

The Little Place

by John L. Shelley

Art by Denise Giraud

Laurie Harwood looked helplessly at the long, low car parked at the foot of the slope where the house nestled in a grove of giant oaks. So he was here again, trying to undermine her deal with Peter Stinson and get the house for himself? Why he would want it she could not understand—surely a man who drove such a car could afford something better than this.

The moment she had seen the house she had mentally christened it The Little Place. It was old—old, and in its present run-down condition it reminded her somehow of a sick old dog waiting for someone to come along and put him back in shape.

The cold would be here soon. But they could make out with the cracks stuffed as Peter had them until they could be weatherstripped.

Laurie remembered Bill's face when she had told him about The Little

Place and Peter Stinson, who had decided to sell to them and use the proceeds to buy his way into a rest home for his declining years.

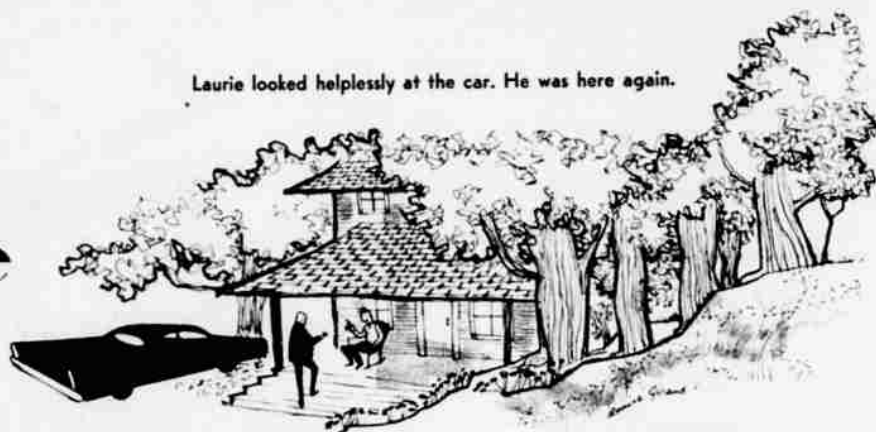
Bill's face had lighted up. "It could be a tent," he said earnestly from his hospital bed, "and it would be home as long as we were together. I'll be up and around soon and then we'll make the fur fly."

There was a catch in her throat as she walked alongside the big car owned by Charles Drummond. Brave,

gallant Bill. All the years after Korea spent in the Veterans Hospital with never a complaint, only the grin and the threat to get out of bed and chase her down the hospital corridor. Bill would be convalescent awhile yet, but Laurie's heart had leaped with gladness when the doctors told her his condition was definitely arrested and she could have her husband home in another month.

The mere thought made her weak in the knees. Not to live in the madden-

Laurie looked helplessly at the car. He was here again.



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