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THE VILLAGE **PINCUSHION**

By Sara Lindsay Coleman

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One can't be comforted and deceived by any such pleasing epithet as bachelor maid when one lives in Arcady Spinsterhood is a grim fact.

Betty dwelt in Arcady. She lived there with her aunt in a tiny two room there with her aunt in a tiny two room house and sewed from morning until hight, sometimes far into the night. Betty didn't mind work. There was something she did mind, though.

something she did mind, though.

It never occurred to the Aradians—
for their hearts are kind—that they
made a pincushion of Betty and that
the pins they eternally stuck into her, little pricks really meant for pleasant-ries, were to a soft eyed, tender, sensi-tive, brown little thing like Betty actual stabs.

Betty tried so hard not to mind. On

her twenty-eighth birthnight she did a courageous thing. At midnight she stole from the house to bury something very precious to her. In the blackness about her the wind shouted and jeered, the rain dashed in her face. Half laughing, half sobbing, she put the beautiful thing deep in a heaped up mound of wet, dead leaves. Groping, her hand touched something that she knew to be a late white rose, and with shaking fingers she laid it on the fureral pile.

She was never going to mind again. One couldn't mind after one's youth was dead. She was going to be a cheer ful and philanthropic pincushion for the rest of her days. Jeering at spin-sters had been in fashion in Arcady long before her birth and bade fair to remain popular for some time after her death

When she had slipped back into the safeness and warmth of her tiny bed-room she stood long before the dingy, cracked mirror that never encouraged vanity and whispered:

"You're twenty-eight, and you've been to the funeral of your own youth. It would be mighty funny to folks if they knew—mighty funny—but they don't, they don't."

Betty sighed. Beyond her barrier mountains were cities where youth did



"HOW DARK YOU SPEAK TO ME?" BETTY SAID FIEBGELY.

itifully soon. She candle high above her head and looked critically at the slender oval of a pale face, at the shadows under unsatisfied eyes.

Betty trembled, crept into bed and

lay there, wide eyed. Her heart ached. At a bitter memory that crept out of an old past a fire of shame swept over

Arcady didn't know that a romance had almost come into Betty's life. It knew that she had kept steady company with a lad about her own age some twelve years before; knew that one afternoon they went buggy riding and that next day young Kimberly shook the dust of Arcady's main street from

his shoes, but it attached no signifi-cance to the fact.

The winter went. Spring came. The earth sweetened with odors. It thrilled and quivered with expectancy. When the fresh little folded leaves burst their buds, Betty brought her machine out on her tiny porch. She sang as she

A girl sauntering past stopped just beyond Betty's doorstep and without a "By your leave" stooped to pluck a bunch of fragrant purple violets.

"Old maids don't need violets," she said. She fastened the violets under her firm young chin and came nearer.
"Isn't it a lonely business getting old by yourself, Betty? I'd hate it awful; but, la, I'll never be an eld maid!"

by yourself, Betty? I'd hate it awful; but, la, I'll never be an old maid!" Too young to be glad of her youth, she went on her careless way, leaving the poor little pincushion in tears.

Betty went to church on Sunday feeling in harmony with the day in spite of the last pin jabbed into her.

"Not married yet?" asked a young man who had been away from Arcady in a voice that thundered through the church. "Well, well, I'll swan! An' a

in a voice that thundered through the church. "Well, well, I'll swan! An' a good lookin' woman too!"
"She's still hopin'." It was a woman who spoke, and she fixed the pink ribbon about Betty's throat with a suspicious eye, the poor little luxury of a pink ribbon that Betty had sewed half the neter to averen

the night to possess.

Betty flung up her head angrily and

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Price 50 cts. per box, or 3 for \$1.25, all calers, or THE T. MILBURN CO., Limited,

TORONTO, ONT. looked into a pair of eyes that had some years before been the very light

of her own—the eyes of Henry Kim-

The color left her face. Her hands clasped themselves nervously. Tears of distress gathered, but she drove them back desperately.

"Howdy do, Miss Betty?" said Kimberly, making his way through the erowd and holding out his hand.
"Howdy do, Mr. Kimberly?" Betty

flung back, disdaining the hand. She marched past him down the aisle and turned toward home, looking nei-ther to the right nor left. There was murmur of laughter that grew as Kimberly strode after her. "How dared you speak to me?" said

Betty fiercely.

Kimberly had overtaken her in the quiet lane that led to her home. "Now, Betty"—his voice was firm—"I'm not goin' to put up with any of your tantrums. You've got to listen to me, an' you've got to tell me what you meant by flingin' them crabapple blossoms in my face tweive years ago. I've come a good ways to find out. I was askin' about you. You know Jim Dale's come out our way. I was hearly you out our way. I was hepin' you happily married, but you ain't. mappiny married, but you ain't. You might have married a better an's wiser an' a richer man, but you haven't. I've come a long way to find out why you flung them blooms at me. They were so pretty, Betty, like your pink cheeks, an' as we drove under the trees—Lord, I couldn't talk! The words choked me, an' I couldn't get 'en out choked me, an' I couldn't get 'em out. Do you think it was a nice thing for

you to do?" "Do you think it was nice to give them to me?" Betty's voice shook. Kimberly looked at her in amazement. "Didn't you mean it?" she asked.

