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CHIPS

ELIZABETH MYERS Illustration by B. Cory Kilvert

CHOSE a bench behind

CHOSE a bench behind the syringa bush that would shelter me from the common gaze and preclude interruption of my reading. I found it quite by accident for, I am sure, it had never been placed in that secluded spot by the Park authorities; sentiment rarely enters into their stern order of duty. Pray, believe me, when I say that I was not eavesdropping, but if people will discuss their domestic affairs right in front of me, it is not my fault: overhearing is not listening, there is a subtle distinction which I claim. She was the prettiest creature I have

She was the prettiest creature I have ever seen outside of magazine covers, innocence and modesty exquisitely drawn in every soft feature. She was wheeling a baby carriage and in it was an infant the replica of herself as to blue eyes, light curly hair and the most adorable of smiles; that babe could never could never

deny mother. Her solicitude for the child was truly beautiful for every other sec-ond she came to the side of the carriage to rearrange a bow, strand hair or to pat the elab-orate pillow -the inef fectual fuss ing that is so a part of

She stop-ped directly in front of my syringa and I no-ticed that she looked up and down the

His greeting was most nonchalant down the the path. Probably in search of other mothers, I thought, for I knew how they like to get together and compare infants, yet at the same time I felt instinctively that this was to be no mothers' meeting, for there was a subtle something in her attitude that suggested quite another element. tle something in her attitude that suggested quite another element; a subdued excitement, as it were. I gladly abandoned my study of the Doctrine of Evolution to the consideration of a modern, yet old-as-Eve problem, for it was dawning upon me that this was to be in the nature of a rendezyous. dezvous.

She had quick, little bird-like motions as she turned first one way and then another in her search, but ap-parently no one was in sight. Then I parently no one was in sight. Then I was shocked, most shocked to see her turn and vent her disappointment upon the poor little innocent babe, for she stooped over the carriage and, lifting the tot she thumped it down hard several times. So far as I could see there was absolutely no reason for this, as the babe had not uttered a sound. I would have heard it had it done so isn't it strange how these pretty gentle creatures suddenly let fly at the nearest victim as a relief to their overcharged emotions? emotions?

all the time in the world at his dis-posal, a book under his arm. When he spied her he did not quicken his pace, but she ran toward him with a little cry. His greeting was most noncha-lant, I thought, and she seemed hurt; for which I could hardly blame her. Then, I reasoned, as is the privilege of us spinsters, that his indifference was a pose. Men are such funny

'Hello Ralph," I heard her say. She had the prettiest of voices, clear as a bird's. She was so demure that one would never have guessed at the little tornado of a minute before.

"What kept you?" she questioned, taking his limp hand, which he allowed here to hold.

her to hold.

I couldn't come before," was all vouchsafed, and strange to say the explanation seemed entirely satisfac-tory. Some women are so easily appeased.

"Won't - won't you come and kiss

our child?" she said hesitatingly, as shedrew him toward the car riage. I was so

overcome for the minute that I let the Doctrine of Evolution slip off my lap. Fortunately, I caught it in time to avoid being discovered. Who would have believed it — and ofher! Here was scandal for you! Somehow,

l disliked him from His bored attitude was

tost nonchalant most a fcould see he was completely blasé and
I almost felt that the situation was an
old one for him. I hated him cordially
when he merely glanced at the adorable babe.

when he merely glanced at the adorable babe.

"Her face is dirty," was all he said. With a little cry of dismay, she took out a tiny handkerchief and put it to her mouth. (I truly believe that the misdeeds of children as they grow up are merely the getting-even for the many indignities they have to suffer as infants.) And never was a face more vigorously gone over.

"Say," went on the callous parent, "why don't you leave her home, she's an awful bother."

an awful bother."
"Yes, I know," I was amazed to hear her assent meekly. "But it would look funny if I didn't show her, seeing we're properly married."

HERE was a kettle of fish! Married! I think I felt a slight disappointment as of a romance spoiled, yet I am a most moral person. I knew, then, why he was so off-hand. Marriage kills

why he was so off-hand. Marriage kills romance; there's no denying it.

"Isn't it fun being married and no one to know," she gurgled ecstatically. Poor child, her enthusiasm was so genuine. It's the woman, always, who has to suffer. However, here was romance after all. I saw it clearly: Her people did not like him and forbade him to (Continued on Page 12)



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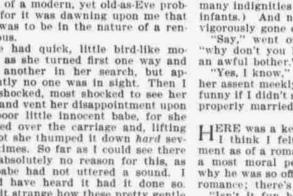
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Then like sunshine after a drifting cloud she became serene again, and I looked for the cause and found it. He was sauntering along as though he had