

An Orchard Wedding

"And you 'd like to begin right away, would n't you?"

"I would, indeed," he replied.

"Then that 's what I say," went on Ladybird. "You two get married now and go to Europe on your wedding-trip, and you can take Lavinia over with you and leave her at her grandmother's."

"I don't think that 's at all a bad scheme," said Chester, looking at Stella.

"Ridiculous nonsense!" replied the girl. "We 're to be married next spring. That 's my ultimatum, and you can't over-rule it this time, Ladybird!"

"Can't I?" said Ladybird. "Well, maybe I can't. But if I were you, Stella Russell, and a beautiful young man wanted me to marry him, I would n't keep him waiting a thousand years. And if I were you, Mr. Chester Humphreys, and wanted to marry a dear, beautiful, lovely angel like Stella, I 'd just do it—that 's what I 'd do!"

Nothing more was said then on the subject; but the ridiculous remark of the