

screw-driver, and his glee in the marvellous mechanism was so keen that Dede conceived forthwith a great idea. For six months she saved her egg-money which was hers by right of allotment, and on his birth presented him with a turning-lathe of wonderful simplicity and multifarious efficiencies. And their mutual delight in the tool, which was his, was only equalled by their delight in Mab's first foal, which was Dede's special private property.

It was not until the second summer that Daylight built the huge fireplace that outrivalled Ferguson's across the valley. For all these things took time, and Dede and Daylight were not in a hurry. Theirs was not the mistake of the average city-dweller who flees in ultimate modern innocence to the soil. They did not essay to do much. Neither did they have a mortgage to clear, nor did they desire wealth. They wanted little in the way of food, and they had no rent to pay. So they planned unambitiously, reserving their lives for each other and for the compensations of country-dwelling from which the average country-dweller is barred. From Ferguson, for example, too, they profited much. Here was a man who asked for but the plainest fare; who ministered to his own simple needs with his own hands; who worked only as a labourer when he needed money to buy books and magazines; and who saw to it that the major portion of his waking time was for enjoyment. He loved to loiter long afternoons in the shade with his books or to be out with the dawn and away over the hills.

On occasion he accompanied Dede and Daylight on deer hunts through the wild cañons and over the rugged steep slopes of Hood Mountain, though more often Dede and Daylight were out alone. This riding was one of their chief joys. Every wrinkle and crease in the hills they explored, and they came to know every secret spring and hidden dell in the whole surrounding wall of the valley. They learned all the trails and cow-paths; but nothing delighted them more than to essay the roughest and most impossible rides, where they were glad to crouch and