

# THE BABY

By OWEN OLIVER

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When the baby was three weeks old they said that Omi could come down-stairs for an hour or two in the afternoon. So I went home early and carried her down. She laughed so much that I had to laugh, too.

"Why!" she said. "Here's my old laughing Jimmy come back again! I thought I'd lost him."

I hadn't been laughing very much lately; and I had my reasons; but I didn't want to talk about them. So I pretended to be out of breath, and carried her to the armchair and tucked her up in a rug, and made her lie against the pillows. Then I fetched



"Why Have You Given Up Laughing, Jimmy?"

another chair, and sat beside her, and tried to change the subject.

"It's nice to have you down again, Omi," I told her.

"Yes—Why have you given up laughing, Jimmy?"

"So you've noticed," I said slowly. "I could see that it was no use trying to put her off. It never is."

"Of course!" She nodded. "What is it?"

"Another bad habit!" I explained.

"You see, I got into rather a way of worrying—before. I wouldn't let you see that I worried, but—"

Omi looked up at me and smiled. "I saw, Jimmy," she stated.

"Yes, I suppose you did. I thought, if I pretended to be cheerful, it would cheer you up a bit."

"It did," Omi held out her hand, and I squeezed it. "And I thought it would cheer you up a bit, if I pretended that I didn't see! Aren't we dreadful pretenders, Jimmy?"

She laughed again. She didn't seem to have altered a bit.

"I don't seem to be a success as a pretender," I owned. "You always see through me."

"Yes. So you may as well tell me at once. What is it?"

"I don't know—"

"Jimmy!" She shook her head at me. "You do."

"I don't know how to put it, I mean."

"No," she contradicted, "you mean that you don't know how to avoid 'putting it.' It's no use bothering about that, because I'm going to make you tell me the truth. And now you can do it!"

"Well," I said, "it's like this: You see, you weren't just an ordinary wife, Omi. You were a—sort of chum, too. We liked the same things and the same people, and making fun of everything, and going out together; and things seem different when you have a chum to do them with; and I hadn't any chum when she was upstairs; and so I didn't feel like laughing; and that's all."

"And now she's down-stairs," said Omi; "and that's all. But you aren't even smiling. That isn't a smile. It's only a grimace. What is it?"

"Nothing," I told her. She didn't contradict me, but watched me with her finger on her cheek.

"Baby is a funny little creature," she remarked, at last.

"He's a funny little creature," I agreed.

"Do you think he's like you?" she inquired.

"No," I said emphatically. "I don't."

"Nurse says he is."

"They always do."

"Mrs. Harraden thinks so, too; and you always say that she's so sensible."

"You have taken away her reputation in a breath."

"I think he's like you. But Mrs. Villiers says he's like me."

"Good gracious, no!" I cried energetically. Fancy comparing a baby—or anything—to Omi!

"Who do you think he's like?"

"He's more like a monkey than anything," I growled.

"Yes!" Omi laughed. "Isn't he? Very like a monkey." I was rather taken aback at this. I had expected her to be indignant.

"He's not more like a monkey than other babies," I qualified.

"Not so much," she said. "Not nearly so much. He's very good-looking—for a baby; and he's got your nose; and he takes a lot of notice, and seems to know people. I'm sure he likes holding my finger better than anybody's!"

"And you like holding his finger better than anybody's," I told her.

Omi selected one of my fingers, and held it tightly.

"Now I see," she cried. "You're jealous!"

"No-o," I corrected. "Not exactly jealous. I do feel a bit envious—sometimes; but that is beastly of me; and I'll soon get over it."

"There's nothing to get over, Jimmy; but I ought to like him, too."

"I want you to like him just as much as other mothers like their babies."

"Oh," Omi clasped her hands. "But other mothers can't love their baby so much as I love mine—yours! I may love him, mayn't I, Jimmy?"

"Of course you may."

"And you will, won't you?"

"I dare say I shall get to like the little sleepy bundle, when he's bigger."

"You like him now, Jimmy," she insisted.

"Yes. I suppose I do. Well, I do, then."

"So you can't be jealous of me liking him."

"I'm not jealous, Omi. I—I don't know how to explain what I mean exactly."

Omi leaned her head against my shoulder, and didn't say anything.

"It's two troubles in one," I confessed. "The first is that you won't be able to do all the things we used to do together, on account of—"

"The little soft, sleepy bundle," she said gently.

"The little soft, sleepy bundle. And so we sha'n't be quite such chums as we used to be."

"We sha'n't be able to do things together quite so often; but we shall be just as great chums, Jimmy. Think how delighted we shall be when the sleepy bundle goes to sleep; and we can run off together and be—just the same as we've always been."

