

ESMERALDA

tail with Captain Tugwell and laughing her well-known silvery laugh. There were the Ted Collinses; the Bobby Lennetts; Winnott St. Johns, who won the dancing tournament, you know; Miss Jack Bennets; and Mrs. Langdon, who was down here getting her new divorce. It was a gathering of which anyone might well have been proud to be a part.

The moment for the announcement drew near. Mrs. DeWynt was showing Jack Bennets and Winnott the fine points of Taki and Whaki, who, with their turquoise collars on, were at the feet of their mistress. But of the new guest — of Miss Esmeralda Sprunt — there was as yet no sign, though we knew her to be in the house. I could see that my dear patroness was displeased; but, with her usual marvelous graceful tact, she concealed the fact, except for a slight tapping of one slipper, and went on discussing the dogs.

All at once Taki gave a yelp, followed by a growl which Whaki echoed, and both doglets stood erect, bristling