

NEWEST FABLES IN SLANG

BY GEORGE ADE.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY HARRY J. WESTERMAN.

Once upon a time Ferdinand breathed right into Ade's translucent lister those three words which hold all records as mono-syllabic Troublemakers.

They have a harmless look on the Printed Page, but when pulled at the Psychological turn of the Road, they become the Funeral Knell of Bachelor Freedom and a Prelude to cutting the String on whatever has been put by.

The Serpent, operating in the guise of a Lover in a Serge Suit, had lured, coaxed, wheedled, and flattered until the poor trembling Child, only twenty-four years of age, was alone with him in what the landscaper had worked out on her Papa as a Formal Garden.

They stood clinched there in the dull ground. It was all very Belasco and in strict compliance with the League Rules laid down by W. Somerset Maugham.

According to the \$2 Drama and every bright red Volume selling for \$1.18 at a Department Store, this was—

THE END

The Curtain began to descend very slowly, with Ferdinand and Adele holding the Picture.

It seems, however, that they had not come to the real, sure-enough Fins. The Terminus was some distance down the Line.

The Curtain refused to fall.

"What is the idea?" asked Adele, somewhat perturbed. "We have hit the logical Climax of our Romance. As I understand it, we are now supposed to succeed in a Cloud and float through Ethereal Bliss for an indefinite Period."

"Right-o!" said Ferdinand. "According to all the approved Dope, we are booked to live happily ever after."

Just then Her Best Friend came rapidly down the Gravel Walk with Anxiety etched on her Features.

The accepted Swain seemed to hear a low rumbling Wagnerian Effect from out the Clear Sky. In Music-Drama it is known as the Hammer Theme.

It is included in the Curriculum at every Fem Sem.

Ferdinand had a Hunch that somebody was getting ready to drop Cyanide of Potassium into his Cup of Joy.

"Oh, Adele!" said the Friend, just like that. "Oh, Adele, may I speak to you for a Moment?"

Ferdinand made his exit, much peeved, and the Friend expressed a Hope that she had arrived in time to throw the Switch and avert the Wrecking of a Life.

Far be it from her to Switch, but it was her Duty to put Adele hep to what everyone was whispering Under Cover.

She had no absolute Proof that he had carried on with a Front Row Floss in New Haven, but it was Common Talk that one of his Uncles had been a Regular at a Retreat where the Doctor shoots a Precious Metal into the Arm.

It would be terrible to marry some one and then find out that he Drank the same as all the other Married Men.

Leaving Adele in a Deep Swoon, the true Friend hurried to the nearest Police Phone to spread the dismal Tidings.

HIS LOGIC.

A lawyer once asked a man who had at various times sat under various juries, "Who influenced you most, the lawyers, the witnesses, or the judge?"

He expected to get some useful and interesting information from so experienced a jurymen. This was the man's reply:

"I'll tell you, sir, 'ow I makes up my mind. I'm a plain man and a reasonin' man, and I ain't influenced by anything the lawyers say; no, nor by what the witness says; no, nor by what the judge says. I just looks at the man in the dock, and I says: 'If he ain't done nothin', why's he there?' and I brings 'em all in guilty."

Most women feel that their love letters could be twisted into a successful novel.

In the meantime the elated Lover had loped all the way to the University Club to spring it on the Navajos and receive their Felicitations.

His Rapture had rendered him fairly incoherent, and he was gurgling like an after-dinner Percolator; but he finally made it evident that he had been Hooked.

A deep Silence ensued, most of those present looking out the Windows at the passing Traffic.

Finally a Shell-Back, who had been leading a Life of Single Torment ever since Sumter was fired upon, asked in a sepulchral Tone and without looking up from his Hand, "Has the Date been set?"

Ferdinand tried to tell them that he was going to the Altar and not to the Electric Chair, but he couldn't get a single Slap on the Back.

The only one evincing Interest was a He-Hen named Herbert, who took him into the Cloak-Room to plant a few Canadian Vixens in the Garden of Love.

