

The New Tenant
BY KATE CLYDE.
Elm Cottage had been vacant all summer, and now, just as September's refreshing breeze had begun to usher in the fall, the lady, "The Rent" was torn from the door, and all attention became inordinately curious to discover everything concerning the new tenant.

had almost reached fever heat, when, one morning, as the three female members of the household were seated in the sewing-room—Nellie at the machine, the other two discussing the never-varying theme—a loud burst of music cleft the still air, and the next moment, floating from the parlor of Elm Cottage, there came the silvery notes of a brilliant waltz. An instant's startled silence, and then, simultaneously:
"Who, he's come!"

"Maude, the new tenant has arrived." Both rushed to the side-window, whence the next-door premises were plainly visible, and strained their eyes for a glimpse of their neighbor. Millie went on soberly with her work—a pale blue robe, in which Maude intended opening the campaign—a half-smile quivering on her lips as she heard her neighbor's wondering exclamations regarding the silent arrival of the newcomer. Millie had known of it, for early that morning, while the blonde and brunette were enjoying their maternal snooze, she had been sweeping the back porch, and in the regulation wrapper and head-gear, when, hearing the click of the gate next door, she looked up, just in time to catch a glimpse of a pair of coat-tails disappearing through the doorway, but as to whether their wearer was old or young, handsome or hideous, she could not form the slightest conjecture.

Outside stood a wagon, laden with a grand piano, which three stalwart men were bringing in; and Millie, recollecting her ungainly costume, and fearing the stranger's reappearance, beat a hasty retreat into the house. But it happened that the gentleman had caught a glimpse of Millie ere she had raised her head, and although the disfiguring costume disguised the graceful contour of the rounded form, it could not mar the bewitching freshness of the young peach-blossom face, nor dim the sparkle in the soft gray eyes; so, while all day the girl's thoughts kept straying to Elm Cottage, its proprietor was busy with conjectures regarding the modern Cinderella he had seen that morning.

The campaign now began in earnest. They discovered that their neighbor, who spent her time in trilling impressive sonatas, and striking ear-splitting operas in notes of the highest pitch; while Maude, having seen the gentleman culling flowers the evening of his arrival, immediately converted the side porch into a bower of geranium pots, where at dawn morn and dusky eve she fitted from bud to blossom, arrayed, like a bright butterfly, in the most captivating toilets which Millie's much enduring fingers could concoct.

She herself never caught even the slightest glimpse of Mr. Ralph Calvert, which, by some look or crook, the indomitable sisters had discovered his name to be—also the additional fact that he followed the profession of law, and that a recent attack of illness had brought him to Dartmouth to recruit, where, with his faithful office-boy as general factotum, he had hired Elm Cottage and settled down for the autumn. Time passed on, and the new tenant had been settled two weeks, and Maude and Theo were still vigorously pushing the campaign, in no wise daunted by the cool indifference of their intended victim; while Millie's hands and feet were more incessantly on duty than ever, as she now had the additional honor of daily arranging the luxuriant tresses of her fascinating and sweet-tempered cousin.

One evening, after a long day of more than ordinary exertion, during which she had been treated to an unusually generous share of abuse, poor Millie, depressed and weary, attired herself in a white dress, which had become too short-waisted for Theo, and crept down to the little flower-garden, where she might listen to the soft strains of music that came floating from next door. A half-hour passed, and she did not return; fifteen minutes were added to that, and still no signs of her; when the time had reached an hour, Maude rapped around like a tiger, until at last, exhausted, and for want of other occupation, she and Theo began planning a fresh attack on the new tenant, in the midst of which discussion who should walk in but Millie and the gentleman's question!

Straight to the sitting-room they came, where Maude and Theo were seated, and before either of the young ladies could open their lips, Millie was quietly introducing them to her husband! "Imagine the tableau! Maude and Theo in dumb amazement, unable even to gasp; Millie a pretty picture of confusion, and Ralph beginning to explain, in quiet tones, but with an amused smile playing about his lips. He told them that he had met Millie several times, had fallen in love with her sweet face at first sight, and, having met her that evening, had won her promise to be his wife. He then urged an immediate marriage, as he was going away in a few days, and he thought it would save her much unpleasantness and annoyance to be married at once. At last she consented, and they had gone right to the minister, where they were made man and wife, and here they were, awaiting congratulations. Patrifaction was a lively state compared to the condition of Maude and Theo at this statement of affairs; but, when they were recovered sufficiently for speech, they offered their cold, formal congratulations as well as their clinging hugs and kisses. In a few days, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert left for their bridal tour, and every summer since they have spent at Elm Cottage, where Millie, in most coquetish toilets, aggravatingly enjoys, in sight of her envious cousin, a constantly existence, made bright and happy by the love and caresses of her devoted husband.

What! crying! Why, little one, what is it? On, I beg pardon, dear! For, at sound of the grave, masculine voice, Millie had risen to her feet, revealing the fact that she was not quite such a "little one" as, crouching on the step, she had appeared to be. The lamp-light from the open window fell upon a tall, manly form and handsome face, while two kind, dark eyes were looking down on the shrinking form. Poor Millie! if only the earth would have opened and taken her in! There she stood, a picture of shame and confusion, her pretty, tear-wet face

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