

they know you were making a dress? Grace any myself have not let a single person see ours. We have them both finished and were just waiting for you to come and then we were all going down town to get some ribbon to put around the neck and then everything would have been ready. But now you have lost your dress and the boys have caught on to our scheme. O pshaw! It's too bad."

While Lulu was speaking Mattie's anger gave place to genuine disappointment. Her ingenious mind sought in vain for some expedient. But no bright ray of hope pierced the dark disappointment that cast its gloom over her. It was now Thursday afternoon and Friday was to be the happy evening. It was impossible for her to make another dress before that time. Grace who had stood absorbed in thought for some time, suddenly brightened up and said, "I have it. You must go immediately and buy another piece of calico and bring it to our room. We will skip recitations tomorrow and help you make it."

"Yes do. It is the only hope, and I'll wager my new spring bonnet that no boy shall come into this room until after Friday evening. If they do they will get a warm reception," said Lulu, casting a side glance at the picture on the mirror shelf. Mattie left and soon returned with another piece of calico. The next morning the girls were at work bright and early. But as the day advanced their hope began to fail. Girls must talk. They kept up an incessant chatter that did much to hinder the completion of the dress. It is now half past six and the dress was not nearly done. At last Grace looked up wearily and said, "Girls, I do believe we will have to give it up. We ought to be getting ready now and the sleeves are not yet sewed in."

Lulu bit her lip in determination and began to sew more vigorously than ever. Mattie, prompted by a noble impulse, threw down her work and said, "Yes, we must give it up. It is all the fault of those miserable boys. You must go. I will stay at home. But, continued she, If I ever catch that—"

Just then the door bell rang. Grace sprang up, went out of the room into the hall and called out "Come in." The tall student with a bundle under his arm opened the outer door and came bounding up the stairs. Grace smiled in her usual sweet manner and they began talking. The other two girls became curious and Mattie stuck her head out of the door to see who the new visitor was. The tall student was standing on the upper step. When Mattie looked out he gave a sudden start, lost his balance and fell headlong to the bottom of the stairs. Grace, with a cry of horror, started after him. The noise brought out the other two girls. The three soon assisted the tall student to rise.

Lulu and Mattie now spied the bundle, which in the fall had burst open. With a cry of joy they sprang to seize it. It was the stolen dress. With eyes flashing fire Mattie turned towards the tall student. But he had disappeared, fully convinced that absence was his only salvation. His bruised head pained him less than the loss of the dress.

The girls were not long in getting ready and filed into the society hall fifteen minutes late with heads in the air and a look of triumph on their faces.

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