

Merry Christmas To All



WHO CAN RESIST

Gifts So Charming

The holiday spirit permeates this store, with a hundred and one gift suggestions at prices for every purse. Read every item listed below—you'll find one for each person on your gift list.

Gifts for her, gifts for him, gifts for kiddies, mother, father, sister and brother. Something to please everybody here.

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- Toaster, \$2.98
- Waffle Irons, \$7.98
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A HANDSOME GIFT!

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KODAKS give many happy hours in the new colors, moderately priced

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Christmas would hardly be complete, without fine candy—2½ lbs. Homemait Assorted Chocolates 99c. Also Artstyle and others.

The Extra Christmas Plate

By ROBERT J. C. STEAD

ON THE fourth Christmas in succession Nellie Martin set an extra plate. On past Christmases her husband and the two boys had pretended not to have noticed it. But this year Fred Martin, waiting into the big dining room just as his wife was adding the finishing touches to her Christmas table, stopped when his eye fell on the extra plate.

"I think you shouldn't set it, Nellie," he said, gently. "It only reminds us of—things we would be better to forget."

Mrs. Martin brushed a capable, florid hand quickly across her eyes. Things would go blurry when she thought of Lucy.

"Let me leave it just once more," she almost pleaded. "It is more than four years now since Lucy went, and every day I am hoping for her back. Particularly at Christmas I like to think that her place is set and waiting for her. Oh, Fred, if we could let her know."

Fred's hand found hers, where it had rested a moment against the table for support. "I know," he said huskily. "It was wrong in turning her out as I did. I thought the honor of the family demanded it. I thought perhaps she would write; that is, if she is still . . ."

He left the sentence unfinished. Death might not have been new to come to Lucy, and four years of silence left them to draw their own conclusions.

"Lucy is too proud to write," his wife asserted. "And yet, I have always felt that sometime she would come back. Perhaps at Christmas."



That is the time of year when one just can't help thinking of home."

"If that Blake boy had been any good," Fred lamented. "She was just throwing herself away on him. That is why I gave her the choice of giving him up or getting out. I wanted to save her. And she got out."

"I know," his wife agreed. "You meant it for the best. Arthur Blake was said to be wild and useless, but the Blake's are a good family, and I've often noticed that boys of a good family generally straighten up again, even if they do go a little wild for a while. You know, Fred, when I married you there were people who said you were, well, just a little—"

"But I got a wife like you," her husband answered. "That makes all the difference."

"Yes, and Arthur got a wife like Lucy—if he married her," Nellie Martin insisted. "Let me leave the plate once more. I'm not giving up hope."

At that moment the boys were heard coming in by the kitchen door. There were muffled voices, and a sound as though they were helping some one.

George, the elder, appeared in the dining room door, and his face summoned his mother.

"Some one here to see you, Mom," he said, in an awed voice.

In the kitchen Mrs. Martin found a woman sitting on a chair, her head turned away, her figure enclosed in a



frayed cloth coat. Soberly she crossed the kitchen floor and turned the head to her eyes.

"Lucy!" she cried. "Lucy!" The girl made as though she would speak, but seemed overcome. Her mother dropped to her knees beside her, clasping her hands, speaking words of endearment, crying for Fred and the boys.

"We found her in the snow, just between the barn and the house," the boys explained. "She seemed to have fallen there."

But right then Lucy seemed to come to life. She sprang to her feet.

"Mother—Dad—I can't keep it from you any longer. Please help me off with my coat."

Willing hands drew it from her shoulders. "Why, Lucy!" her mother exclaimed, "you are well dressed."

"Well enough, mother. You see, Arthur wanted to be sure how you would receive your arctic daughter before he would agree to come in."

"Arthur!" "Yes. He is in the cutter with little Nellie, just beyond the wind-break. Boys, will you run and tell him?" The boys dashed off, but Fred Martin seemed the most excited of all. "Two extra plates, Mother!" he shouted. "Two extra plates—and a high chair!"

Body Recovered

After three weeks of persistent effort, the body of Ralph Larsen, 18, of Detroit, was recovered from the bottom of Walled Lake Friday morning. He was dragged out by Hugh Thorburn and Georg Jeanotte. Practically every known means had been used to bring up the body.

Larsen was drowned November 25 when he and his two companions started for shore in a boat in which they had been duck-hunting. An attempt to change seats caused overturning of the boat.

EARLY PUBLICATION

The Enterprise will be published on Wednesday next week. News and advertising copy should be in one day earlier than usual.

William Hunt, of Walled Lake escaped injury last Friday on the Halsted road when a car driving in back of him crashed into his truck.

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