Herb said he had always liked the Girl, even if she had given a couple of his Best Pals the Whillykathrow.

His Advice was to up and marry her before she had time to pull one of her temperamental Stunts and hand out the Rinkaboo.

When Ferdinand looked at himself in the Mirror at Midnight, he didn't know whether he was Engaged or merely operating under a Suspended Sentence.

Next morning he had to bare his Soul to the Head of the Firm. This reversed Fluff should have been known as Mr. Yes-But.

He was strong for the Married State, but it was highly advisable to have the Girl analyzed by a Chemist and passed upon by a Board of Experts before a Bid was submitted.

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Possibly if she could be weaned away from her eccentric Relations and governed with a Fifth Hand she would turn out O. K.

Still it was a tall Gamble. Under the Circumstances, he didn't see that there was anything for Ferdinand to do except mop up a few Drinks and hope for the Best.

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He said a Good Woman was a Jewel, but if one of them got a fair Run and Jump at a Check-Book she could put the National City Bank on the Hummer.

Probably it was all right to go ahead and take the High Hurdle, but the Percentage was against the Candidate, and the Cost of Living was never so altitudinous.

Ferdinand retired from the Royal Presence, feeling that he had been duly authorized to walk a Tight Rope over Niagara Falls.

As soon as the Bride-Elect had taken enough Headache Powders to prepare her for the Ordeal, she sent for the Supt. to come up to the House and outline his Defense.

Before he could tell her how the Little Ones had been predestined, she noticed him that her Kinsman had been perching into the Future and that all the problematical Offspring had been put on the Waiting List at the First Baptist Church.

Here was a grand Opening for Ferdinand. He resolved to make a Stand and issue a ringing Ultimatum. He might as well tip it off to her and the

At 11 p.m. he had explained Everything, repudiated many lifelong Friendships, deodorized his College Career, flouted the Demon Rum, and resigned from all Clubs.

The Birds were singing up and down the Main Stairway and Grandfather's Clock played nothing but Mendelssohn. She lay dully pillowed on his bosom. He was intensely relieved and yet vaguely conscious of the Fact that she had beat him to it. There had been a General Settlement, and he had figured merely as Supreme Goat.

In his anxiety to the Kinks out of his own Record he had failed to hold her up for anything except a Pardon.

Before terminating the Peace Conference, it was suggested that inasmuch as everyone else in the World had been notified, probably it would be just as well to let her Male Parent in on the Secret. Not that Father is regarded as a Principal in the do-do of the Household. Still, he is useful as a Super.

The old Gentleman was so soft that he nearly tipped his Hat. He gave Ferdinand a regular Cigar and then stalled for about 80 Seconds before indicating a Willingness to sign any form of Contract.

He pulled the Old One to the effect that the House would not seem the same after Adele had gone away, meaning that Breakfast would be served in the Morning and the Night Shift abolished.

When Ferdinand got back to his Room and counted up, he had to admit that Father was the only Outsider who seemed to be plugging for the Alliance.

But all petty Suspicions and unworthy Doubts dissolved and disappeared when Nightfall came and Queenie was once more enfolded within the strong right arm of the Peace Conference. The men that he mustn't speak to any more.

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The New Fable of What Transpired After the Windup

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whole Tribe that he was to be Cæsar in his own Shack.

So he went up to her House ready to die in the Last Ditch rather than yield to the advocates of Immersion. After viewing the Problem in all its Aspects, he and Honey compromised by deciding that the Bains were to be orthodox Baptists.

Having sponged every Blot from the Escutcheon and laid out the Labels for all Generations yet unborn, the incipient Benedict thought there would be nothing more to it except Holding Hands and watching the Calendar.

Just then a Dress-Maker swooped down and stole away the Light of his Life.

Every time he went up to scratch on the Door and beg for a Kiss, a Strange Lady with Pins in her Mouth would come out and shoot him away, explaining that the Pearl of Womanhood was laid out in the Operating Room, being measured for something additional.

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