

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

fully artificial. The only person who did not trouble to try to cover the painful situation was Captain Tugwell, who kept silently staring at the curtains, between which Esmeralda presently reappeared, a trifle breathless, but smiling a dazzling smile.

"It's all right!" she said. "I locked him in my room. He won't mind. He always sleeps with me! I'm so sorry about him, Aunt Sally, and that I'm late for supper. I'd have been down sooner, only I thought as there was company I'd better wait and wash up first."

It was awful! Marjorie gave her well-known silvery laugh, a little off key, or, as I may say, falsetto. Mrs. Langdon suddenly began talking to the senator about modern Spanish art in a rather hysterical manner. No one was quite at ease during that terrible moment except Mrs. Collins, who seemed rather to enjoy it. Odd woman, that Mrs. Ted: always seems a trifle amused.