

I Wanted to Hurt My Husband

Week-End True Story

Long-Suffering, Patient Jimmie Came Back to the Wife who Didn't Love Him and Did Not Want a Divorce, Just Yet.

By H. RICHTERSOHN

Jimmie was coming back! Somehow



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I wondered whether I should be overjoyed or unhappy, excited or calm. A welter of mixed emotions coursed through me as I reread his brief note:

"Dear Ethel: I've got to see you tonight. Won't you please be home at seven? It's important." It was signed "Jimmie." And that was all.

There was not the slightest doubt in my mind as to what he wanted. I said to myself, "He wants to take me back—wants me to let him start all over again. I wonder—should I?"

It wasn't an easy problem for me to decide. Jimmie had been awfully good to me during those first few years of married life. I guess that was because I loved him then, and he loved me.

But things had changed so quickly after that. Alas, how many matrimonial barques are wrecked on the rocks of familiarity! Our trouble was simply that we came to know each other a bit too well. Jimmy was no longer a romantic mystery to me. He became just another hard-working, struggling young mechanic, practical to an extreme, forgetting his home and wife and everything else in his endeavor to get enough money to buy a garage of his own.

And I suppose I had lost something of the glamour and sparkle of bygone days as he began to see me every day for weeks at a time, and to have me as his constant companion wherever he chose to go. How can a woman, tied to the drudgery of housework, manage to keep herself as smart and as beautiful as she was on the day that she was married? It's impossible! Beauty fades under the lash of hard work; romance vanishes where familiarity creeps in. I know that now. I had not learned it then.

Well, Jimmie had gone first. It had been a year now since he had left that brief note on the kitchen table, explaining that he was tired of home—and of me. A year away from Jimmie! Why, three years ago I would have thought such a condition utterly unbearable. Yet today I felt no sorrow that he had gone as he did.

His had been the better way. I regularly—small, to be sure, but enough to live on. Yet I guess it did hurt my pride a little—to have him leave first. A rather bitter pill for any woman to swallow.

I had seen him occasionally after that. There had been no divorce, since neither of us had been entirely willing to start proceedings before the other. I had gone to New York several times on excursions, and once believe. He had gone to Harlem and opened up his own garage. And he was making good. He sent me checks or twice I saw him. But we were always coolly courteous to each other. It was six months now since I had seen him at all.

But now he was coming back to

more settled, or heavier, or less handsome than as I remembered him? Oh, well; it didn't matter very much. be sacrificed for a man whom I did-

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"Then came my sheerest lingerie."

me! The idea was somehow strangely thrilling. I wonder'd how he would have changed. Would he be

after all. I didn't intend to take him back—on any condition.

I had decided that much. My freedom was too precious a thing to

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