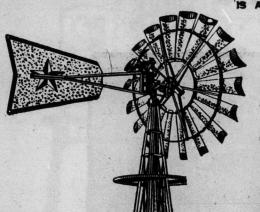
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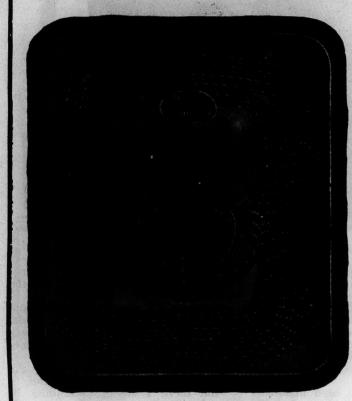
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Buddie was well worth looking at. He lay in the small but expensive brass bed she had bought for him, sound asleep. The glittering splendor of the bed became him well. So did the nightdress made of lace which had replaced his old one, fashioned of rags. The lace rose and fell with his regular breathing. Adelaide bent over him, tucking the covers more snugly. She bent still lower, and kissed a rosy cheek upon which lay long, thick lashes. Her husband looked on in part wonder and part amusement.

"If he were only mine," she sighed.

"You are in all probability harboring an Italian brigand," remarked Leighton, banteringly, "who will set fire to the house and steal your jewelry."

"I will instill good principles in him," whispered Adelaide, tiptoeing back to the door, and holding the curtains to gether.

In the drawing room her husband loitered, looking quizzically down at her as she sat beneath the reading lamp, running a shining needle in and out of a bit of embroidery on a collar for Bud-die.

"Shall I stay with you this evening, Adelaide?" he asked her after a time. She glanced brightly up at him.
"Oh, no," she smiled. "Not if you have business down town."

Leighton walked moodily into the

darkness of the street. "I have left her so much alone," he mused, "that she is used to it now. She accepts it as a matter of course, and he passed the corner where he should have turned, so profound was his preoccupation.

Their flat was in the eleventh story of a great white marble building of apartments in the heart of the city. The window of Adelaide's best-loved room overlooked East River. She was wont to call it her chamber of the enchanting

Sometimes heavy thunder clouds hung like a fringe while the western sun streamed yellowly beneath, outlining buildings of white, of pink, of old rose, of gray. Sometimes the river ran like a ribbon of pearl gray, then like a ribbon of blue. Always there were ships painted on it, dull white of cloudy days, brilliant in the sun.

At first Buddie stood for hours at this window, looking out at the river and the ships, Adelaide by his side, her arm around him.

"You see that white ship sailing slow-ly along, Buddie," she would say to him. "Now watch it, sweet. When it gets between the tall pink buildings

where the street is, it is yours."
"Can I hold it in my hand?" asked Buddie.

No. You can't hold it in your hand. It is too far away. But it is

yours. I give it to you."
"I don't want it," said Buddie stubbornly, "if I can't hold it in my hand." You can call it yours.

"I don't want to call it mine," declared Buddie with a frown.

Then," suggested Adelaide, "take that big white cloud sailing by. Isn't that beautiful?"

"That's too far away, too," complained Buddie, "to hold in my hand." It was perhaps this inability to grasp and hold things which engendered Bud-die's unrest. Or possibly it was only his nature.

Whichever it was he by-and-by gave way to bursts of rage that were terrible to those who looked on.

"He swears like a trooper in them spells of his," declared the maid, who was now and then called in to assist in calming him.

'Them little furrin' children ain't got much manners," the cook informed

A certain something in these outbursts appealed to a corresponding chord in Adelaide.

There had been times in her life when, excepting for the proprieties, she would have given way to like paroxysms, when it was in her to weep and to wail, to beat her head impotently against the dead wall of her own helplessness, to cry out against fate.

She set herself the task of comforting him. Placing him by the window whose enchanting view she counted upon for help, she brought out bits of paper and turned them into salt cellars for his amusement. She cut them in squares. She folded the square at each corner,

he standing mutely by, the tears on his lashes.

She folded the four corners, put her four fingers into the four triangles, squeezed them together and placed the paper salt cellars in a row on the window sill.

Buddie was visibly pleased. "You can make birds of them, too, said Adelaide, delighted with his evident admiration which had served half to dry his tears, but I have forgotten how.

"Make birds of them," commanded

Adelaide attempted the miracle. She turned back one triangled corner of the salt cellar. She twisted and retwisted it in the effort to fashion it into the shape of the head of a bird. It was simple enough when one knew how, but as she said, she had forgotten.

After the third attempt she apologized humbly.

'Im afraid I can't do it, Buddie," she said.

She was amazed and distressed at the sudden and appalling fury into which this threw Buddie. The rose of his complexion turned to dull red. His black eyes blazed. He flung himself on the rug face down in a spasm of rage.

At length when the tempest had spent itself Adelaide got him into her lap and turned his face to the window.

She rocked him back and forth, caressing his mat of curls.

"Tell me what ails you, Buddie," she implored. "I want to help my little baby boy."
Buddie looked out on the river and

up at the sky.
"It's too high up," he sobbed, "and

everything is such a long ways off. I hate the clouds that are too high up to catch, and the ships you can't hold in your hand. And there's no dirt to d'g in," he burst out finally.
"But it is a beautiful great big city,

Buddie," soothed Adelaide, so tly "with its pink and white buildings and its ships and its rivers. Isn't it?"

"I hate it," sobbed Buddie, "I want to go home."

to go home.

He raised himself out of her arms and sat staring moodily at river and sky, his dimpled brown hands twitching nervously against the white of the embroidered coat she had given him.

"I hate the high-up, he sobbed tempestuously. "I hate the ships and I hate the clouds."

He flashed the beauty of his sad face on her, lit by his great wet eyes.

"I want to get down to the ground," he stormed, "and dig!"

Adelaide had taken him home and left him flat on the brown-yellow dust of the roadside, digging. Digging furiously, gleefully, making hurriedly up for the time he had lost among ships and

She had kissed him again and again, and she looked lovingly back as long as she could catch a glimpse of his beauty as he joyously burrowed in the rich brown soil of his mother earth.

And then she had gone back home.

That evening at twilight, alone by the high-up window of the enchanting view, she looked out at the dull old blue of the ribbon river upon which were painted ships whose sails slowly turned to

soft, delicate, phantomlike gray.
She looked till river and ships melted into the twilight, then glanced away to where Buddie had left the paper salt cellars in a row on the window sill.

She took up one and tried mechanically to turn it into a bird, twisting the folded corners with helpless fingers that trembled a little. So absorbed was she in her occupation that her husband entered the room without her knowledge and approached her.

"What are you trying to do, Ade-

laide?' he asked.

"If I could have turned this salt cellar into a bird," she answered, without looking up, "he might have stayed with

Leighton, with a sudden and impetnous movement, snatched the paper from her and threw it aside. He raised her up with his old-time gent'eness and held her to him, pressing her head against his breast and smoothing back

the brown of her hair.

"Forgive me, love," he said in deep and tender tones of self-reproach, "for leaving you lonely.