

Their Hearts' Desire

me. Almost all brides have some attendants," argued this one.

"Well," pausing to consider, "I don't mind, if you'll promise to keep them at arm's length. But remember, both of you," turning to the young hopefuls, "don't you dare to touch your Aunt Barbara, and walk downstairs ahead of her, so you will not step on her dress," and gathering up the trailing folds of her own blue gown, Mrs. Strong proceeded downstairs.

"April fool," she drawled in sing-song fashion, encountering the impatient groom's expectant eye and advancing form as she entered the library. Then she sailed airily by to greet his brother, their only guest. "I'm so glad you're here," she said.

"So am I," George Belden responded. "But it was such a surprise I hardly got my breath in time to come."

"Or I, in time to have you. I tell you, these are strenuous times we are living in."