"Ah!" I said. "We sha'n't be just the same, Omi. That is the second trouble; the real one. We were just two together; and you couldn't say what one was apart from the other. Now you'll live part of your life with him instead of with me, and so you'll alter; and I shall alter, because you have altered. I don't mean that we shall drift apart, or anything of that sort. You'll be a good chum still; and so shall I. We shall be just as fond of each other, I hope, then; but we sha'n't be quite the same people. Anyhow, we sha'n't have quite the same jolly times. There was nothing I wanted altered Omi."

Omi drew a deep breath.

"I see what you mean, Jimmy," she agreed. "I shall have to look after the baby; and so I sha'n't be able to do things with you sometimes. So you'll drop into the club, and—Don't protest, Jimmy. I'd rather you'd fill up the time pleasantly. And I shall take very good care that you like me better than the club. We shall still be great friends—you mean that, don't you?"

"Yes, little wife."

"Very great friends; but we sha'n't be a pair by ourselves; and we shall live little pieces of life that are different. And so we shall come to look at things a little differently. Is that it?"

"That's it, Omi."

"But don't we do that now, Jimmy? You have your office; and a little golf; and once I let you go yachting for two whole days—but I never will again! I couldn't rest a minute."

"Little goose!"

"Yes. And I have the house; and shopping; and afternoon calls. Why should I alter because I have another—amusement? He's a very little one, Jimmy."

"Yes, I agreed. "He's a very little one; but the other things didn't reckon, and he does."

"Yes. He does; but—There are some friends who reckon, Jimmy. There was a time when I felt about them as you feel about baby. I'm much more jealous than you really, and—I expect you know why I didn't like the 'clan' at first, though you've never told me."

"Yes," I agreed. "I know."

"And now I'm so fond of Elsie; and I sent you to take her home the other night, and never worried for a second; and I wouldn't give the dear old clan up for anything. We don't love each other less because we love our friends more, do we?"

"No, dear; but we have the same friends."

Omi pulled one arm out of the rug, and put it around me.

"Jimmy," she said. "We have the same baby!"

A man may be clever and wise—though I am neither—but a woman is far cleverer and wiser. I shall always feel that, when Omi said that, she made a difference in both our lives; but I didn't see it all at once.

**New French Typewriter.**

A new French typewriter, described in Popular Mechanics, carries no keyboard, and the designation of characters to be used is made by a styllet or needle which is moved by the left hand of the operator until its point is over the desired character enameled on the plate. Speed is sacrificed in order to gain simplicity of construction.

**Perfect Trust.**

Browning: In some time, His good time, I shall arrive.

## JAUNTY COSTUME



Gun-metal gray pongee has been made up into this jaunty little costume. The jacket is a tuxedo pony model, with the vest of gray and black striped taffetas. The underarm seams curve in sharply at the waist line, and large silver buttons and loops of gray silk cord ornament each side of the front; small flat silver buttons fastening the vest. The collar and three-quarter length sleeves are trimmed with deep cream-color embroidery edging. The skirt is a seven-gored model, side plaited at the front and hips, and closing under an inverted box-plait at the center-back. Two bias bands of the striped taffetas are set on as a trimming above the hem. The model is an excellent one for voile, mohair, Panama cloth, heavy linen, chambray, or homespun.

For a miss of 15 years the jacket requires 3 1/2 yards of material 20 inches wide, 1 3/4 yard 36 inches wide; 1 1/2 yard 42 inches wide, or 1 1/4 yard 54 inches wide; as illustrated, 3/4 yard of contrasting material 20 inches wide, 1 yard of braid and 1 1/4 yard of applique band.

For a miss of 15 years the skirt requires 7 1/2 yards of material 20 inches wide, 4 1/4 yards 36 inches wide, 4 yards 42 inches wide, or 3 yards 54 inches wide; 1 3/4 yard 20 inches wide, 1 yard 36 inches wide, 3/4 yard 42 inches wide, or 3/4 yard 54 inches wide, extra, for bias bands.

### MUST SUIT THE FACE.

Time Well Spent Over Arrangement of Proper Coiffure.

There are no hard-and-fast rules governing hair dressing save the great fundamental one which so few professional coiffeurs observe—namely, that the outline must be neither stiff nor conventional. The hair must be arranged to suit the face, which, if it chance to be of the fashionable Greek type, may be somewhat drawn back from the brow, preserving the straight line of the profile. That same profile line governs the position of the knot at the back of the head and should be carefully studied with the aid of the hand glass. But if the nose be short and the face rather broad, the coiffure must be arranged in different manner on the top of the head, although not necessarily in the extravagant form of pompadour which has absolutely gone out of date. The hair may be pulled above the brow so as to meet the big coil at the crown, and if there are vacant spaces, the ribbon may be arranged to fill them. The thin-checked woman whose profile lacks the straight Greek line requires fluffy locks to soften her features, and the crown braid to give the desired breadth. She would better wear the ribbon to show at the sides and the back.

