

# MISS LULU BETT

By ZONA GALE

Copyright by D. Appleton & Company

## "MY WEDDED WIFE"

SYNOPSIS.—General factotum in the house of her sister Ina, wife of Herbert Deacon, in the small town of Warbleton, Lulu Bett leads a dull, cramped existence, with which she is constantly at enmity, though apparently satisfied with her lot. Bobby Larkin, recently graduated high-school youth, is secretly enamored of Deacon's elder daughter, Diana. The family is excited over the news of an approaching visit from Deacon's brother Ninian, whom he had not seen for many years. Unexpectedly, Ninian arrives. Thus he becomes acquainted with Lulu first and understands her position in the house. To Lulu, Ninian is a much-traveled man of the world, and even the slight interest which he takes in her is appreciated, because it is something new in her life. At an outing which the family takes, Ninian and Lulu become confidential. He expresses his disapproval of her treatment as a sort of dependent in the Deacon home. Diana and Bobby, in the course of "soft nothings," discuss the possibility of eloping and "surprising the whole school." Lulu has awakened to pleasant possibilities concerning Ninian's intentions toward herself.

IV

—7—

July.

When, on a warm evening a fortnight later, Lulu descended the stairs dressed for her incredible trip to the city, she wore the white waist which she had often thought they would "use" for her if she died. And really, the waist looked as if it had been planned for the purpose, and its wide, upstanding plaited lace at throat and wrist made her neck look thinner, her forearm sharp and veined. Her hair she had "crimped" and parted in the middle, puffed high—it was so that hair had been worn in Lulu's girlhood. "Well!" said Ina, when she saw this coiffure, and frankly examined it, head well back, tongue meditatively teasing at her lower lip.

For travel Lulu was again wearing Ina's linen duster—the old one.

Ninian appeared, in a sack coat—and his diamond. His distinctly convex face, its thick, rosy flesh, thick mouth and cleft chin gave Lulu once more that bold sense of looking—not at him, for then she was shy and averted her eyes—but at his photograph at which she could gaze as much as she would. She looked up at him openly, fell in step beside him. Was he not taking her to the city? Ina and Dwight themselves were going because she, Lulu, had brought about this party.

"Act as good as you look, Lulu," Mrs. Bett called after them. She gave no instructions to Ina, who was married and able to shine in her conduct, it seemed.

Dwight was cross. On the way to the station he might have been heard to take it up again, whatever it was, and his Ina unmistakably said: "Well, now, don't keep it going all the way there"; and turned back to the others with some elaborate comment about the dust, thus cutting off her so-called lord from his legitimate retort. A mean advantage.

The city was two hours distant, and they were to spend the night. On the train, in the double seat, Ninian beside her among the bags, Lulu sat in the simple consciousness that the people all knew that she too had been chosen. A man and a woman were opposite, with their little boy between them. Lulu felt this woman's superiority of experience over her own, and smiled at her from a world of fellowship. But the woman lifted her eyebrows and stared and turned away, with slow and insolent winking.

Ninian had a boyish pride in his knowledge of places to eat in many cities—as if he were leading certain of the tribe to a deer-run in a strange wood. Ninian took his party to a downtown cafe, then popular among business and newspaper men. The place was below the sidewalk, was reached by a dozen marble steps, and the odor of its griddle-cakes took the air of the street. Ninian made a great show of selecting a table, changed once, called the waiter "my man" and rubbed soft hands on "What do you say? Shall it be lobster?" He ordered the dinner, instructing the waiter with painstaking gruffness.

"Not that they can touch your cooking here, Miss Lulu," he said, settling himself to wait, and crumpling a crust.

Dwight, expanding a bit in the aura of the food, observed that Lulu was a regular chef, that was what Lulu was. He still would not look at his wife, who now remarked:

"Sheff, Dwightie. Not cheff."

This was a mean advantage, which he pretended not to hear—another mean advantage.

"Ina," said Lulu, "your hat's just a little mite—no, over the other way."

"Was there anything to prevent your speaking of that before?" Ina inquired acidly.

"I started to and then somebody always said something," said Lulu humbly.

Nothing could so much as cloud Lulu's hour. She was proof against any shadow.

"Say, but you look tremendous tonight," Dwight observed to her.

