

Holding a Husband

Adele Garrison's New Phase of Revelations of a Wife

Why Alfred Declared He Was In A "Blue Funk."

Dicky is always most punctilious in his courtesy to me before outsiders, always afraid when we have had a quarrel that some one will suspect all is not perfectly serene between us.

"Well, Madge," Dicky pecked at my cheek carelessly. "Where's the rod? I now you've got one in pickle for me somewhere for attending that bachelor dinner without asking your permission. Lucky dog!"

"You're perfectly horrid, Dicky-bird!" she pouted. "I don't believe Madge ever says a word to you, although she ought to thrash you soundly about every other day."

Lella Feels Self-Reproach

"Oh, say not so, gracious lady! Prithce, make it only once a week. Do you hear, Alf, how these women

THE GUMPS—

THE TAXI IS WITHOUT

Drawn for The Bee by Sidney Smith.



do together stick? You didn't think you were getting such a ferocious female, did you? Better break off the match. There's time yet, you know."

Lella's eyes met mine for a shame-faced instant, and I knew she was thinking how nearly Dicky's jesting words had come to the truth. "I'm not afraid," Alfred smiled fatuously at Lella. "But if I were in your place, Mrs. Madge, I would not stand for any such aspersions as the Dicky-bird is handing out. But then, of course, you probably do have to trim him up a bit now and then. Now I'm going to be the one and only model husband—never need a bit of discipline."

"Lella'd better keep you in a glass cage and charge admittance for a look at you after next Tuesday," I retorted, with the suspicion of an edge to my laugh. I had been so absolutely magnanimous in my mental attitude toward the bachelor dinner that it irritated me absurdly enough to pretend that I meant to call him to account for attending it.

Another Crisis Passed "Tuesday!" Dicky ejaculated. "That's right! You hop over the roomstick next Tuesday. Your time is short, old man. I only hope you don't get in the blue funk I did. It came over me all of a sudden that I was leaving my free, gay life behind, and I dropped the ring and nearly swooned away. Madge had to slap my hands to bring me to

laughing reference. But her face was untroubled, and I saw with relief that she had adopted a sensible attitude toward Alfred's propensity to tease. "You'd better not let Aunt Dora hear you mention the word 'Yankee' if you want to marry me, sir," she laughed. "She's the dearest, most unreconstructed old rebel you ever saw. You stand very high with her, for some incomprehensible reason"—she glanced at him with pretty coquetry—"but her liking would never stand that test. "You're too saucy altogether," Alfred announced abruptly. "I'm going to take you home and discipline you. You'll surely be there tomorrow night," he called over his shoulder, as he whisked Lella un-

ceremoniously and laughingly down the path. "With our ears pinned back and our hair in a braid," Dicky called after them, then turned to me and slipped his arm under mine. "If you'll get down on your bended knees, I'll forgive you," he said quizzically, and with the old familiar formula I knew that once more a quarrel between us had been patched up.

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