"I meant every word of it, Betty. I Betty stiffened.

"I wanted the flowers to tell you, Betty. I thought they would."
"They did," Betty laughed shrilly.
"Oh, I hate crabapple blooms, and I hate the month that brings them, and I hate the man that gave them-crabapple blossoms, that mean"-

"What?" sternly. "As if you didn't know!" scornfully. "What?" more sternly.
"Don't you know," sobbed Betty,

"that crabapples mean 'I wouldn'
wouldn't have you if I could?' Doubt went out of Betty's soul a

sight of Kimberly's face, and a red rush of joy leaped to her brow. Kimberly opened his arms. Betty, was never to be a pincushion again. A little brown bird, sore pressed by the chasing hawk, she swept into shelter with a glad cry.

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HOW A MODERN OCEAN LINER IS OFFICERED AND MANNED.

The Captain Vested With Absolute Power Over Passengers and Crew-Respon ibilities of the Chief Engineer-A Floating City-Administration of Vessel It Divided Into Three Departments-A

One of the most remarkable things One of the most remarkable things about the modern ocean liner is the fact that while 1. sea she gives employment to between 300 and 50 people. It might seem incredibly that any vessel, even one capable of carrying from 1,500 to 2,000 passengers could keep so many men oceans.

carrying from 1,500 to 2,000 passongers, could keep so many men occupied, but it is true that a full count of the officers and crew on any one of the modern Atlantic steamships will give at least the former figure, while on the biggest and most famous ships, such as the Oceanic, Cedric and St. Louis, it falls not far short of the latter.

To begin with the organization of the ship's company from the top, there is first of all the captain. He is the absolute master of the ship and of all on board, with direct responsibility for her safety to her owners and to the traveling public at large. He has control of the ship's navigation and of her internal affairs as well, and he is privileged



THE CAPTAIN AT HIS POST ON THE BRIDGE to clap a member of the crew or a

te clap a member of the crew or a passenger who does not behave himself into irons if he deems it necessary. Perhaps nowhere else can one find an example of such absolute and despotic power as the ship captain may wield if occasion requires.

Under the captain the administration of the big vessel is divided among three departments. The first of these is the deck department, which has charge of the navigation of the vessel; the second is the engineer's department, devoted to operating the boilers and engines, the power producing branch of the steamship; the third is the passenger department, presided over by the purser and the chief steward and having for its chief function to look after the comfort of the travelers for whom the great ship and her elaborate staff primarily exist.

In the deck department are various officers, usually the chief officers first officer, second and junior second, third and junior or third officers. The chief officer is the captain's assistant. He relieves the latter on the bridge, takes his place in the daily inspection of the ship and has charge particularly over the cleanliness of the ship, seeing to it that every part is in spick and span erder. The second officers take turns at standing watch on the bridge and superintending the decks, while the junior officers, as the thirds are talled are employed in the steering of the vessel, one of them being constantly engaged in this work, with the assistance of the edick denortment to be bedoed in the deck denortment.

of the vessel, one of them being constantly engaged in this work, with the assistance of the quartermasters.

Then a number of petty officers is to be noted in the deck department, such as the quartermasters, who perform the actual work of steering the ship; the chief boatswain and his assistants, who look after the rigging and deck equipment, and the carpenter, who is responsible for the good order of the spars, boats, water tanks and decks and who inspects these and also the masts, yards and pumps twice each day. Besides these officers, there are the ordinary seamen, who perform all sorts of duties, from working the deck machinery to scrubbing the deck machinery to scrubbing the deck and rails to keep them in shining order.

At the head of the engine department is the chief engineer, who has as assistant officers what are known as first, second and third engineers. Next to the captain's post the chief engineer's is the most responsible position in the operation of the liner, and the engineer has under him a great number of workers—the trimmers, who bring the coal from the bunkers to the fire rooms; the stokers, who feed it into the always hungry furnaces, and the greasers, who keep the engine parts clean and well oiled. There are also a number of men who look after the pumps, the blowers and the electrical plant, which is under the chief engineer's supervision.

In the passenger department there are two very important efficers, one of these being the purser, the man with whom the passengers come into contact most frequently and who is largely responsible for the popularity or unpopularity of the ship.

The other principal officer in this department is the chief steward, who exercises authority over a small army of stateroom stewards saloon stewards, stewardesses, cooks, scullions, storekeepers and bootblacks, and who selects the food and makes out the menus for the meals.

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