

BRACE YOURSELVES FOR THE IMPACT OF THE
SHOCKING WIND-UP TO THIS YARN!

THE NEAT JOB!

GOOD LORD, LADY!
WHAT MADE YOU DO
IT?

YOU'D BETTER TELL US
ABOUT IT, MRS. BERDEEN!
START FROM THE
BEGINNING!



**A CRIME
SUSPENSORY**

*Jack
Kamen*

ELEANOR BERDEEN'S FACE WAS A RIGID WHITE MASK WITH WIDE STARING EYES! SHE GAZED BLANKLY INTO THE SHADOWS OF THE CELLAR WORKSHOP! THE TWO DETECTIVES FROM HOMICIDE WAITED IN SILENCE FOR HER TO START HER STORY! WHEN SHE BEGAN TO TALK, HER VOICE WAS UNEXPRESSIVE... A LOW DREARY MONOTONE...

I...I MARRIED ARTHUR THREE YEARS AGO! I DON'T KNOW *WHY* I DID IT...PERHAPS I WAS AFRAID OF THE PROSPECT OF BECOMING AN *OLD MAID*...



...IN ANY CASE, I *DID* IT! I NEVER *LOVED* HIM! I JUST NEEDED A *HUSBAND*...*BADLY*...

HAPPY, ELEANOR?

YES, ARTHUR! *VERY!* BUT... WHERE WILL WE *LIVE* AFTER THE *HONEYMOON* IS *OVER*?



I WAS GOING TO *SURPRISE* YOU... BUT I MIGHT AS WELL TELL YOU *NOW!* I'VE PUT A *DEPOSIT ON A HOUSE* IN *BEXELY!*

OH, ARTHUR! *REALLY?* HOW *WONDERFUL!* WHAT DOES IT *LOOK LIKE?* IS IT *FURNISHED?*



YOU'LL SEE IT, ELEANOR! I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE IT!

OF COURSE I'LL LIKE IT ARTHUR... IF YOU BOUGHT IT FOR ME! DEAR! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!



I *COULDN'T WAIT* FOR THE *HONEYMOON* TO BE *OVER!* FRANKLY, I WAS *BORED STIFF!* NEVER HAVING *LOVED* ARTHUR, I FOUND THE WHOLE THING *QUITE DULL!* I LOOKED FORWARD TO THE PLEASURE OF LIVING IN MY OWN HOUSE WITH DELIGHTFUL ANTICIPATION! FINALLY WE ARRIVED...

THERE IT IS! ISN'T IT ATTRACTIVE?

Y...YES! VERY... NICE!



I'D EXPECTED SOMETHING SMALL AND INEXPENSIVE, SINCE ARTHUR'D NOT BEEN WEALTHY...BUT I'D NEVER PICTURED ANYTHING LIKE THE HOUSE THAT LOOMED UP BEFORE ME! IT WAS ONE OF THOSE TREMENDOUS CENTURY-OLD MONSTROSITIES THAT THE VERY RICH OF THAT PERIOD HAD CONSIDERED QUITE ELEGANT! IT LOOKED *HIDEOUS!*

ARTHUR MADE A FEEBLE ATTEMPT TO CARRY ME ACROSS THE THRESHOLD BUT DIDN'T EXACTLY SUCCEED! AS HE STOOD BESIDE ME... BREATHING HARD...I SURVEYED THE HORROR HE'D DRAGGED ME INTO! THE PLACE WAS FURNISHED, ALL RIGHT...IN FACT IT WAS *OVER-FURNISHED!* EVERY AVAILABLE INCH OF SPACE WAS OCCUPIED BY SOME NAUSEATING DUST-CATCHER...

COME! LET'S GO INSIDE! IT'S *COMPLETELY FURNISHED!* YOU'LL *ADORE* IT!

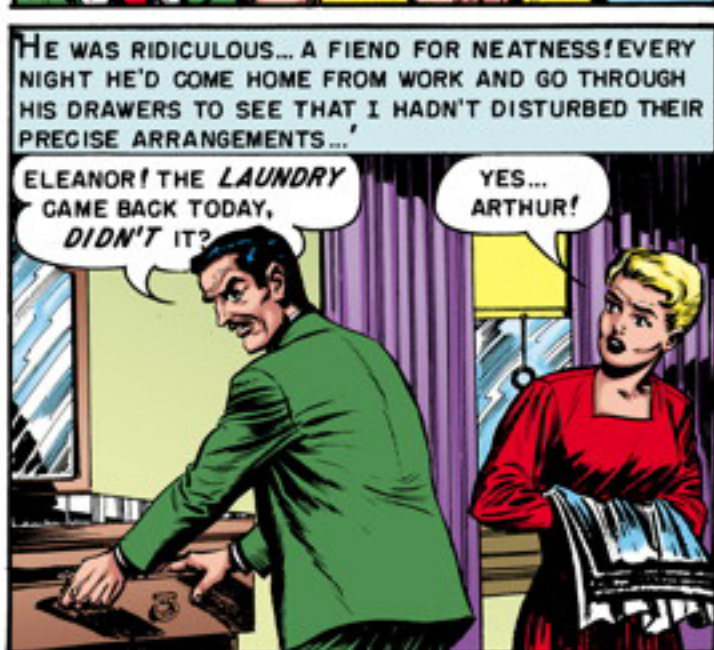
YEAH! I'LL *BET!*



I LOVE *ANTIQUES*... DON'T YOU, ELEANOR?

