

The Married Life of Helen and Warren

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Helen Works Herself Up Over a Trivial Care Only to Find She Was in the Wrong

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"That's the way to cook spinach," approved Warren, holding up a whole leaf on his fork.

"Loathe it mashed into a green, slimy pulp."

"Yes, she does cook this better than Nora."

"Huh, she's forgotten more about cooking than Nora ever knew," as he again carved into the lamb. "How about some jelly with this?" Helen touched the bell.

"Emma," as the girl appeared, "you may bring in that grape jelly."

In a few moments she came in with a gleaming, quivering mold.

"Why, you've opened a fresh glass! I meant the one we had last night."

"There wasn't more'n a spoonful left, ma'am."

"That's the second time she's done that," declared Helen in low-voiced indignation when the door swung to after her. "Why, we hardly touched that jelly last night!"

"If she likes sweets, so much the better. That means a nonalcoholic taste, and she'll let the wine alone."

She had engaged this girl through an agency the day after they landed—just a week ago. In that time Emma had cleaned the whole apartment, washed the woodwork and oiled the floors. She was both fast and capable; yet she had an assertive air that Helen found very irritating.

No other girl had ever expected grapefruit every morning, and as this was something Helen did not like to speak of, it rankled all the more.

It was after eight when Emma, having finished her dishes, appeared at the library door.

"Mrs. Curtis, do you mind if I go out for a little while?"

Helen looked up from her sewing with a brief, "Very well."

"Where's that draft coming from?" demanded Warren a little later, scowling over his paper at the windows.

"No, they're all down in here—it must be from the dining room. Wait, dear, I'll see."

It was the kitchen window that was up, and the pantry door open. Turning on the light, Helen put down the window, and then glanced around. Everything had been left in spotless order.

Helen looked into the ice box. It was clean and sweet-smelling. And the girl was certainly saving. There was the bit of spinach left from dinner and a spoonful of mashed potatoes. But where was the jelly?

With increasing indignation, Helen searched through the ice box and pantry. She had noticed particularly that over half the glass had been left.

Dragging forward the stepladder chair, Helen climbed up to the jelly shelf. There were only nine glasses of currant and fourteen of grape. If the girl was so inordinately fond of jelly, might she not occasionally open a glass for herself?

Over the refrigerator was a glass-doored cupboard that could be locked. In a flash Helen decided that was the place for the jelly.

Even those high shelves had been freshly washed and lined with paper, but just now this evidence of Emma's industry failed to impress her.

"Hello, what in blazes are you doing up there?" Warren, his hands in his pockets, stood at the pantry door, staring at her.

"I'm putting this jelly where I can lock it up," steadying herself on the stepladder. "There wasn't a spoonful left of that glass we had at dinner. It's outrageous! I never heard of a girl having the presumption to eat jelly like that."

"Look out, there—you'll fall! I'd rather pay for a few glasses of jelly than a doctor's bill for a broken leg."

"There!" as Helen locked the door and climbed down. "Now do you know what I'm going to do? I'm only going to order one grapefruit a day!"

"Well, if you don't want the girl to have grapefruit—I'd rather tell her than do a thing like that. Jove, you can be mighty small."

"Warren, I'm not small!" passionately. "That's what you always say because you know it hurts me. Do you think your mother or Carrie would furnish three-for-a-quarter grapefruit to any maid? You know they're more strict in such things

than I ever could be! You always said I was too good to Nora—that I let her run over me."

"So you did. But now that you've got a girl worth six of her—you're sore about what she eats. You've got no sense of proportion, that's the trouble with you. You get hipped on one idea, and you can't see anything else. What's the matter—pinch your finger?"

Exasperated, Helen had turned back the stepladder with a resentful jerk and had caught her finger at the most painful part of the nail. Brushing by Warren, she ran to the bathroom, where she bathed the bruised nail in witch hazel and nursed her aggrieved sense of injury.

It was after ten. Too hurt and indignant to go back to the library, she turned on her bath and began broodingly to undress.

Why did Warren always try to make her feel small and mercenary? She was furious with herself, furious with him, and above all furious with Emma for being the indirect cause of it all.

She was in bed, her arm over her eyes to shade them from the light, when Warren came in.

"Still sulking?" One of his shoes dropped heavily.

Helen did not answer, and her lace-trimmed sleeve shaded her face.

When he had taken his bath, he threw up the windows and turned off the lights. Still Helen lay motionless; she had not stirred.

"Thinking about that grapefruit she's going to eat tomorrow?" jeeringly, as he got into bed.

