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HOW HE MADE MAY VAN ALEN LOVE HIM

Profiting by Mistakes of Her Previous Suitors, "Grizzy" Thompson Wins the Most-Courted of All Bachelor Maids, and Proves That Love and Courtship Can Be Made "100 Per Cent. Efficient"



May Van Alen Who Lost the Heart Newport Thought She Never Had.

Mrs. David Dows, a Former Member of May Van Alen's Coterie of Bachelor Maids, Which "Inefficient" Courtship Made Possible.

"MAY VAN ALEN WILL NEVER marry."

For years this has been society's favorite comment whenever the name of Miss Van Alen, daughter of James J. Van Alen and granddaughter of the late Mrs. Astor, was mentioned. The smart set long ago crowned her "Queen of the Bachelor Maids," and there seemed to be good reason for society's belief that she would continue to hold that title as long as she lived.

It was no lack of suitors which doomed Miss Van Alen to bachelor maidenhood. Ever since she made her debut, seventeen years ago, her heart has been the object of persistent attacks from a never-ending succession of men—young and old, rich and poor, including all the most desirable prospective husbands in America and Europe. There has never been a time when there was not at least one man keeping society on the qui vive to know if he was really going to win Miss Van Alen, and nearly always there were two or three spirited contests for her hand in progress at one and the same time.

Fortunes were spent in the effort to win the favor of this capricious queen—every artful method known to love-making was tried; one lover even made good his threat to commit suicide unless he could have her—but through all this siege Miss Van Alen remained as unmoved as Gibraltar. One after another her suitors retired from the lists in despair, leaving behind them a record of blasted hopes long and varied enough to furnish the heart interest for a dozen novels.

"May Van Alen will never marry," they all declared. "She has no heart."

But now, like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, comes the news that the "Queen of the Bachelor Maids" is to be betrothed—that May Van Alen will really marry! Her engagement to a baker's dozen of eligible men has been rumored at frequent intervals during the past fifteen years, only to be promptly denied by her watchful father. In this case, however, Mr. Van Alen's formal announcement leaves no room for doubt that his daughter and Griswold Thompson, once of Philadelphia, now of Newport and New York, are to be married in September, if not sooner.

All of which proves that society has been wrong all these years in declaring Miss Van Alen heartless. The trouble has not been with her heart, which is quite evidently a perfectly normal, warm-blooded seat of emotions, but in the fact that never until now was it assailed in the right way. When the right man appeared in the person of Griswold Thompson and applied the right methods to his courtship, Miss Van Alen capitulated quite as readily as if he had been the first man to court her.

How did "Grizzy" Thompson do it? How was he able to make May Van Alen love him when so many other more experienced men had failed? Here is the explanation—the explanation that is just beginning to dawn on the "wise ones."

"Grizzy" Thompson succeeded because he had the intelligence to see that the science of efficiency can be applied to problems of the heart as well as to the more sordid affairs of life. Let us see just how he applied the principles of scientific management to the problem of winning America's most famous bachelor maid.

It was in the Summer of 1911 that Newport noticed the great friendship between Miss Van Alen and the good-looking stranger from Philadelphia, who was being sponsored by Mrs. Adolf Ladenburg. Mrs. Ladenburg arranged many introductions for him and Mr. Thompson, or "Grizzy," as

he was going to apply the principles of this practical science to his courtship, or how shrewdly he would profit by the mistakes of all the suitors who had preceded him.

Just what is efficiency? Let Mr. Thompson answer: "It is getting what you want when you want it in the quickest possible time and with the least possible exertion."

What "Grizzy" Thompson wanted was nothing less than the heart and hand of May Van Alen—that part of the problem was quite simple. And the fact that Miss Van Alen's personal fortune runs high up into the millions probably did not dampen

head for hours at a time. "How did all these other fellows go about it? What did they do that made their courtship end in failure?" Like a flash "Grizzy" realized that his chances of success depended upon his ability to answer these questions. He forthwith determined to familiarize himself with all the previous courtships of Miss Van Alen and to turn the mistakes of his predecessors to his own advantage.

Of course he already had quite a smattering of knowledge of this subject, for no one can be long in Newport without hearing a great deal about Miss Van Alen's numerous

love affairs. Mr. Thompson, however, was determined to go about his task in a thoroughly scientific way and to gather the required information as far as possible from first-hand sources. To do this he had to become something of an anti-social, for Miss Van Alen's first suitor, as near as Newport's oldest inhabitant can remember, entered the lists back in 1896, two years before the Spanish-American war.

Harry Lehr was this first suitor. He was backed by Mrs. Astor, and was a great favorite in Newport—what could have been the reason why he failed to win Miss Van Alen? "Lehr was too feminine." That was "Grizzy's" decision after gleaning all the information he could from Newporters old enough to travel back in memory to the gay Summers of 1896-1897-1898.

Score one for efficiency! "Grizzy" Thompson promptly began to make his masculinity as pronounced as possible. He wore only clothes that were rampantly mannish, he danced little and studiously avoided pleasing the ladies by retailing club scandals as Lehr used to do. Soon he was pleased to note that the more he emphasized the efficient side of his nature, the more his favor grew in Miss Van Alen's eyes.