Understanding perfectly that this was said to tease his wife, Lulu yet flushed with pleasure. She saw two women watching, and she thought: "They're feeling sorry for Ina—nobody talking to her." She laughed at everything that the men said. She passionately wanted to talk herself. "How many folks keep going past," she said, many times.

At length, having noted the details of all the clothes in range, Ina's isolation palled upon her and she set herself to take Ninian's attention. She therefore talked with him about himself.

"Curious you've never married, Nin," she said.

"Don't say it like that," he begged. "I might yet."

Ina laughed enjoyably. "Yes, you might!" she met this.

"She wants everybody to get married, but she wishes I hadn't," Dwight threw in with exceeding rancor.

They developed this theme exhaustively, Dwight usually speaking in the third person and always with his shoulder turned a bit from his wife. It was inconceivable, the gusto with which they proceeded. Ina had assumed for the purpose an air of casual, attentive to the scene about them. But gradually her cheeks began to burn.

"She'll cry," Lulu thought in alarm, and said at random: "Ina, that hat is so pretty—ever so much prettier than the old one." But Ina said frostily that she never saw anything the matter with the old one.

"Let us talk," said Ninian low, to Lulu. "Then they'll simmer down."

He went on, in an undertone, about nothing in particular. Lulu hardly heard what he said, it was so pleasant to have him talking to her in this confidential fashion; and she was pleasantly aware that his manner was open to misinterpretation.

In the nick of time the lobster was served.

Dinner and the play—the show, as Ninian called it. This show was "Peter Pan," chosen by Ninian because the seats cost the most of those at any theater. It was almost indecent to see how Dwight Herbert, the immortal soul, had warmed and melted at these contacts. By the time that all was over, and they were at the hotel for supper, such was his pleasurable excitement that he was once more playful, teasing, once more the irrepressible. But now his Ina was to be won back, made it evident that she was not one lightly to overlook, and a fine firmness sat upon the little doubling chin.

They discussed the play. Not one of them had understood the story. The dog-kennel part—wasn't that the queerest thing? Nothing to do with the rest of the play.

"I was for the pirates. The one with the hook—he was my style," said Dwight.

"Well, there it is again," Ina cried. "They didn't belong to the real play, either."

"Oh, well," Ninian said, "they have to put in parts, I suppose, to catch everybody. Instead of a song and dance, they do that."

"And I didn't understand," said Ina, "why they all clapped when the principal character ran down front and said something to the audience that time. But they all did."

Ninian thought this might have been out of compliment. Ina wished that Monona might have seen, confessed that the last part was so pretty that she herself would not look; and into Ina's eyes came their loveliest light.

Lulu sat there, hearing the talk about the play. "Why couldn't I have said that?" she thought as the others spoke. All that they said seemed to her apropos, but she could think of nothing to add. The evening had been to her a light from heaven—how could she find anything to say? She sat in a daze of happiness, her mind hardly operative, her look moving from one to another. At last Ninian looked at her.

"Sure you liked it, Miss Lulu?"

"Oh, yes! I think they all took their parts real well."

It was not enough. She looked at them appealingly, knowing that she had not said enough.

"You could hear everything they said," she added. "It was—" she dwindled to silence.

Dwight Herbert savored his rarebit with a great show of long wrinkled dimples.

"Excellent sauces they make here—excellent," he said, with the frown of an epicure. "A tiny wee bit more Athabasca," he added, and they all laughed and told him that Athabasca was a lake, of course. Of course he meant tabasco, Ina said. Their en-

tertainment and their talk was of this sort, for an hour.

"Well, now," said Dwight Herbert when it was finished, "somebody dance on the table."

"Dwightie!"

"Got to amuse ourselves somehow. Come, liven up. They'll begin to read the funeral service over us."

"Why not say the wedding service?" asked Ninian.

In the mention of wedlock there was always something stimulating to Dwight, something of overwhelming humor. He shouted a derisive endorsement of this proposal.

"I shouldn't object," said Ninian. "Should you, Miss Lulu?"

Lulu now burned the slow red of her torture. They were all looking at her. She made an anguished effort to defend herself.

"I don't know it," she said, "so I can't say it."

Ninian leaned toward her.

"I, Ninian, take thee, Lulu, to be my wedded wife," he pronounced.

"That's the way it goes!"

