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The Fairy Godmother.

By JEROME SPRAGUE.

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Bubbles didn't care whether it was appropriate or not; she wanted it, and she was saving up her money to get it.

Every morning when she went to the store she found the girls talking of their summer hats.

"What kind are you going to have?" they would ask her, and Bubbles would laugh-the gay bubbling laugh that had given her her nickname-and would say, "Wait and see, girls; wait

and see." "Oh, piffie!" one of them said on a certain June morning. "I don't believe

you're going to get a hat." "Wait and see; wait and see," said Bubbles provokingly.

And then after the store was closed she went around the corner and looked at the hat with the white feather.

The price was in plain sight-\$10. Bubbles earned \$4 a week. Out of that she paid her aunt \$2.50 for board. Fifty cents went for car fare, and the rest she had for herself. Since last summer she had managed to save \$9.50, and the other fifty would add the complete amount necessary to buy the hat with the white feather.

She decided to tell Alice Forbes about It.

Alice was at the ribbon counter, while Bubbles sold notions. Their acquaintance rose from the fact that they walked home in the same direc-

"I'll have to wear it with all my old blue suit," Bubbles said as she went along. "But I don't care. I've made myself a white net waist, and it's awfully becoming."

"Ten dollars is a lot for a hat," Alice said quietly.

But Bubbles laughed, with her head flung up and her bright eyes shining. "Oh, what's the use of living." she said, "if a girl can't have something pretty now and then?"

Alice nodded. Her blue eyes were wistful. "That's what I think," she said. "Now, there's a remnant of ribbon at my counter. It's white, with bunches of pink roses on it. It would make a lovely girdle, and I could buy a white dress for 15 cents a yard and a little wreath of pink roses in the millinery department, and then I could be bridesmaid for Millie Drake."

"Does she want you to be?" Bubbles asked, with interest.

"Yes," Alice said. "Jimmie Bryan is to be best man."

"Oh!" Bubbles was silent for a moment. Then she asked, "Don't you think you can afford the dress?"

"No," Alice said quietly, "I can't. And I told Millie last night to ask you, Bubbles. I knew you wouldn't mind being asked second, because I'm ber oldest friend. I laid the piece of flowered ribbon away this morning, so that if you wanted it you could have it. You could make a white net skirt to your new waist. It would be awfully pretty with the pink roses."

But Bubbles was looking at her curi-

"Don't you mind," she asked-" mean not being bridesmaid?"

"Yes, I do," Alice said, and Bubbles "But I have to give all of my money to mother now that father is sick and can't work."

"Well, it's a hard old world," Bubbles remarked as they reached the corner where they separated. "If I decide to take the ribbon, Alice, I'll let you know in the morning."

At the next corner Bubbles met Jim mie Bryan.

"Jimmie," she said, with her gray eyes challenging him-"Jimmie, are you going to be best man at Millie's wedding?" "Sure," answered Jimmie-"cutaway,

white flower in my coat and all the rest of the agony.'

"And me to walk up the aisle with you?" said Bubbles.

Jimmie looked at her in surprise.

"I thought Alice was going-was going to do it," he said.

"Alice can't get the clothes," Bubbles informed him, "and if I wasn't a selfish pig I'd get them for her, but I want a white feather in my summer

Jimmie hesitated. "Look here, Bubbles," he said a little awkwardly, "ain't there some way you could make Alice think you were getting her dress and let me pay for it? I'd like to do

Bubbles caught her breath quickly. "Why, Jimmie!" she said.

Jimmie flushed. "She has an awful hard time," he said.

"Yes, she does," Bubbles agreed ab stractedly. She was a little white, but she still smiled at Jimmie. "So you don't want me to be brides-

maid with you?" she teased, still with a funny catch in her breath.

"Aw, Bubbles," he stammered, "you know I think you're about the nicest thing ever"-

"But you'd rather have Alice walk up the aisle with you," was her quiet reminder.

"I wouldn't," he declared stoutly. "but I'm sorry for Alice." "Of course," Bubbles agreed, and

then she went on to plan. "I could get her the things and tell her the money had come to me unexpectedly."

"I am afraid that wouldn't do," was Jimmie's worried response. feel as if she had to pay it back. You get the things and send them to her and don't have any mark on the box, and she'll never know where they came from."

"Well, I can't get the things we

talked about," Bubbles said, "or she would know right away. Do you care how much you spend, Jimmie?"