OH...YES, ARTHUR! THEY'RE SO...SO *INTERESTING!*





IT WAS MADDENING! HE'D GO THROUGH THE HOUSE ON A WHITE-GLOVE INSPECTION...

TCH...TCH! THE TOP OF THIS DOOR JAMB IS *DUSTY*, ELEANOR! YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO BE *LESS SLOPPY* WHEN YOU CLEAN!

YES... ARTHUR!



HE'D EVEN CRITICIZE THE WAY I'D SET THE TABLE...

THIS IS *NOT* THE WAY WE *FOLD* *NAPKINS*, DEAR! YOU MUST LEARN TO DO IT *RIGHT*!

YES... ARTHUR!



IT GOT WORSE AND WORSE...

LOOK AT THIS TABLE, ELEANOR! THERE'S *DUST* ON IT! YOU'LL HAVE TO BE *NEATER* THAN THAT!

YES... ARTHUR!



BY OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY, HE'D MADE A NERVOUS WRECK OUT OF ME! IT WAS ABOUT THAT TIME THAT HE'D BEGUN BUILDING HIS WORKSHOP HERE IN THE CELLAR...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE, ARTHUR?

YOU'LL SEE, DEAR!



HE'D SPENT A SMALL FORTUNE ON THE MACHINE TOOLS HE'D INSTALLED IN THE WORKSHOP! HE'D BOUGHT EVERY GADGET AVAILABLE!

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, DEAR?

IT LOOKS VERY NICE, DEAR!



YES! AND IT'S GOING TO *STAY* THAT WAY, TOO! TAKE *LESSONS* FROM THE WAY I KEEP *THIS* PLACE, DEAR! YOU'LL SEE WHAT *NEATNESS* AND *ORDERLINESS* MEAN!

YES, ARTHUR!



OH, LORD, HE KEPT THAT WORKSHOP NEAT! EVERYTHING HAD A SPECIFIC PLACE WHERE IT WAS KEPT, STORED, OR HUNG! HE HAD *SHELVES* OF *JARS*, EACH LABELED CAREFULLY, WHERE TINY SCREWS, NUTS, AND OTHER ITEMS WERE SORTED AND FILED...

I KNOW WHERE *EVERYTHING* IS! *EVERYTHING*! THAT'S *NEATNESS*, ELEANOR!

YES, ARTHUR!



'BY THE END OF THE SECOND YEAR I WAS READY TO WALK OUT...CHUCK EVERYTHING AND LEAVE! HE'D MOVED INTO THE KITCHEN WITH HIS PERVERTED MANIA FOR ORDERLINESS...'

ELEANOR! YOU *USED* A CAN OF TOMATO SOUP AND DIDN'T *CHECK IT OFF THE LIST!* AND YOU DIDN'T *FILL IN THE EMPTY PLACE* WITH ONE FROM THE *BACK!*

I...I FORGOT, ARTHUR!

YOU *FORGOT?* THAT'S *NO EXCUSE!* YOU *MUSTN'T FORGET!* DON'T LET IT HAPPEN *AGAIN!*

YES, ARTHUR!

'HIS IDIOTIC CHECK-LISTS SLAYED ME! HE HAD ONE FOR THE FOOD WHICH HE KEPT IN THE PANTRY! IT WAS AN INVENTORY OF THE CANNED GOODS! WHEN I USED A CAN, I WAS SUPPOSED TO CHECK IT OFF THE LIST SO IT COULD BE REPLACED...'

HMMM! RUNNING LOW ON RHUBARB, I SEE!

'HE KEPT ANOTHER ONE IN THE BATHROOM ON THE INSIDE OF THE MEDICINE CABINET DOOR! IT LISTED ALL THE DRUGS AND THEIR QUANTITIES! REGULARLY HE'D COUNT THE PILLS IN THE BOTTLES!'

ELEANOR! YOU USED TWO *ASPIRIN TABLETS* AND DIDN'T *CHECK THEM OFF!*

HE EVEN STARTED ORGANIZING THE WAY I KEPT THE KITCHEN UTENSILS...'

FROM NOW ON, *POTS AND PANS* WILL BE KEPT IN THEIR *PROPER PLACES* IN THE *CUPBOARD!* NO MORE THROWING THEM HAP-
HAZARDLY INTO THE *STOVE!*



'THEN HE'D MOVED INTO MY BEDROOM...CRITICIZING THE WAY I KEPT MY CLOSET...'

HANGERS SHOULD ALL *HOOK OVER* THE ROD FROM THE *FRONT!* AND YOUR CLOTHES SHOULD ALL HANG *THE SAME WAY... BUTTON SIDE FACING LEFT!* THAT'S *NEATNESS!*

YES, ARTHUR!

'HE ASSAILED MY DRAWERS.....'

KEEP YOUR *UNDIES* TO THE *RIGHT...* *STOCKINGS* IN *SMALL BOXES...* *SWEATERS* TO THE *LEFT...* *BLOUSES* IN THE *MIDDLE...*

YES, ARTHUR!