"Lulu daren't say it!" cried Dwight. He laughed so loudly that those at the near tables turned. And, from the fastness of her wifehood and motherhood Ina laughed. Really, it was ridiculous to think of Lulu that way.

Ninian laughed, too. "Course she don't dare say it," he challenged.

From within Lulu, that strange Lulu, that other Lulu who sometimes fought her battles, suddenly spoke out:

"I, Lulu, take thee, Ninian, to be my wedded husband."

"You will?" Ninian cried.

"I will," she said, laughing tremulously, to prove that she, too, could join in, could be as merry as the rest.

"And I will. There, by Jove, now have we entertained you, or haven't we?" Ninian laughed and pounded his soft fist on the table.

"Oh, say, honestly!" Ina was shocked. "I don't think you ought to—holy things—what's the matter, Dwightie?"

Dwight Herbert Deacon's eyes were staring and his face was scarlet.

"Say, by George," he said, "a civil wedding is binding in this state."

"A civil wedding? Oh, well—" Ninian dismissed it.

"But I," said Dwight, "happen to be a magistrate."

They looked at one another foolishly. Dwight sprang up with the indeterminate idea of inquiring something of some one, circled about and returned. Ina had taken his chair and sat clasping Lulu's hand. Ninian continued to laugh.

"I never saw one done so offhand," said Dwight. "But what you've said is all you have to say according to law. And there don't have to be witnesses . . . say!" he said, and sat down again.

Above that shroud-like plaited lace, the veins of Lulu's throat showed dark as she swallowed, cleared her throat, swallowed again.

"Don't you let Dwight scare you," she besought Ninian.

"Scare me!" cried Ninian. "Why, I think it's a good job done, if you ask me."

Lulu's eyes flew to his face. As he laughed, he was looking at her, and now he nodded and shut and opened his eyes several times very fast. Their points of light flickered. With a pang of wonder which pierced her and left her shaken, Lulu looked. His eyes continued to meet her own. It was exactly like looking at his photograph. Dwight had recovered his authentic air.

"Oh, well," he said, "we can inquire at our leisure. If it is necessary, I should say we can have it set aside quietly up here in the city—no one'll be the wiser."

"Set aside nothing!" said Ninian. "I'd like to see it stand."

"Are you serious, Nin?"

"Sure I'm serious."

Ina jerked gently at her sister's arm.

"Lulu! You hear him? What you going to say to that?"

Lulu shook her head. "He isn't in earnest," she said.

"I am in earnest—hope to die," Ninian declared. He was on two legs of his chair and was slightly tilting, so that the effect of his earnestness was impaired. But he was obviously in earnest.

They were looking at Lulu again. And now she looked at Ninian, and there was something terrible in that look which tried to ask him, alone, about this thing.

Dwight exploded. "There was a fellow I know there in the theater," he cried. "I'll get him on the line. He could tell me if there's any way—" and was off.

"I don't know what to make of Lulu's letters. They are so—so—"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Paris entertains on an average nearly 500,000 foreign visitors each year.

## LATEST MARKET QUOTATIONS

Furnished by

U. S. BUREAU OF MARKETS  
Washington, D. C.

### Live Stock and Meats.

Chicago prices: Hogs, top, \$8.35; bulk of sales, \$7.90 to \$8.25; medium and good beef steers, \$7.25 to \$12.50; butcher cows and heifers, \$6.50 to \$10.75; feeder steers, \$5.25 to \$7.75; light and medium-weight veal calves, \$8.50 to \$9.50. Fat lambs, \$12.25 to \$15.50; feeding lambs, \$12.25 to \$14.25; yearlings, \$9.50 to \$13.50; fat ewes, \$4.50 to \$7.75.

Good grades meats: Beef, \$14 to \$17; veal, \$13 to \$17; lamb, \$23 to \$27; mutton, \$11 to \$17; light pork loins, \$17 to \$20; heavy loins, \$13 to \$18.

### Cotton.

Spot cotton prices declined 52 points during the week. New York December future contracts declined 53 points. Spot cotton closed at 24.88c per pound. New York December future contracts closed at 24.99c.

