MY MARRIED LIFE

What Dicky Told Madge That Sunday Morning

lessly.
"You don't mean Elizabeth Faulkner Marsden?"

"Will your I wonder" muttered Dicky

believes that if a man and woman have married and find that they no longer love each other, laws cannot bind them, and they are free to form ties elsewhere."

HARD TO COMPREHEND

were running.

"Well, among people who do not know her she observes the conventions. But among us it is generally understood that she and Paul Atwood are something dearer

mattera."
"Oh!" All my repugnance to the whole affair was contained in the little exclama-

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(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

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"You mean?" I felt breathless, as if

Then he spoke rapidly, boldly.
"Bess not only has terribly exviews, but she put them into practice, believes that if a man and woman

to meet her."

WHAT are you going to do. Madge?

Why the uniform?" Dicky looked leady up from the Suday newspapers, which were strewn around the couch in the living room where he lay stretched at ease. It was Sunday morning. Dickys "lazy time"

If the week. The Sunday morning before this I had sat near him in the big chair, also reading, and we had promised our motives that this would be our weekly custom. neither of us having much inclination for church.

But this morning, with the expectation of the work is a sunday morning, with the expectation of the sunday morning with the expectation of the sunday morning with the expectation of the sunday morning to the sunday of the sunday sunday sunday to hear this. You'll have to hear this you maked a bit. He appeared at a loss for well morning. Well the sunday morning the sunday morning before you meet her."

"Meet whom?" I was curious at once.

"Hess Maraden." Dicky stopped and sunday and the sunday morning the sunday morning the sunday morning to the sunday sunday

"Well?" I tried to make my voice encouraging.
"I never realized until recently." Dicky went on in embarrassed fashion, "how differently you look at things from the way my friends and I do. We might have been brought up on different planets you and I. Now Bees is one of the most brilliant women I know. She has written two or three novels that, besides selling well enough to give her a good income independent of other work, have made the critics sit up and take number. She is a leader in the feminist movement, too, and some of her magazine articles upon the new place of women in the world, or whatever the rot is that the feminists spout, are considered classics in their line. But—"I interrupted him breathleasty.

"You don't mean Ellentett Double of the contraction But this morning, with the expectation of But this morning, with the expectation of guests in the evening, I knew that there was work waiting for me, so as soon as Dicky was thoroughly absorbed in his papers I had alloped into my room and put en one of my kitchen aprons. A sense of unfamiliarity came to me as I buttoned it, for I had not worn it since Katle had taken the helm of the kitchen. I had hoped that Dicky would not notice my absence, but he saw me and called to me as I passes. me and called to me as I passed ugh the living room on my way to the

"I must prepare those saited almonds for tonight, Dicky," I replied. "Bother the saited almonds. I told you to get those that were all ready. Can't Katle do them?"

Ratie do them?"
"Katie has all she can do," I explained patiently. "She had the dinner to prepare, and then this afternoon she will polish up the furniture a bit."

the furniture a bit."

Dicky gave a groan of pretended dismay. "Don't tell me. Madge, that you're one of the women who start to cleaning house every time they expect guests." he began. "I used to yow that never, never would I marry one of that stripe. It takes all the comfort of having anybody come to the house to have everything so stift."

I wanted to remind Dicky of his distribe of a few days before, when he had hart me immeasurably by his criticism of the disordered living room. But I had learned that inconsistency of speech was one of Dicky's chief characteristics. The opinion he expressed one day he was likely to contradict the next, so I skirted

likely to contradict the next, so I skirted the topic carefully.

TETE-A-TETE

"We're not going to clean house, Dicky — nothing that will disturb you a bit. But I must prepare the almonds myself. It is a tedious job, and I want the time after dinner free for the sandwiches and the table. You'll run out this morning and get me a few flowers, won't you?"

"Sure," agreed Dickey, "but there's no hurry, is there?"

"None at all," I assured him.
"All right then, I'll go after a while."
"Oh" All my remugnance in the generally understood that she and Paul Atwood are something dearor than friends."

"Why don't they marry?" I felt as if I knew, yet dreaded the answer.
"Because, unfortunately. Paul has a wife who will neither make life bearable at home nor give him a divorce that he may find happiness elsewhere. The Atwoods have a child, too, which complicates matters."

"Oh" All my remugnance in the species.

"All right then, I'll go after a while." Is resumed his reading and I went to the

"Please get me the nut-cracker and the almonds you brought home last night." I told Katle. "I will crack them here on the end of the kitchen table. Be sure that you have plenty of boiling water in the teakettle by the time I finish them."

"All right, Missis Graham, I feex." Katle was bustling around the kitchen, getting the breakfast dishes out of the way with more than even her usual rapidity of movement. I sat down at the table and began cracking the nuts. It was a slow job, and I had finished only about a fourth of them when Dicky appeared at the door.

"I've come to help." he are the control of the sate of us take."

"I've come to help." he are the control of the little exclamation.

Dicky looked at me a trifle impatiently.

"Look here, Madge," he said. "You have led a life almost cloistered in its real ignorance of the world. I would not have you, so that if you heard of it elsewhere you would not think I had purposely kept you in ignorance. Just forget that you know anything about it; that's the attitude the rest of us take."

I felt stilled. I wanted to be alone. I got up blindly.

"Please pardon me a few minutes," I said. "I will be right back"

Dicky appeared at the door, "Two come to help," he announced, but I saw Katle's look of dismay at the tiny litchen where she must get dinner.

"Go back to your reading." I commanded gayly. "I don't need you. Besides, there isn't room for three of us here. Katle hasn't room to turn around as it is."

"That's easily remedied." Dicky caught That's easily remedled." Dicky caught up the dish of nut meats, the hag of uncracked nuts and the paper strewn with shells where I was working and carried them into the living room. I trailing along behind him muttering futile protests. As he reached the table the paper slipped from his grasp and the shells flew in every direction.

"Dicky?" I gasped. "Why on earth did you bring all this stuff in here? Katle cleaned this room thoroughly yesterday, and with the exception of a little straightening with the exception of a little straightening and polishing of some of the furniture it was all ready for tonight. Now it will have to be swept again, and that will mean the dusting and polishing done all over again. "You don't suppose I meant to drop the blasted stuff, did you?" demanded Dicky, and his voice held a hint of anger that I promptly heeded. At all costs I wanted to avoid any unpleasantness before the coming of our guests. The evening promised to be enough of a trial to me without having my nerves disturbed by any disagreement beforehand.

"Of course not, Dicky," I soothed, "and as long as the mischief is done we might as well finish them here. I'll get another nut cracker and the folding sewing table

Tou get the nut cracker and I'll produce the table," said Dicky grandly, and in a few minutes we were scated opposite each other amicably cracking the nuts, while Dicky talked of everything and nothing, and I half listened to what he was saying, and half wondered what the evening might bring ms in the way of experiences.

me in the way of experiences.

To me, whose existence had been the monotonous one of a schoolteacher, life with Dicky was like revolving with a kaleidoscope; every day seemed to bring something



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> The lark's on the wing;
> The anali's on the thorn;
> God's in his heaven—
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> —Robert Browning.

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Marsden?"
"The same," said Dicky dramatically.
"You don't know her?"
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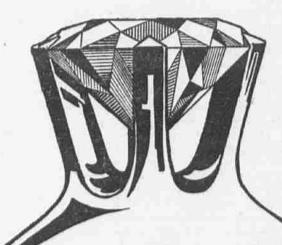
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