### LEGHORN WITH PINK ROSES.



A beautiful model of dyed leghorn with white hydrangea, pink roses, and an aigrette adorning the crown.

### Perfect Trust.

Browning: In some time, His good time, I shall arrive.

### TO REDUCE THE WEIGHT.

Systematic Exercise and Diet the Two Main Requisites.

If you want to get the flat front figure you must learn how and when to exercise. It is useless to take exercise at night when you are tired, and just as useless to exercise before a meal.

English women are slim because they keep their homes cool. Women who fill their rooms with fresh air are slimmer, as a rule, than those who sit in an overheated atmosphere. The lungs do better work under the circumstances.

In India the stout person takes the mind cure as well as the physical cure. She says to herself: "I am not hungry." After she has repeated this she takes a walk and engages in something to occupy her mind. So she lets a meal slip by.

In Denmark when a lady gets too stout she is urged to get out upon the hills and tend the sheep. She has fresh milk to drink and she also eats fruit and herbs, but no fish nor flesh nor fowl. She lives in the open and she loses weight.

The so-called "Colorado" treatment consists in sleeping out of doors in a sleeping parlor built with sides of Japanese matting to keep the wind from blowing upon you. Only two pieces of bedding are required. There must be a German feather bed to place upon the floor of the sleeping parlor and another feather bed to be drawn over the sleeper.—Exchange.

### Exercise is Necessary.

The body which is not exercised gets flabby and weak and degenerates in any number of bad ways. Double and triple chins, horribly misshapen busts and abdomens, flat chests, lank waists, and other unlovely features of many unfortunate women's frames are the creatures of no exercise. Exercise rids the body of many shortcomings which might be retained as deformities forever. The overplump, the overslim, and the beautifully proportioned—in fact, every woman—need it if face or figure are to develop or preserve beauty.

**Grenadine again the Fashion.**

Grenadine after years and years of absence has returned. It is the greatest novelty of the season and is treated like the shantung, twills and satins with flowered borders—made to resemble insertions bordered on each side with garlands of flowers. Others with borders of satin and large dots, others, again, striped. The flower designs are evidently taken from designs for silks in fashion in the early '50's of the last century, and some, too, from the Louis XV. epoch.

## Appointments of the Table

Fine damask elaborately inset with Irish and Cluny lace is now very smart for the luncheon and dinner table. Embroidered dinner cloths have been attempted from time to time, but have never found much favor, but a luncheon cloth or large center piece, stretching just to the border of the table and heavily embroidered in all white with a deep border of Irish lace all round, is most effective. By some, however, the very finest of linen, quite plain, is preferred to the more effective but scarcely more costly cloths heavily embroidered and trimmed with bands of lace.

The so-called bare luncheon tables are still more fashionable than those covered with a long cloth, no matter how costly the linen may be. The center piece may be sufficiently large to stretch almost to the edge of the round table, but it is laid directly over the mahogany or oak, so as to show to best advantage the beauties of the lace and embroidery. Colored satin and silk foundations are frequently seen, but just as often the center piece is placed directly upon the wood.

Ribbon is used but seldom nowadays for table decorations, and, in fact, the desire seems to be to get away from any crowded appearance. Even on a fairly large dinner table the only flowers will be in the huge silver or gold basket in the center of the table, while the shades on the candle sticks and candelabra may bear out the color of the flowers, although plain silver and gold shades are also frequently used.

The large silver flower baskets are comparatively new, being shaped like the regular flat wicker basket with the rack inside, through which each flower is inserted separately and kept in place. For an unusually large table, a high, slender basket, with long handles, makes a charming flower vase, a grating or rack being, of course, necessary to keep the flowers in position.

**Laying the Cloth.**

A table ought first to have a protective covering of thick felt or baize—fastened securely at the corners by tapes—to prevent hot dishes damaging the woodwork, and also to help to deaden the sound of plates and other items being placed upon it. It is not wise to choose a material of bright coloring for this purpose, as, when children are present and any liquid gets spilled thereon, the dye from the baize is apt to discolor the white linen cloth. In such cases it may be necessary to have a piece of oilcloth placed between the baize cover and the linen. Spread the linen cloth evenly on the table.

**Service Plates.**

"Service plates" are those used on luncheon and dinner tables between courses.

