

## Confessions of an Every-Day Wife

By Idah McGlone Gibson

ELIENE MAKES ME HER CONFIDANT.

Valere and I went into a down town restaurant for luncheon and found Eliene and Major Gordon.

As always Major Gordon was more than polite to me, but I had begun to realize it was because of the girl of the long ago of whom I reminded him.

I could see that Eliene was really becoming interested in the Major, and I was glad.

"Mrs. Charlton will be here tomorrow," he remarked after we had seated ourselves and ordered a light lunch. "I have just been telling Miss Symone that she will be sure to like her very much."

I was not so sure of that, as I knew that Mrs. Charlton adored the Major and would immediately realize his interest in Eliene. Strange, isn't it, how few of our really intimate friends like each other when they meet?

I have had a man or woman say to me, "You must know So-and-So, for you two are my dearest friends, and I know you will just love each other." But I never did anything more than dislike the persons referred to and wonder what my friend could see in them.

Just as I was leaving I had a thrill, and I was rather ashamed of myself because my heart jumped so. I thought I caught a glimpse of my playmate across the room, but I couldn't be certain, and later I concluded I was mistaken.

I look Eliene in the car with me, and we put Dick's little wife down at Aunt Margie's door. After leaving her, Eliene said, "Margot, Major Gordon has asked me to marry him."

"Quick work," I remarked, smiling.

"What shall I tell him, Margot?"

"What do you want to tell him?"

"I want to say 'Yes,'" she answered with a blush. "You may think it strange that I changed so quickly, but since I have known the Major I have realized how selfish George Mordyke is. You remember the love affair I had with him while at school in New York. And much to my relief I have found that I really did not love him. He thrills me, I think, with his supreme masculinity, and that is all."

"When are you going to say 'Yes,' to the Major?"

"Never."

"What!"

"Well, I cannot tell the Major about George."

"Why not? Many a girl thinks she is in love with the wrong man until the right one comes along."

"But, Margot, I did not tell you all."

I looked at Eliene in sudden surprise.

"Nothing, my dear, but just a youthful indiscretion; but it might look worse to Major Gordon. You see, that year I was away at school I thought I was deeply in love with George, and after we had become engaged he always wrote to me as 'dear little wife,' and I said 'dear big husband.' I had a letter from him yesterday in which he says that since he has been away from me so long he began to realize he really loves me; and at the thought of my dear name the thrill of our early love comes back. Then he says, 'I have been reading all your sweet letters over. (I wonder if you know that I have kept them all.) Do you remember the one you wrote after that day you ran away from school on a plea of seeing your mother in town, and came to tea at my rooms? I expect you will call it girlish foolishness, but it is very dear to me. It reads: 'Darling big husband, the hours spent with you yesterday I am living over and over again. In all the world are there lovers such as we? I am just now waiting with all impatience until I can see you again, and in the circle of your arms hear you say again: 'Mine, mine forever, my sweetheart, my wife.'"

Eliene looked frankly into my face as she finished reading, and said, "You would not think, would you, Margot, that I had written that silly stuff after a perfectly innocent tea at George's rooms, where his sister, who has since died, played chaperone, and who only left the room for a moment or two as George bade me good-bye?"

(Tomorrow—"Eliene's Dilemma.")

## SAFETY RULES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE THE HANDLING OF GASOLINE

1. Always remember that you must take no chances with gasoline; it is one of the most dangerous materials in common use.
2. It must always be kept in tightly fastened cans; never in glass bottles, which may get easily broken.
3. It should never be uncovered within the house, nor at any point where its fumes can travel to an open flame, a live coal or a spark.
4. Do not use it for cleaning if you can get a safe cleaning preparation.
5. Gasoline in quantity should be kept in underground tanks.
6. No one should be allowed to smoke in a garage.
7. No one should be allowed to smoke in an automobile while its gasoline tank is being filled.
8. Do not use water upon a gasoline or kerosene fire; use a chemical extinguisher, or else throw earth or sand upon it. Try to smother it.

## BUSINESS CHANGE

After a service of 16 years as local manager for the Imperial Oil Company in this city, we have this day resigned our agency for that company, which is putting on its own teams and salaried agent.

We are now prepared to fill all orders in the trucking business.

JOHN TONER & SONS.

Never throw cheese rind away. Let it dry out and grate all but the extreme outside. Excellent flavoring for many dishes at practically no cost is thus made. Keep the grated cheese in a tin or wide-mouthed bottle.

## THE WILD WAVES.

I thought she was a pretty girl  
And then I turned away to scoff.  
She got into an ocean swirl  
That washed her new complexion off.

