

WHEN A GIRL MARRIES

A New Serial of Young Married Life

By Ann Lisle

CHAPTER LXXXIV (Continued).
"What will do to your land-lord's studio. Naturally he isn't as expensive as these big shops, and he'll give you a special price, no doubt."

"No doubt," I echoed blankly.
"How was I to tell Betty that I didn't like my landlord—that I shrank from the thought of going to the studio? I could not register any protest that sounded sane, so I had to let Betty trot me up to the Mason office."

Tom Mason announced that he had just the gift we needed. He produced a wonderful pair of black cloisonne candlesticks, and then, with a meaning smile at me, he laid under them a bit of blue and green and shot-silver silk, heavy and lustrous. It was like the blue robe that lay hidden in the carved chest.

"Wonderful! Virginia will be delighted and Jimmie's going to trust you with his shopping every time," cried Betty. "The candlesticks are nice. I'll take them if they aren't too expensive," I said as

steadily as I could manage. "But that bit of blue doesn't appeal to me."

Tom Mason smiled almost deprecatingly.
"Twenty-five dollars you said you wanted to spend, I think. Well, to you Mrs. Harrison, I'll let the candlesticks go for twenty—and add the blue brocade table cover for five more. They really belong together."

"Do take them, Anne; they're just the thing for Virginia," cried Betty, completely satisfied with her bargain.

"So they're for Virginia Dalton! Odd—I'm expecting Pat in here presently. Stay on a bit and we'll take you to tea," Tom suggested jocularly.

I winced—but Betty seemed to find Tom rather amusing.

"Man, dear—but you have a morbid sense of humor!" said she. "Now, is Mrs. Harrison satisfied, I'm ready to conclude our shopping. We will let you send the candlesticks and tapestry to Mrs. Dalton and just run along."

So I paid for the gift, gave Tom Mason our cards and Virginia's address and hurried out of the shop after Betty.

At the street door Betty stopped in nervous indecision.

"I wish we hadn't left Virginia's address, Anne. Oh, well, it's done now, so I won't worry. But whatever possessed you to hesitate over that adorable bit of tapestry. You surely don't know much about bargaining, child—or did you want to spend less? I thought you said Jim insisted on twenty-five—and it would have been silly not to get your money's worth—wouldn't it? Didn't you like that glorious blue and silver?"

"Betty, you ought to be in the district attorney's office," I laughed, evading a direct reply.

But I didn't feel like laughing, for at the price he had made, those candlesticks almost seemed Tom Mason's present to Virginia rather than mine.—Copyright, 1920.

(To Be Continued.)

INDEED!

"Some nerve, I call it. He keeps his seat."

"Yes?"

"He lets me stand."

"Well, girly?"

"And then he tries to flirt with me!"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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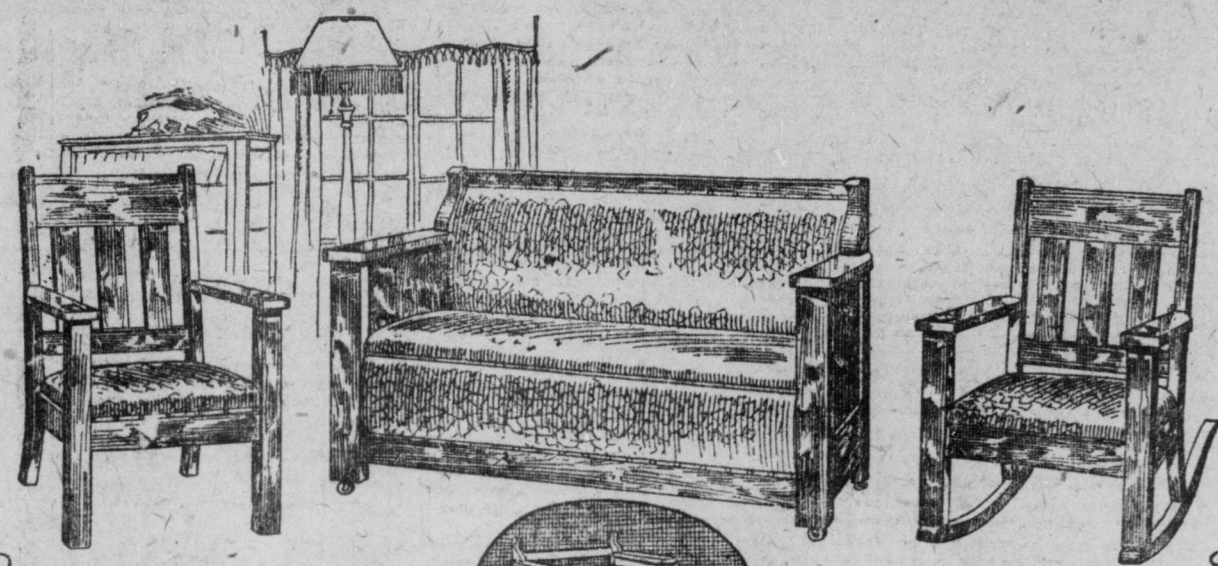
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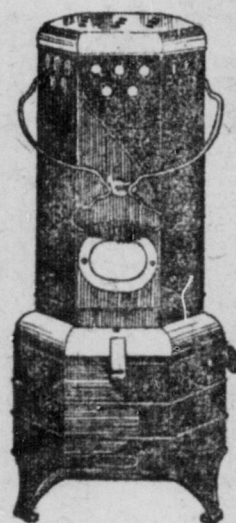
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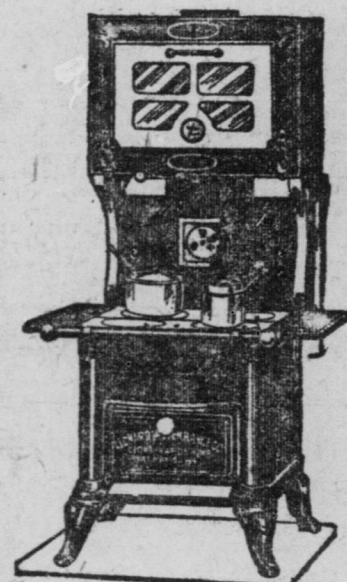
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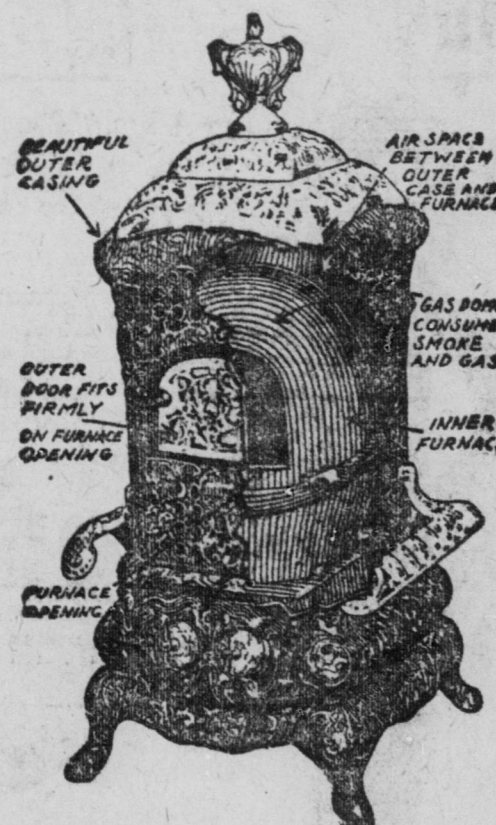
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