The old-fashioned way was when a person had finished eating from a plate it was removed and the place before them left empty until another, containing the next course, was put before them.

Service plates fill the gap, and it is no longer considered good form ever to leave a place without a plate. The butler or maid, as he or she takes away the plate with which one is finished, puts down an empty one, usually of a very fancy kind. This remains until the next course is served to each person. The service plate is then taken up and returned at the next interval.

Service plates are on the table at the beginning of luncheon or dinner, and at that time the napkin is folded on them.

They may be of medium size or large, preferably the latter.

**Polished Table.**

Sometimes there are ways of doing things that are so simple that we forget to employ them. Here is an instance: The polished mahogany dining table is a source of some anxiety and care in many households. An easy matter it is to keep it bright and unspotted if, after each meal, you wash it with cold water, using a sponge; then dry and rub briskly. This keeps the table top clear and bright and

free from that greasy look that we often see upon tables in even well-regulated households.

White spots sometimes appear upon the polished surface of furniture. Just remember that you can readily remove such a spot by rubbing with a cloth moistened with alcohol. This will not mar the finish of the wood.

### Tea Cloths.

One of the handsomest tea cloths shown this spring is a fine linen decorated with English eyelet and heavy Irish crochet medallions, the latter raised in rose effect and applied as was practicable to the embroidery. The cloth was edged with a two-inch band of Irish crochet lace. The price of this was far beyond the average purse.

**Orange Cure for Fat.**

Oranges are the latest cure advanced for obesity. The diet is: On waking, the juice of one fruit is drunk, and this should be cold. A second meal taken about an hour later than the first should be composed of the juice of two oranges, and must be sipped slowly. If one is ravenously hungry there is no objection to taking at the same time one piece of very thin and crusty toast. No butter is permitted.

At intervals of two hours throughout the day juice may be sipped. One orange at a time is usually enough, for it is not to be expected that quarts of the fruit would allay real pangs of hunger. Another bit of toast is permissible during the afternoon, but if flesh reduction is the object of the cure the toast must be crusty and dry.

At dinner one is supposed to eat a hearty meal. No sweet or greasy dishes should be indulged in.

**To Clean a Fan.**

To clean a fan place it in a dish and cover with gasoline. Do not attempt to rub the material, or the chiffon or lace will, in all probability, tear apart. Press tightly until the dirt comes out, and a fan certainly collects a great deal of dust. After freeing it from dust and all blemishes put it into clean gasoline in which there is a drop of bluing. Spread the fan out on a piece of white cloth, pin the two points to stretch the material, and let it dry. After it has thoroughly dried, cover with talcum powder, highly scented, and leave for one day. This destroys the odor of gasoline and makes the fan as beautiful as new. If the edges are the least worn, bind with chiffon ribbon, lace beading or a soft rill of lace or chiffon to match the cover.



Trimmings are ultra-fashionable. Linen is one of the season's finds in millinery.

Plaited skirts are pledged to remain as popular as ever.

Lingerie frocks are sold at all prices and in all shades.

Waists are short or skirts are high, whichever you please.

A fancy variety of erin has been worn on the Riviera all winter.

Vague of outline is the most impressive feature of imported coats.

Most of the tailor-made suits shown in the shops have skirts trimmed with bands.

**What to Wear.**

Fair women who flush easily should avoid light blue, more especially for evening gowns, and the woman of indefinite coloring should never wear black velvet, while she of brilliant complexion and decided features will probably look splendid in it. Then, again, the dullness of chiffon is trying to some and the sheen of satin to others. The only way to come to a decision in these matters (and once learned one should bear it in mind) is to hold the various materials up before you and study the effect in the glass.

## FOR HANDKERCHIEFS

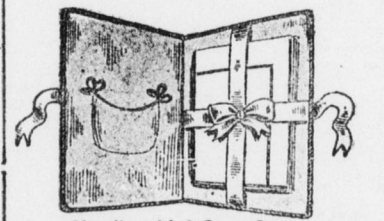
Something very new and pretty in the way of a handkerchief sachet may be seen in our illustrations. It is lined



Handkerchief Case Closed.

with satin and covered with a rich ribbed silk in a pale shade of blue, upon which sprays of daisies are worked in very pale shades of yellow

and green. The word "Handkerchiefs" is embroidered on the cover in fine gold thread. A small pocket in which a scented sachet can be placed is sewn



Handkerchief Case Open.

inside one of the covers and edged with pale blue cord, while the handkerchiefs are tied across and across with pale blue ribbons. This little inside pocket might also be used to hold brooches or studs and would be useful for traveling, when the top might be secured with a safety-pin or ribbons.