If you would retain your friends do not make them envy you.

## "GETTING IT FIXED" AN AUTO-MOBILE TRAGEDY IN ONE ACT

CAST OF CHARACTERS

You.  
The Garage Boss.  
Garage Hand.  
Your Wife.

Scene. A Garage.

You (driving a perfectly good car into a garage)—Hello!

Garage Hand (in rear of shop)—Hello.

You—Can I leave this car here overnight.

Garage Hand—What's the matter with it?

You—Nothing's the matter with it. I just want to leave it here.

Garage Hand—I'll call the boss. Hey there! Guy wants his bus fixed.

Boss (from rear of shop)—What's the matter with it?

You—Nothing the matter with it. Boss—I'll be right out.

Your wife—Don't let them do anything to it. They are so expensive.

You—Certainly not.

The Boss (coming forward)—Run'er on the turntable.

You—Very well.

The Boss—No! No! Not that way!

You—All right. Tell me how you want me to go.

The Boss—Here! Say, didn't you ever drive a car before?

You—Of course I have.

The Boss—Look out! You'll smash that big car over there.

You—Suppose you run it in!

The Boss—I guess I'd better. (Gets into the car and takes gear shift lever.) She's in rotten shape ain't she.

You—No, she's all right. I just want to keep her here overnight.

The Boss (after driving car on turntable)—Wait till I get a socket wrench.

You—Don't use any socket wrench on this car, please.

The Boss—It won't cost you much to find out what's the matter with her.

You—I tell you there's nothing the matter with her.

The Boss—Bring me that seven-eights socket wrench Bill.

Bill—Here you are.

The Boss (bending over gear shift lever)—I told you so.

Your Wife—You mustn't do anything to that car.

The Boss—It's all right lady. (Busy with a wrench. In a moment the gear shift lever is taken out and laid gently to one side.) Now, let me get a look under the hood. (He looks under hood.) Valves are jammed, Bill, hand me the three-eights socket wrench.

Bill—Here she is.

You—Now, please—

The Boss—Just a minute. Just a minute! I wouldn't dass let no car go out 'o this shop in that shape. Hand me the Stilson, Bill.

Bill—Here she is.

The Boss (busy with Stilson)—I told you so. (In a moment small parts of the engine begin to come out from under the hood. Bill gathers them up and deposits them in a bucket.)

The Boss—I'm afraid she's a little wuss off than what I thought she was.

You—Look here! You haven't got any right to take that car apart; you—

The Boss—Slow up there, slow up! Its lucky you come in here when you did. She'd have busted on you forty ways in another ten mile. Bill, hand me the monkey wrench.

Bill—Here she is.

The Boss—Now take these valve heads. (Handing more parts to Bill.)

You—For the love of Mike, will you please put that car together again, or

will I call the police?

The Boss—Sure, I'll put her together, but you don't want to try to run with the cam shaft busted on you, do you?

You (not knowing what the cam shaft is)—The cam shaft is all right.

The Boss—It is he? Look at it!

You—Well, it was all right till we came in here.

The Boss (deprecatingly)—Now don't get nasty Buddy. You brought the car in here for me to fix, and I gotta fix her.

You—I didn't bring it in here for you to fix. I brought it in here to keep overnight.

The Boss—Why didn't you say so?

You—Haven't I been saying so for the last five minutes?

The Boss—I didn't hear you say so. Anyway, it's my business to repair cars. We don't store no cars here.

You—All right; give me my car, then.

The Boss—Sure; take her away.

You—But you've got about half of it on the floor.

The Boss—Dump the parts into her Bill.

Bill (complying)—There they are.

You—But you'll have to put them together again.

The Boss—I can't do that for my health, you know.

You (wearily)—Very well, what'll it cost to fix it?

The Boss—Two dollars an hour.

You—How many hours will it take.

The Boss—Maybe four, maybe ten, depends on how much I find is the matter with her.

You—I'll not be swindled that way. The car was perfectly good when I brought it in here.

The Boss—All right, you put her together then.

Your wife—Let's get the car out of here.

You—How? I can't put it together?

The Boss—I'll tell you what I'll do buddy. I'll make you a price of \$5 for stickin' her together as she is. But I don't guarantee she'll run, mind you.

You—Go ahead then.

The Boss—An' for \$15 I'll put her together as good as new, barrin' the cam shaft, which will be pretty near as good.

Your Wife—Don't stand for it.

You—I've got to.

(And you do.)

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(And you do.)

(And you do.)

(And you do.)

(And you do.)

(And you do.)

(And you do.)

(And you do.)

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