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LUCK.

He coned her carefully again and again, his face grew longer and longer. At last he drew a deep sigh, a sigh of such despairing intensity that it nearly split his last year's dress coat up the back. No, she did not wear his roses. The jollity faded out of the merry Christmas greetings. Still hoping against hope, he wearily made his way to her side.

"Thank you so much for the roses and book," she said, calmly. "It was very kind of you to remember me."

"You did get them, then?" he asked, despairingly.

"Of course," she replied. "Indeed, although I was awfully busy all day, I stole five minutes to look over the book; you always make such charming selections."

This ended all hope. Since she had opened the accursed book, she must have seen his note.

"Then there is nothing for me but to say good bye," he said, hoarsely.

"Why good bye?" she said, looking at him with surprise and curiosity.

It was at least a month later when she did, in an idle moment, listlessly open his gift. A note slid from under its cover into her lap. "Dear Miss Ethelwynd," she read, smilingly, "my chum has been trying to persuade me to go to the Philippines with him. Shall I? You must have read my heart; you must have divined my hopes; you must know how dearly I love you. If you wear my roses tonight I shall stay home—Jack."

"The romantic boy!" she laughed. "Gracious, isn't it lucky those roses didn't match my dress!"

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WHAT SHE EXPECTED.

- Father—Big cheque.
- Mother—Set of sables.
- Aunt and Uncle—Automobile.
- Mr. Van Blaccan—Silver ornament (at least).
- Mr. Franklin—Tortoiseshell hair comb (hinted at).
- Mr. Dabb—Opera glasses (also hinted at).
- Mr. Green—Candy.
- Nellie Frost—French novelty (from Paris).
- Grace Conver—Piece of jewelry.
- Jack—An engagement ring.
- Minor admirers, acquaintances, etc.—Flowers, candy.

WHAT SHE GOT.

- Father—Receipted bill for last hat.
- Mother—Short of funds, present letter.
- Aunt and Uncle—Prayer book.
- Mr. Van Blaccan—Small box of violets.
- Mr. Franklin—Pair of gloves.
- Mr. Dabb—Box of handkerchiefs.
- Mr. Green—Christmas card.
- Nellie Frost—"Best wishes" on foreign postal card.
- Grace Conver—Book—"L'Aiglon."
- Jack—Work basket.
- Minor admirers, acquaintances, etc.—Cards, notes.

Town Topics.

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