Helen could have shrieked. Instead she bit her lips, and angry tears wet the sleeve of her nightdress. Warren gave his pillow a punch, settled it under his head, drew the bedclothes around his shoulders and was soon dozing off.

But for Helen, who had worked herself up to a state of feverish brooding, sleep was impossible. It had been an unhappy and humiliating evening—and it was all Emma's fault. Her resentment against the girl deepened every moment.

What was that? Raising herself on her elbow, Helen listened tensely. A faint, scratching sound! It was Pussy Purr-Mew—shut up somewhere.

Hurriedly Helen got up and began a shivering search. The hall closet, the closet in her dressing room, her bureau drawers—for Pussy Purr-Mew had a troublesome habit of creeping any place that was left open. Again the scratching—it was from the dining room.

Helen darted straight to the china closet. When she opened the door a fur-ruffled kitten leaped out from the lower shelf. As she stooped to smooth the rumpled table cloths Helen saw something on the shelf above that made her gasp.

It was the grape jelly—just as Emma had taken it from the table at dinner! So she had not touched it! She had sensed Helen's displeasure at there being none left from the night before, and had purposely not even taken it out to the kitchen.

Unheeding the cold, Helen, in only her thin nightdress, for a long time crouched there on the floor, while Pussy Purr-Mew, grateful for her release, purred exuberantly but unnoticed against her.

At least in this she had been wrong! She pictured Emma's hurt surprise in the morning when she found the jelly locked up. It was a reflection on her honesty, which after all, Helen had no real reason to doubt.

When she arose, stiff with cold, it was not to go back to bed, but to get the key of the locked cupboard. Tip-toeing out of the kitchen, stealthily she drew the chair before the refrigerator. In the dead silence it creaked alarmingly as she climbed up to the shelves.

It was a cold, shivering task, but she got the jelly back to its accustomed cupboard. Then, numb with cold, she crept back to bed.

"Eh, what's that?" muttered Warren, half aroused by the sudden chill as Helen cuddled against him for warmth.

"Dear, I—I was wrong about that jelly. Emma hadn't touched it—it was in the china closet. And I—I unlocked the rest and put it back."

But apparently Warren was too drowsy to grasp the full purport of this, for his only comment was the mumbled, meaningless phrase, "Well, what-do-you-know-about-that?"

THREE SYSTEMS OF GROWING STRAWBERRY



Hill System as Practiced in Florida is Conducive to Rapid Growing.

The three systems of growing strawberries: the hill system, the matted row, and an intermediate between the two, sometimes known as the hedgerow system. In the hill system the plants are set in hills, one plant in a place, and no new plants are allowed to form, according to the United States Department of Agriculture's Farmers' Bulletin, No. 664. This makes a large, vigorous plant, producing large, uniform berries which ripen evenly. This is the system that is followed in Florida. One reason why the hill system is used in that state is undoubtedly because it is necessary to take advantage of as much sunlight as possible in order to properly color and mature the berries during the short days of the ripening season. The berries would be more shaded if other systems were used, and with the short days and the large amount of humidity in the air they would not color well and many would rot on the vines. The high cost of growing the fruit in Florida and the heavy transportation charges to the northern markets make it important to secure the greatest possible percentage of large, well ripened berries, and this can be done under the hill system. The quantity of berries that can be produced by following this system is not always so large as under the other systems, but

stocked with plants, the old rows are turned under and form the alleys between the new rows.

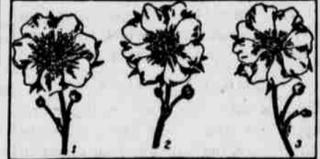
Setting the Hedgerows.

The hedgerow system is intermediate between the hill and the matted row systems, and has some of the advantages of both. In the hedgerow system the runners are allowed to form plants along the row in a strip a few inches wide. After this strip is well stocked with plants the runners are cut off. The advantage of this over the matted row system is that more air and sunlight reach the fruit, resulting in larger and more uniform berries. More berries are produced by using the hedgerow than by the hill system. This is the system most commonly practiced in the southern part of the lower tier of southern states with the exception of Florida. In some cases the field is plowed after one crop has been produced, and in others it is allowed to bear for two or more years.

In Florida the hill system gives the best results, while in most other sections either the hedgerow or matted row system is preferred. Where large berries with the best table qualities are more important than heavy yields, the hill system should be used. In Time of Planting and Source of Plants.

