

### Easter Hats and Ties



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### Young Phoebe

By CLARISSA MACKIE  
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IT WAS a nice party, young Phoebe conceded, that she sat alone on the stairs looking wistfully down at the dancers, listening to the enchanting music, now and then waving a hand to some friend who saw her on her perch alone—unattended. Her throat swelled with suppressed emotion even while she managed a gay smile and the debonair wave of her hand. Her sister Violet was always surrounded by three or four nice youths—but of course Vi was perfectly fascinating. She had to divide her dances, sometimes, to make them go around—and there was that splendid Mr. Gordon, so dark and handsome, signed eighteen-year-old Phoebe. How she wished that he would dance with her.

### Other Once Held Sacred Because He Killed Frogs

The otter has a big place in history, asserts Lee Eubanks in Our Dumb Animals. Ancient Persians held him sacred because he killed frogs, which overran Persia. The man who killed an otter had to go out and kill 10,000 frogs. If he refused, his punishment was severe. Indeed, the otter goes back to pre-Biblical days. In old Sanskrit he was called an udra. Mid-European countries called him ur, otter, and finally otter.

The rare sea otter is born in the ocean, born at sea in a bed of kelp. An otter can swim a quarter of a mile under the ice. He blows out air in a bubble directed against the ice. When the air strikes the ice its freshness is restored, and Mr. Otter draws it into his lungs again.

Though the otter is a good swimmer, he acquires the art. His parents must coax and coach him.



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So young Phoebe, who had attired herself in pale yellow and bound her fair hair with a fillet of black velvet ribbon, was quite forgotten. Not entirely forgotten, for the handsome Phil Gordon ran upstairs and sat down beside the solitary girl.

"I hope you don't mind," his white teeth flashed in a kind smile down at her.

"No—no. Indeed," fluttered Phoebe. "It's cooler up here, don't you think?"

"Coolest place in the house, Miss Violet. Suppose we have our supper up here."

"That will be lovely," Phoebe colored rosy. "I thought—that you

### SHORT SHORT STORY

Complete in This Issue

always took Vi to supper," she added doubtfully.

Phil suppressed a smile. "Vi and I have not discussed that this evening," he said gravely. "It was very nice of you to think of her first," he said with a keen side glance.

"May I have the pleasure of this one, Miss Phoebe, if you are quite cooled off?"

Phoebe arose and laid a slim hand on his sleeve. "I am afraid that I gave you the wrong impression, she said flushing deeply. Suddenly she flung her head up and said proudly: "I was sitting here because I was lonely—no one asked me to dance. I am just home from school. Mother and dad were busy enough and then—I just couldn't stand it and came up here to sulk! So there!" She smiled adorably.

"You cannot scare me that way," he averred and offered his arm.

He had just condescended to Phoebe that daffodils were his favorite flower, when they passed Violet standing with two jealous young men, and looking vaguely about for some restaurant cavalier. Her agreement at the sight of young Phoebe and Phil Gordon was apparent.

"It has been lovely," sighed Phoebe as he left her on the stairs and hurried away after a tray of refreshments.

"Lovely for me, too," he said emphatically.

Violet, at the head of the stairs, tipped down to her sister. "I was wondering where Phil was!" she laughed gaily. "And he was with you after all."

"I think he was sorry for me," comforted Phoebe.

"Here's a secret," whispered Vi, holding out her left hand where a great diamond sparkled. "Break the news to Phil, that's a dear!"

"Vi, darling, who is it?"

"Robert Garth—he is simply wonderful!"

When Phoebe delicately, and pityingly, broke the news to Phil that gentleman looked startled for an instant, and then looked gravely at the fair sweet face upturned to his.

"If I had heard that news three hours ago I would have cared—now it doesn't matter to me except that they are happy. Some day, little Phoebe, I will tell you why I have changed so suddenly," he said.

But Phoebe was so happy for months afterward that she forgot to ask him the question until the wedding day, and then it didn't matter.

### Royal Mistery

The eldest son of the king always bears the title of Prince of Wales and ranks next to the king in male precedence, but younger sons of the sovereign, though born princes, have no precedence beyond their near relationship to the king, until a dukedom is conferred upon them, when they become peers of the realm, says London Tit-Bits Magazine. Only the children, the brothers and sisters, the sisters or daughters-in-law, and the uncles and aunts of the king are entitled to be addressed as "Royal Highnesses." In the past this title has passed on indefinitely to all direct descendants of a king's son. But by the ruling of King George V in 1917, the title is confined to the children and grandchildren of the sovereign. The result will be that certain members of the royal house may in the future be plain Mr. or Miss Windsor.

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While the Chief Scept That tragic Black Hole affair of Calcutta, enshrined in English history, would probably never have occurred if the Subah of the country had not fallen asleep. For, as history tells the story, the cries of the 150 miserable Englishmen, crowded into a narrow space without ventilation and in danger of suffocation, touched the hearts of the Hindus who were guarding them, but their chief, the Subah, was asleep, and no one in Bengal dared to disturb his slumbers and request an order for the relief of the sufferers!

Served an Invalid Term Some years ago in California a convict, having served one of two year prison terms, contended that one of the sentences was invalid. A judge agreed, says Collier's Weekly, but ruled that the invalid term was "the one just completed" and the prisoner was required to serve another ten years.

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