### Hay.

No. 1 timothy, New York, \$26; Philadelphia, \$21; Pittsburgh, \$19.50; Cincinnati, \$18; Chicago, \$22; Minneapolis, \$17.50; Kansas City, \$16.50; St. Louis, \$21; Memphis, \$22. No. 1 alfalfa, Kansas City, \$23; Memphis, \$20; St. Louis, \$27. No. 1 prairie, Kansas City, \$13.50; St. Louis, \$18; Minneapolis, \$16.50; Chicago, \$19.

### Feed.

Bran, \$22.75; middlings, \$22.50; flour middlings, \$25.50; rye middlings, \$21.50; Minneapolis. Thirty-six per cent cottonseed meal, \$42.75; Memphis, \$43.50. Atlanta. White hominy feed, \$29, St. Louis; \$30, Chicago. Thirty-four per cent linseed meal, \$49.50, Minneapolis; \$51, Buffalo. Gluten feed, \$38.35, Chicago.

### Fruits and Vegetables.

Eastern round white potatoes, sacked and bulk, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per 100 lbs. in leading markets; 60c to 55c f. o. b. shipping points; northern stock mostly 90c to \$1.15 in midwestern cities; 60c to 70c f. o. b. New York. Danish type cabbage, \$20 to \$27 per ton, bulk, in consuming centers; \$12 to \$16 f. o. b.; northern Danish, \$15 to \$18 in Chicago. New York Baldwin apples, \$4.50 to \$5.50 per barrel in leading markets; \$3.75 to \$4.00 f. o. b. shipping points. New York and Michigan Rhode Island Greenings, \$5.00 to \$5.50 in Chicago. Virginia York Imperials, \$3.50 to \$4.25 in east-coast markets. Northwestern extra fancy boxed Jonathans, \$1.50 to \$2.25. Midwestern yellow onions, \$2.00 to \$2.75 per 100-lb. sack in leading markets. New York stock, \$2.25 to \$2.50 in New York city.

### Grain.

Closing prices in Chicago cash market: No. 2 red winter wheat, \$1.31; No. 2 hard winter wheat, \$1.21. No. 2 mixed corn, 72c; No. 2 yellow corn, 73c; No. 3 white oats, 44c. Average farm prices: No. 2 mixed corn in central Iowa, 60c; No. 2 hard winter wheat in central Kansas, \$1. Closing future prices: Chicago May wheat, \$1.16 1/2; Chicago May corn, 69 1/2c; Minneapolis May wheat, \$1.15 1/2; Kansas City May wheat, \$1.07 1/2; Winnipeg May wheat, \$1.07 1/2.

### Dairy Products.

Butter markets steady. Supplies light, demand good, but rumors of possible imports partly responsible for unsettled feeling, especially at New York, where prices declined 1/2c on the first. Markets are out of line with each other, as Chicago is now higher than New York.

Closing prices, 52 score butter: New York, 53c; Chicago, 55c; Philadelphia, 54c; Boston, 52c.

Cheese markets steady to firm, but trading quiet following sharp advances, averaging about 1 1/2c on Wisconsin cheese boards. These advances are supported to some extent by decreasing production, and a fairly good demand even at the high prices.

Cheese prices at Wisconsin primary markets: Twins, 25 1/2c; Daisies, 27 1/2c; Longhorns, 26 1/2c; Square Prints, 27 1/2c.

### DENVER MARKETS.

#### Cattle.

Receipts, 5,301. Beef steers sold for \$6.00, while dealers were trying to sell choice beef steers up to \$7.50, with no buyers at that figure. Killing cows sold for \$3.00, while a load from the feed lot went to the big packers as high as \$4.85. Choice heifers brought the unusual fancy price of \$5.55. Other heifers of the fair kind brought a price of \$5.25.

Feeders and stockers were weighed in separately, and commanded prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$5.50. A few choice feeders brought as high as \$7.00. Bulls were a drag on the market at \$2.50 and \$2.60. The sale of calves also was limited, and ranged in price from \$3.00 to \$3.50 for choice grade.

#### Hogs.

Receipts, 1,798. Tops brought \$8.00, and it is said one load brought as high as \$10.10. Three loads went over the scales at \$8, while five more were taken at prices ranging from \$7.55 to \$7.90. A few bulk sales were made as low as \$7.25, while packers' throwouts brought from \$8.25 to \$8.50.

Pigs were weighed in with a fair supply, while the demand brought prices ranging from \$6.75 to \$7.00.

