THE DAILY NOVELETTE

Thought Control and Amanda

By ELEANOR T. SPERRY

The trouble with Amanda Hastings was that she had a hundred thousand-dollar imagination on a school teacher's salary. And there were no points of sympathetic contact between the two.

"I'd like, some day," Amanda was wont to muse, after the last spitball-throwing or note-passing pupil had stayed in his half-hour and gone chastenedly homeward, "to live in a cunning little marble villa in Italy, enameled on the mountain side overlooking a blue bay; or else on a tremendous [illegible] with a deer park and a lodge and rare trees; or else—" but the [illegible] without would bring her down to earth reminding her that it was time to get back to Gertie Bremmer's boarding house.

Then, one afternoon, after school she picked up a magazine on her desk, idly glanced it over, and became absorbed in a story. It was when she came to peruse the final columns while hastily skipped about from page to page among the advertisements, that she made the discovery which so considerably affected her life.

Blazoned in bold, black type [illegible] challenging statement smote her eye. "Thoughts Cost Dollars!" Upon perusal she found it to be an up-to-date version of mind-over-matter. "If you think so-you are bound, sometimes, to be right," [illegible] a dozen pupils from Hollywood dressed for dinner each the contrary when the weather was warm!

precious little money to waste on non-necessities, but at last she could write for the explanatory pamphlet. And write she did, on a half sheet of essay paper, and slipped it into a stamped envelope. Hastily glancing at her watch, she saw that she would be decidedly late to supper if she went downtown to the post-office first—and being late to supper meant other things than incurring Mrs. Bremmer's ill-will. It meant being long on soup and bread and short on meat and dessert, and, quite possibly, having cold tea.

Fortunately Amanda was spared such dire contingencies. As she stepped out of the school yard she came face to face with Eddie Perham, a nice little boy, who did odd jobs outside of school.

"I wonder, Eddie, if you would mail this for me?" she [illegible] watches the 6 o'clock mail?" she asked.

"Sure thing, Miss Hastings," he promised, [illegible] and [illegible] envelope. [illegible] boy [illegible] Amanda [illegible] smile and [illegible] down.

Now, what Amanda wanted was a revival of the little book, [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] that much [illegible] to [illegible] and [illegible] as well as mantle the [illegible] noted to see [illegible] who [illegible] wanted even more [illegible] dear [illegible] herself. And she [illegible] her desk on the kind [illegible] to be [illegible] cool-looking, and the habit of [illegible] for dinner.

Just why the letter stipulation, perhaps Amanda [illegible] did not know. Presumably, [illegible] typified for her the [illegible] of [illegible] she knew. She [illegible] in Hollywood dressed for dinner each the contrary when the weather was warm!

And Amanda's destiny material

long before the book for which she had sent. The hint [illegible] it shook Amanda's soul—if souls can be shaken—one late autumnal night as Mrs. Bremmer stood in the doorway of the dining room with folded arms and a watchful eye on the [illegible] buttons of the viands. "There's a new boarder down to the Maples," she gave out casually, "and Miss Delaine was telling how he paralyzed the rest of the crowd by coming down to dinner in a dress suit!"

Amanda choked, put her napkin to her lips, then took a swallow of water. What a coincidence! Or else—what a wonderful, wonderful thing this thought control!

But not until the eventful night of the ladies' bazaar did she act on it. And then, it must be confessed, that Amanda [illegible] if helped not a little. Be a little [illegible] of [illegible] sensitive, [illegible] of which had been given to her [illegible] go [illegible] partner the man she felt [illegible] had decreed for her.

And whether or not the interest [illegible] was [illegible] in a perfect [illegible] she [illegible] expected to marry [illegible] her soft eyes and winsome smile, or whether Dave Wingate, a [illegible] attorney, was ready to fall for the first girl he met at any rate he was here [illegible] the moment she discovered [illegible] her [illegible] that [illegible] notched [illegible] with [illegible] picture of a decently [illegible] with a wide smile.

And Amanda hugged to herself the fancy that he possessed every requirement—looks, strength, dinner clothes. And when eventually she learned the true tale of the latter, she was too much in love to retract.

It came out one day as they sat resting on the top of Pinetree Hill after a strenuous climb. "Do you know, David, the first thing I knew about you was that you wore a dress suit down to dinner?" said Amanda.

To her surprise, he threw back his head and laughed heartily. "Funniest thing about that!" he chuckled. "I'd sent my one decent suit down to the tailor's to be pressed and he swore it would be back in time. Supper came—no clothes. I either had to starve or put on my best duds. I was darn hungry, too, so I togged out and went down to supper. Never did such a thing in my life before! Boy turned up later—seems his school teacher had waylaid him and sent him downtown with a letter to mail!"

Amanda was silent. Thought control, indeed! Then she smiled whimsically and happily. After all, it was thought control which had prompted the note which had waylaid the boy, who had held up the clothes which had necessitated the dress suit, which had first brought to Amanda's ears the news of her future husband!

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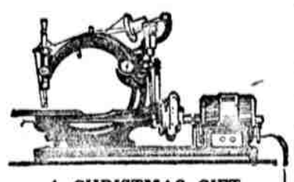
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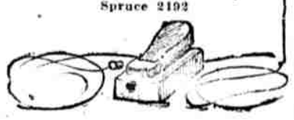

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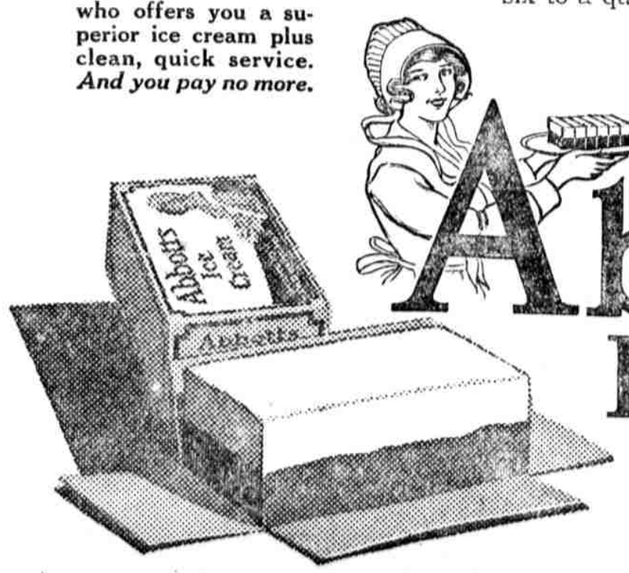

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