"Bunny" Hawkes was the next suitor to claim "Grizzy's" attention. He had followed on the heels of Harry Lehr and had squandered great sums of money in lavish entertainments for her. Some of the most costly luncheons and dinners ever given at Sherry's and Delmonico's were arranged by him in her honor—and yet, May Van Alen's rejection of "Bunny" Hawkes was as emphatic as it had been in the case of Harry Lehr.

"Ah," said "Grizzy" Thompson, a great light beginning to dawn on him. "She doesn't like extravagance. I will be frugal and saving. I'll buy sandwiches for her at the delicatessen shops and take her to luncheon at Child's."

On second thought, however, this seemed a bit too crude, even for Mr.



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the ambitious young Philadelphians' ardor one bit.

But how to make this woman love him? How to win most quickly and easily the bachelor maid who had been rejecting millionaires, wine merchants and popular club men long before "Grizzy's" high school days were over? These were the problems which wrinkled Mr. Thompson's manly forehead for hours at a time.

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Thompson's efficient soul, and he compromised by taking her to Bronx Park on picnics. When they were at Newport he gave little parties for her on Easton's Beach, where they ate their frugal food out of a basket without the assistance of any plush-clad waiters or solemn-faced butlers. After lunch they paddled barefooted in the water—such fun!

Efficiency scored again just as it had in the first instance. Miss Van Alen showed quite plainly that she liked these simple affairs far more than "Bunny" Hawkes's elaborate restaurant spreads. And as "Grizzy" noted her satisfaction he became bolder and carried his suddenly acquired frugality to an even more close-fisted extent. Several times he even pretended he had forgotten his money and made her produce her own purse and pay the carfare.

With all the care of the efficiency expert he was fast becoming, "Grizzy" carefully noted the effect of his unusual methods upon Miss Van Alen. If it was not helping his cause, it was at least making her stop and think about him. Having been courted all her life by men who showered her with money, her interest could not help being aroused by the novelty of a suitor whose pockets often lacked carfare.

Ralph Ranlett was the third in the long list of Miss Van Alen's suitors whose mistakes taught her latest lover how to make his courtship efficient. Champagne and the finest hot-house flowers were the high cards he had relied on to win his game, and he had lavished these on her as only a millionaire can.

"Grizzy" was quick to take his cue from the fact that all Ranlett's extravagance had availed him nothing. "No orchids, no cold bottles of extra dry for me," said "Grizzy," and, true to his word, he and Miss Van Alen became regular patrons of the soda fountains, where "Grizzy" frugally regaled her with nut sundaes and ice cream. The expensive florist shops knew him as a customer no more, and the only flowers he gave her were the wild



"She refused 'Bunny' Hawkes in spite of his expensive dinners, but she loved 'Grizzy' all the more when they went wading after a basket picnic at the beach."

"Other men had lavished expensive bonbons on her—the efficient 'Grizzy' introduced her to the delicious lolly pops at a cent apiece."

ones which he gathered with his own hands.

The wealthy Commodore Waters, of Baltimore, was another suitor whose final rejection showed the inefficiency of extravagance in courtship. When "Grizzy" found out that the commodore had surfeited her with wonderful cruises on his palatial steam yacht, this apostle of efficient love-making began taking her to Coney Island and up the Hudson on ordinary excursion steamers. To his great delight, this capricious Newport millionaire declared one day that she enjoyed these little trips far better than she ever had any of the cruises on Commodore Waters's yacht.

"At last," cried "Grizzy," "I am on the right track. All I need do is to play the part of an ordinary \$10-a-week clerk, and May will wind up by loving me."

But "Grizzy" was too efficient a love-maker to risk ruining his chances by any display of overconfidence. Although he began to see that he was certainly making headway, he did not give up for a minute his exhaustive investigation into the experiences of Miss Van Alen's previous suitors.

Francis Otis and Cushing Stetson, he found, had courted her at the same time and had both tried to travel the literary route to her affections. Stetson used to read her reams of his "Blue Jacket" stories, while Frankie Otis tried to win her with French novels.

But Miss Van Alen had quickly tired of this form of devotion, as the record of the past performances of Messrs. Otis and Stetson shows. Therefore "Grizzy" declared that literature bored him to death. Instead of novels and poetry, he brought her armfuls of Sunday papers with their comic supplements and colored magazine sections.

Long tours in his \$20,000 motor car had been a feature of the Duke of Manchester's unsuccessful courtship. "Ride for the trolley cars," said "Grizzy," "and under his guidance Miss Van Alen soon became an enthusiastic trolley tripper."

The sad tragedy of 1902 made a tremendous impression on "Grizzy" when he learned its details. Robert Remington's engagement to Miss Van Alen had been considered a sure thing—one day came the rumor that it had been broken and then Remington shot himself. "One man has died for her," said "Grizzy" grimly, "but I will show her that whether she loves me or not I will live and live with a smile on my face."

Other men had given her expensive bonbons; "Grizzy" taught her to like lolly-pops. Others gave up their business hours to court her; "Grizzy" worked in his brokerage office from 9:30 to 5:00 o'clock every business day. Other men talked of herself; "Grizzy" talked about himself.

And "Grizzy" Thompson's efficient methods have at last made May Van Alen love him. He has won the ten-million-dollar heiress, the mansion in Newport and the proud distinction of being a "100 per cent efficient lover."