#### Sheep.

Receipts, 7,584. Three loads of fat lambs averaged 92 pounds, and brought a price of \$13.60 flat. Four loads averaging 77 pounds were weighed over at \$12.50, and were bought by large packers. Choice lambs were quoted as high as \$13.75. Fat ewes were scarce with no buyers. A few under stock of choice lambs sold as high as \$12.75. One load of feeder ewes sold to country buyers at \$5.50, which was the highest advance of the day.

### Hay and Grain Prices.

Timothy, No. 1, ton	\$21.00
Timothy, No. 2, ton	19.00
South Park No. 1, ton	22.00
South Park No. 2, ton	20.00
Second bottom, No. 1, ton	19.00
Second bottom, No. 2, ton	17.50
Alfalfa, ton	20.00
Straw, ton	8.50
Oats, per cwt.	1.52
Corn, No. 3 yellow, per cwt.	1.47
Wheat, No. 1, per bushel	.82c to .92

### DENVER SUGAR QUOTATIONS.

Manufacturers' Price.	
Beet	\$8.10
Cane	8.30
Wholesalers' Price.	
Beet	\$8.25
Cane	8.55

## DENVER BUSINESS DIRECTORY

SPECIAL RUSH SERVICE secured if you mention this paper when writing firms below.

DIAMONDS AND WATCHES.  
BOHM-ALLEN JEWELRY CO.  
Mfg. and repairing. All orders promptly attended to. Est. 1879. 16th & Champa.

CLEANERS AND DYERS.

GRUND DRY CLEANING  
DENVER'S EXPERT DYER  
Established TWENTY-FOUR YEARS  
GRUND BUILDING, 17TH & LOGAN

## \$25 a Month

Placed away regularly for 15 years will amount to \$4,500. A comfortable fortune in itself—

BUT—

\$25 invested each month for 15 years in safe Municipal Bonds bearing 5% interest, will amount to \$6681.44.

The interest automatically adds a cool \$2181.44 to your nest egg.

An extra sum earned for you by your money—with no effort on your part.

The Newton Plan for building such a surplus was devised for you.

Write Dept. G-2 for literature.

## NEWTON & Co., Inc.

Investment Bankers  
First National Bank  
Building, Denver  
Pope Block, Pueblo

"Newton Enterprises established in Color de Since 1868"

### HOTELS.

WINDSOR, 18th & Larimer. Rooms 75c up. Special rates to permanent guests.

## Parcel Post Dyeing

Out of town work is the big part of our business.

Doing Successful Dyeing for 25 Years

The Model Cleaners and Dyers  
1317 BROADWAY, DENVER, COLO.

### INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Commercial inquiries answered and information gladly furnished without cost. Address any firm above.

### Anti-Lynching Bill Fight to Continue.

Washington—Senate Democrats, refreshed by the holiday rest, announced they were fully prepared to resume their filibuster against the Dyer anti-lynching bill. Republican leaders indicated that the majority was equally prepared to continue its fight in behalf of the measure.

### Plane Falls, Aviator Hurt.

Los Angeles—Hubert Kittle, an aviator, suffered a broken leg and other injuries when his machine fell while he was doing stunt flying for the entertainment of his family and Thanksgiving dinner guests.

### Senate Gives Mussolini Full Power.

Rome—The Senate passed the bill granting the Mussolini government full powers, until the end of 1923, to put into effect its program of financial reconstruction and bureaucratic reform.

### Railroads Add Many Freight Cars.

Washington—Railroads during the present year have added much more substantially to their equipment for transportation service than they were able to do in 1921, according to a report made public by the car service division of the American Railway Association. Up to Nov. 1 they put in service, or had in process of manufacture, 117,238 new freight cars, which was 47,802 more than were procured during the entire year of 1921. On the same date, this year, they had installed in service 866 new locomotives and had 1,232 more under orders at manufacturing plants.

### Part of \$100,000 U. S. Notes Recovered

New York—Part of \$100,000 in United States treasury notes stolen from the Cleveland Trust Company of Cleveland, Ohio, on Oct. 11, was recovered in New York when officials of the Federal Reserve Bank recognized \$25,000 in notes of large denominations which had been left with a local brokerage firm by a stranger, who asked to have them changed into smaller notes.