The time to plant strawberries varies in different sections of the South. In Florida they may be set at any time from June to November whenever the soil and weather conditions are favorable. In the southern sections of the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast states the plants are set out in late summer or autumn. In both cases the crop is harvested the following spring. In other sections of the South the plants are set in late winter or early spring and the crop is not harvested until the following year. Plants set out in the spring and not expected to carry a crop until the following spring should have the blossoms kept off during the summer, so that the vigor of the plants will not be impaired.

Many growers use young plants from the old beds for setting new plantations, while others buy from plant dealers. The first method is satisfactory if only strong and healthy young plants are selected; old plants that have produced fruit do not give good results and should never be used. A practice followed in many sections is to cultivate and fertilize the fields after the berries are harvested, in order to get a good growth of runners. When the young plants reach the proper size for planting they are taken up and set out in the new fields. This is a good practice and should be generally followed where plants from the old patch are used. Plantations that do not produce fruit make stronger plants for setting than those that produce both fruit and plants.



Perfect Strawberry Flowers (1 and 2) and an Imperfect Flower (3).

the quality is much better, and the percentage of first-class berries and the prices received are higher than under the other systems.

Matted Row System for Quantity.

In the matted row system the runners are allowed to set plants 6 to 9 inches on either side of the row. If the belt of plants is to be as wide as 18 inches, the rows should be at least 3½ feet apart, in order to allow room for cultivation. A larger quantity of berries is grown under this system than under any other, but the fruit is usually smaller and does not ripen as well. The percentage of high class fruit is lower in matted rows than when the hill system is followed, but the work of cultivation and thinning is less than under any of the other systems, and for that reason it is used by most growers. Most of the growers who use this system allow their fields to bear for two or more years, and in order to renew the patch they often cultivate the middles and induce new runner plants to take possession of them. After the middles are well

COWPEAS RELISHED BY MANY

Best to Plant Iron Variety, as It is Free From Peculiar Disease Which Infects Soil.

In addition to being cover and hay crops, cowpeas are also human food, and a dish of "Hop-in-John" is relished by many.

Cowpeas are generally broadcasted in planting, using one bushel per acre, and harrowed as described for velvet beans, and their handling for soil renovation and hay is similar.

Of the different varieties it is best, perhaps, to plant the Iron, as this is free from "root-knot," that peculiar disease which infects the soil and does so much damage to the other varieties of legumes and deciduous fruits.

Silage and Alfalfa.

Two of the best acreage-saving money-making propositions up to the farmers today are silage and alfalfa.

Crop for Rocky Field.

If there is a field too rocky to plow, set trees there, or sow for pasture.

Keep the Horse Busy.

The horse is an expensive animal to feed, and consequently should be kept busy all the time if possible. If this cannot be done, then he should be fed as cheaply as possible. With hay or other roughage and two pounds of cottonseed meal a day the idle horse or mule can be kept in good condition on a very small amount of corn.

Little Trouble With Sows.

Healthy sows that have been properly cared for during pregnancy will have little difficulty at farrowing time. They should be housed in proper quarters and up to farrowing time have their usual feed. The period of gestation for swine ranges from 112 to 116 days.

Grease Lousy Chicks.

Always remember that a warm, sunny morning is the best time to apply the grease remedy to a lot of lousy chicks. It is bad for the chicks to grease them when it is cold and wet. But if too liberal with grease at any time, you will kill the chicks as well as the lice.

DEVOTED HIS TO GOOD WORK

Devout Little Johnny Would Give His Penny to Buy Bibles for Poor Kids.

The little visitors at Aunt Mary's were Helen, age six, and John age four. They played keeping grocery under the piano, envelopes, books and other articles representing the stock in trade. They took turn about as grocer and customer. The grocer bore the name of Mr. Popcorn.

"Mr. Popcorn," said Helen, "have you any rabbits this morning?"

"Yes'm," answered the polite grocer.

"Are they nice and fresh?"

"Yes'm."

"Then you may give me a good, big fat one for 15 cents."

During a lull in the grocery transactions Aunt Mary gave each of the visitors two cents—two cents in real money.

"And what are you going to do with the money?" asked Aunt Mary.

"I'm going to put my two pennies in the bank," said Helen.

"And I," said John, "I'll buy candy with one penny."

"And what will you do with the other penny?"

And John, who has been impressed by the missionary talks at Sunday school, answered: "I'm a-goin' to give it to buy Bibles for poor kids."—Providence Tribune.

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Grim Humor.

"There goes Scribbles, the newspaper humorist."

"A merry quipster, eh?"

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