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Christmas Violets

By Mary Graham Bonner

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HAROLD had been told by his mother that big dates were full of designing women. It arold did not know whether his mother was right or not. But he did know that in his city boarding house there was one of the dearest little girls who had ever lived.

Harold was not selfish. He was far from being a miser. His idea of a miser was a chap he had known in his home town. He had never spent any money which he could possibly avoid spending. He always ate with his friends and rarely paid for a meal. He was always out of cigarettes and so smoked his friends' cigarettes.

He had made a good living and never failed to talk of his poverty.

He had been accused of worshipping money and he had replied: "Not a bit of it. I have great respect for money. That is the difference."

Harold despised that kind of a person. And yet, perhaps, wouldn't the "dearest little girl" think he was mean? He had never given her anything and he had lived at the boarding house for six months now. Did she think he was mean? That was what bothered him. She had told him of a person she had known whom she considered a miser, and she had told him of a joke upon this "miser." For he had bargained with a little shop dealer and had obtained an article marked a dollar for fifty cents, and then had walked down the street a little farther on and had seen the same article in another window for twenty-five cents. And finally he had seen it in a ten-cent store for a dime—well, he had almost considered life useless, while everyone else had rejoiced that it had been a good one on the "miser."

One of the reasons that made him feel that she thought, perhaps, he was mean was because she knew others who were generous. Or, at least, one other. Every Saturday she had received flowers. She had taken a card out of the box as they had sat at the boarding house table at breakfast. The other boarders teased her about her admirer and she seemed to enjoy it. Only he felt uncomfortable and could say nothing.

And Helen, whom he called to himself the dearest little girl, had been receiving these flowers for quite a few weeks now.

Finally he could stand it no longer. His mother needn't tell him anything more about the city's designing women. He was not going to lose the dearest little girl. If there was yet a chance, because of his mother's warnings to keep to himself.

And, besides, Christmas was coming, and Christmas was a time of year when everyone felt happy. He was going to make a tremendous fight to be happy!

And he sent her violets, beautiful deep purple violets, with a pink rose in the center.

Never had he seen her so happy as she was over his violets. How differently she acted about him than about the others. And then he asked her if she would take a walk with him. So far, they had had all their talks in the boarding house.

"I wonder," he said, "if you'd think it was awfully sudden if I made a little suggestion? I was thinking how nice a ring would look on that left hand of yours—as a Christmas present—and an engagement present. If I may be so bold, and if you've not already promised yourself to the other fellow? Or, maybe you could learn to like me better."

"What other fellow?" Helen asked.

"The one who has been sending you flowers all along."

"Oh," Helen said, "I'll have to tell you the truth. I sent them to myself. You were so shy, you seemed to like me and yet couldn't go about telling me or asking me out, and I thought maybe I'd make you curious or jealous or something."

"And you've cared for me all along as I have for you?" he queried.

She nodded. And then he told her the warnings he had been given by his mother.

"I don't know out what she's right," Helen said. "I made designs for you, she could truthfully say."

But neither of them thought of the past, only of the glorious future ahead!

And Helen wore more violets on Christmas day and a ring with a stone which sparkled so beautifully. And they had dinner by themselves—a real Christmas dinner, for it was not only Christmas day—it was their wedding day, too!

Pretty Neckwear Sets



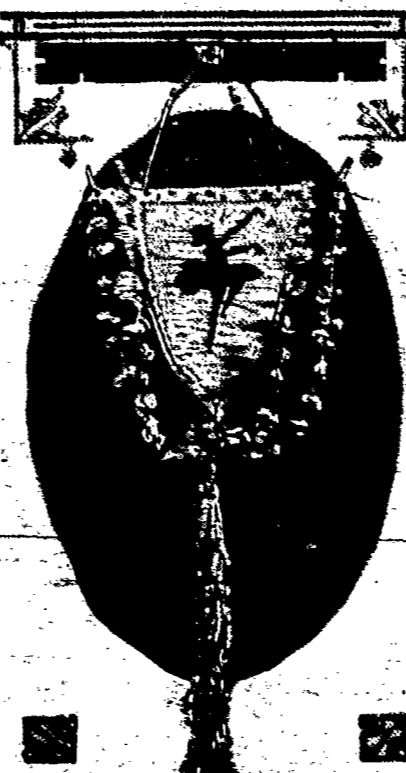
Every woman loves dainty neckwear and it is twice welcome when the donor herself has made it. There are many pretty sets this year made of white or colored organdie and other sheer fabrics. A collar, vestee and cuff set is shown here of white organdie cross-banded with black. Little flowers in red, green and purple floss are embroidered on the pieces in lazy-daisy stitch. For girls Peter Pan collars and cuffs to match are made of checked tissue gingham, edged with ready-made, scalloped trimming of plaited organdie, or other edging.

Cardboard Doll Cradle



Little girls get much joy out of dolls furniture. A Dutch cradle and the pieces that make it are shown here, in heavy cardboard. The tabs on the side pieces (Fig. 2) are perforated and slip through slots in the bottom piece (Fig. 1) and through the head and foot boards (Fig. 3). Little wood pegs, thrust through the perforations, hold the pieces together. Fig. 1 is 8 1/2 inches long and 4 inches wide. Fig. 2 is 17 1/2 inches wide at top, 8 1/2 inches at bottom, 2 1/2 inches wide at head, 2 1/2 inches at foot. Fig. 3 is 5 1/2 inches high and 5 1/2 inches wide. The rocker measures 6 1/2 inches across. The cradle may be finished with painted decorations.

A Graceful Lantern



No decoration will be more effective in dressing up the house at Christmas time than lanterns and candle shades of crepe paper and tinsel. A graceful lantern is illustrated here, made on a wire frame over which the paper covering is pasted and cut-out figures are pasted to the sides. The long tassel may be of tinsel or crepe paper. Festoons of flower petals, strung on cords finish this pretty decoration.

Rich Table Scarfs



Very handsome scarfs for the library are made of black velvet with an applique of wide brocaded ribbon down the center. They are a little shorter than the table and have fish-tail end with a silk tassel pendant from each point.

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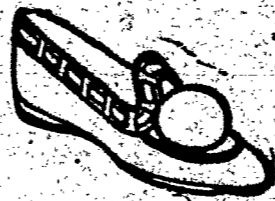
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