

"Now in these three plates will be found clear water, soapy water, and 'nothing but emptiness' respectively. I'm going to turn you round three times, and then you have to find your way

to the plates and dip your fingers in one of them. If you get the clear water you will surely marry a young man, if the soapy water he will be an elderly widower, whilst the empty plate

means you will be an old maid! For the boys, of course, they mean 'girl,' 'elderly widow,' or 'old bachelor' instead!"

Beryl spun round three times, and,

groping her way across the room, found the plates, and dipped, happily, in the plate of clear water! Bobby got the soapy water, amidst absolute shrieks of merriment—for what could point more conclusively to the char?—and Helen got the empty plate.

"Well, it's better to be merely an old maid than to marry a Bore, anyhow," laughed she.

"What's the funny looking wire on the long handle hanging up there by the fire?" suddenly asked Helen. "It looks like a fencing mask on the end of a roasting fork, doesn't it?"

"That's an American Popper for making pop-corn," answered Daisy proudly, as she took it down from the wall, and, opening a bag of maize, she proceeded to pour in a small handful of the shining golden grain; then she fastened down the lid of the popper and held it over the hottest part of the fire, shaking it gently all the time.

Pop! Pop! Pop! went the corn, beginning to jump about inside the popper in the most exciting manner, and a minute later Daisy, opening the lid, shook out a pile of delicious white and golden pop-corn into a plate and passed it round.

"American children make such pretty chains for decorating Christmas trees or wearing round their necks of pop-corns strung on a double thread of cotton, and then if they get hungry they can eat them!" Daisy told them, and, darning needles and a reel of cotton having been produced, soon half a dozen fine chains were decorating the respective necks of the delighted makers!

"Now for a real indigestible Hallow E'en supper, which we're going to cook ourselves!" announced Daisy, as the maid came in with a tray on which reposed a large jug of milk, a huge plate of bread, and some slabs of delicious yellow cheese, and they all gathered again round the fire, which now sent out a steady glow.

"First of all we must put our apples up to roast," and, suiting the action to the word, Daisy proceeded to hang the apples in a row at the end of their strings, all along the mantel-piece tying the strings to a row of kitchen weights, where they soon began to bubble and throw out a delicious odor.

"No, not yet, children, they'll be as hard as iron in the middle," she protested, as Jerry was about to pull his down, declaring it to be done! "We're going to begin by toasting slices of bread, and then toasting cheese and eating them together whilst they're very hot!" And this they accordingly did, with the help of several wire toasting forks which Daisy had thoughtfully provided, amidst scenes of the wildest excitement when the cheese dropped off the toasting fork, as constantly happened, and had to be rescued again and fished out from the depths of the flames, to be eaten with enjoyment by its owner despite the by no means slight addition of ash which it had accumulated on its journey!

"It's been a lovely party, Daisy dear," whispered the children as she tucked them up in bed and kissed them both good-night later on.

By Instalments

"Do you really, really care so very much for me, darling?" she asked. "Dud—dud—does a—dud—dud—dud—duck—cuc—cuc—care for water, sweet? Indeed, I dud—dud—do, dud—dud—darling! You are the one pup—pup—pearl among pup—pup—pearls, pup—pup—Polly! You are que—que—queen of my heart, dud—dud—darling! The pup—pup—power that bub—bub—bends me like a reed—at thy fuf—fuf—feet!"

And she apparently believed him.

The tailor's sign in a little inland town was an apple, simply an apple. The people were amazed at it. They came in crowds to the tailor, asking him what on earth the meaning of the sign was. The tailor with a complacent smile replied:

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