"No," he told her with the reckless-ness of the skilled laborer who earns his \$3 a day; "no, I don't."

"Then I'll get a robe dress of pink mull with a wreath of silver roses.

She'll look like a dream, Jimmle." "I hope she will," Jimmie said, and Bubbles sighed.

"Goodby, Jimmie," she said as she came to the tenement where she lived on the third floor.

He looked at her anxiously. "You're not cut up about not being bridesmaid, are you?" he asked.

She shook her head. "No," she answered bravely. "Well, you're pretty nice, Bubbles," he said heartily, and then he went on

his way When Bubbles reached home she took out her hoarded store of money. With what she would add on her next pay day she would have \$10, and she could buy the hat with the white

feather. She fingered the money for a moment, and then she dropped her head on her arm with a sob, for Bubbles had wanted that hat to wear to church on Sunday morning when she sang in the choir with Jimmie Bryan. It had been for Jimmie's admiration that she had craved the pretty hat. And, after all, it was Alice that Jimmie cared

Two days later Alice came to her

counter breathlessly.
"Oh, Bubbles," she said, "such a wonderful thing has happened!"

"What?" asked Bubbles innocently. And then Alice told her of the wonderful gown and the dainty accessories that had come the night before in a big box.

"I can't imagine who sent them." "It must have been a fairy godmother," said Bubbles demurely.

"And now I can be Millie's bridesmaid," caroled Alice when she had exhausted all her conjectures as to the giver. "You won't mind, will you, Bubbles?"

"No," said Bubbles steadily.

And as she sold needles and pins and hooks and eyes and whalebones and a hundred and one other things that day she told herself that she did not care. Why should she want to walk beside Jimmie Bryan when he preferred to have Alice?

She passed the window with the hat with the white feather that night without a glance, and on Sunday she wore a plain little black sailor with a cheap red rose, and she looked prettier than ever in it.

"Alice thinks you're a fairy god-mother," she told Jimmle after serv-

"Say, did she like it?" he demanded. "Of course she did," said Bubbles. "Who wouldn't?"

But Jimmie did not answer immediately. He stood looking down at her. "Say, little girl," he said presently, "you look mighty nice in that hat." "It cost just \$1.98," Bubbles inform-

ed him glibly, "marked down from \$2." "I don't care what it cost," Jimmie stated. "You look mighty nice."

Bubbles couldn't resist saying, "But not half as nice as Alice will in that pink robe."

"Bubbles, I believe you're jealous," flashed Jimmie unexpectedly.

Bubbles' cheeks flamed. "Why, Jim-

mie Bryan!" she faltered. "Look here," Jimmie demanded, "did you think I was in love with Alice?" Under his keen scrutiny Bubbles was

forced to admit, "I couldn't very well help it, could I?" was afraid you would," Jimmie said, "that day when I planned to get her the things, but I had promised. Oh, look here, Bubbles, you come out

to the park with me, and I'll tell you about it." And all the way to the park Bubbles' heart sang, and she seemed to walk on air, and she was glad that she hadn't bought the hat with the white feather. She was glad she hadn't been extravagant, for Jimmie seemed to like her just as well in the

black sailor with the red rose. In the park the beds were full of jonquils and tulips and hyacinths and crocuses, and under the flowering almond tree Jimmie and Bubbles sat down

to talk. "You see," Jimmie explained, "there's Bob Travers, and he's in the navy, and he's away on a three years' cruise, and he made me promise that I'd look after Alice-they've been in love with each other since they were kids-and when Alice's father got sick I tried to help, but they wouldn't let me, and it seemed as if getting her the dress would be what Bob would want me to do, and now he's going to get home in time for the wedding, and I told Mille she'd have to have him for best man."

"Oh!" cried Bubbles, aglow with happiness.

"And then I told her how much I thought of you, and she wants us to be in the wedding party, and— Oh, well, look here, Bubbles." And in the shadow of the flowering almond he held out his arms.

And Bubbles, having wept a little weep of joy on his broad shoulder, sat up and wiped her eyes. "Ain't I glad I didn't spend all my money for that feather, Jimmie?" she said. "I'll get the white net skirt and wear the rose-

but ribbon"-"And a diamond ring." interrupted Jimmie

"A diamond ring! What for?" demanded Bubbles. "Because we're engaged," said Jimmie rapturously.

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