

can a woman be young. She may in time be an angel, but she will never again be a girl. Do not forget this, oh ye young ones so anxious to put behind you the one period of your existence when the sun shines as it never will again, and when the birds sing with a brighter, sweeter meaning than will be heard when the morning has passed and high noon with the greater heat and pressure of the burdens of life has rushed upon you. Isn't everything young sweeter and purer than the world-hardened older ones of the same species? Look at the lambs at play, note the tender green leaves that shoot out in their innocent verdure from the old winter-seasoned branches. Puppies and kittens are the most appealing creatures, and when one comes to babies, there never can be in all this lovely world anything quite so sweet and lovable as a dear little dimpled, cooing baby. Therefore, girls, stay young. You may have to bear some snubs and submit to some indignities owing to your extreme youth, but the time will come when you will long for these illusions to a crime of which you are no longer guilty.

She was a sweet and tender child, young and lovely—not more than twenty, perhaps—and he was a noble fellow, caring only for her and her happiness. Since she was a mere child he had watched over her and loved her, and the thought of no other woman ever entered his mind. In the midst of the busy world he was naturally surrounded by all kinds of temptations, but he resisted them all, and kept himself pure and good for the one he intended to make his bride. And she loved him for his manly worth and goodness, and when at last the time came when he asked her to come and be the guiding star of his life, she accepted as if it were a matter all pre-arranged and foreordained. And then they were married, and life was beautiful and full of promise. They lived modestly and quietly, but they had more than enough for their needs, and were looking forward to the day when they would have a little home of their own, where love and contentment would dwell with them. And so matters went on for nearly four months. Peace and harmony kept them company all the way, and life, in spite of its burdens and responsibilities, seemed a

heaven to them both. But suddenly, and without warning, the Death angel swooped down and took the dear little woman away, and all he left was a broken heart and a happy future wrecked. That is all. Just a bit from one of the sad pages of life. There is no moral to it and no lesson; it is simply a picture of an incident in the great and never-ending history of mortality.

A wide-awake traveling man, in conversation the other day, said that he very often judged a man by the way he sharpened his lead pencil. One who cut away a large portion of the wood and used a long piece of lead, he assured to be an open, liberal, generous sort of man, while those who were satisfied with a little stub, irregularly cut, were supposed to be close, calculating, and drivers of hard bargains. A straight, moderate clean cut indicated a careful, shrewd, though liberal-minded business man. A pencil whose uncut end was very much chewed indicated either a reflective turn of mind or one who did not have very much to do. A man who carried his pencil over one ear and his pen over the other was apt to prove conceited and shallow, with but little natural ability; and the most successful merchants were those who managed with a stub of pencil short enough to go in the vest pocket.

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