.

That question kept repeating itself throughout the meal, by reason of her continual references to the expensive

presents her husband had bestowed upon her—jewelry, dresses, a roadster, money! While her conversation was interesting, it was sometimes disturbing, especially to those who longed for but could not have the things she talked about.

Leslie found himself bewitched by her personality—such a pleasant diversion from the office grind, and there was so little happiness at home. Joyce taught school and many was the night that he was forced to eat cold meats because she was too tired to cook. This made him irritable and quarrels ensued. How he hated quarrels!

Dinner was over. The evening's entertainment turned from one thing to another. The doctor and Joyce became engrossed in a rather lengthy discussion of the effect that heredity has on a child, and the part inherent tendencies play in the child's adaptability to class-room work. Leslie tried to chime in now and then, but realizing that the topic was far above him, soon found himself discussing the latest movie with Mrs. Hargraves.

On this subject Cleo was an adept conversationalist. She knew all the stars by name. Frequent trips to New York also kept her abreast with the latest Broadway plays. She knew all the steps of the different dance crazes and was ever on the alert for something new in scented cigarettes, garter flasks, or some new wrinkles in necking parties.

"Your wife was telling me, Mr. Kayne, of the wonderful rose bower you have cultivated in your yard. I wonder if I would be asking too much to take a peek at it?" she asked during a lull in the conversation.

"Why, not at all," replied Kayne.

"It's rather dark to look at roses, but you can at least get an idea of what it is like."

Her merry laughter was like that of an excited child as she seized his arm and accompanied him out into the rear yard.

"Isn't it just too alluring for words?" she exclaimed admiringly, "and to think you did it all."

"Little things like these mean so much in married life," she went on, "little things that you do with your hands. My husband finds it so easy to buy everything that he thinks I want. He never thinks of doing little things like these for me."

"In my case," laughed Leslie, "piddling around the yard here is one of the few things I get pleasure out of in my home. You see, Joy is at home very little."

"You are fortunate at that," said Cleo a bit dejectedly. "My husband is always too busy to give attention to me. He puts the lowest patient above his wife. He is just wrapped up in sick folks. I suppose I will soon have to play ill myself to arouse his interest at all."

"But he gives you everything you wish. He lets you go when and where you will. Surely, you are not unhappy?"

"Sometimes I think that I am the most miserable person in the world. I once thought that money would mean happiness to me, that's why I married; but it has meant nothing but disappointments and regret."

Leslie looked at her as she stood twisting her handkerchief and gazing off into space. The moonlight drifting through the openings in the bower danced about her pretty face and flickered on her black, wavy hair. He felt a close kinship to her and felt that their lots were almost identical.

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