

A Needless Deception By LILLIAN HALL CROWLEY (Copyright, 1917, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate) "Now, mother dear," said Jane, "see simply must fix up the mother house some way. I can't have Ted's mother see such a place."

breath. I am going to do everything. There you are. Now sit down while I fasten these earrings. There—you look just like a has-been-lady."

"I feel as if I were going to be presented at court." "You are!" said Jane. "Now, mother, you must keep that chair because it is the most comfortable one. I have placed the best one here for Ted's mother, so that her back will be to the back door. Then this chair for Bessie—Bessie is so young and happy, she won't know she isn't comfortable, she mustn't see behind the door, either. I'll fetch the kitchen chairs I painted yesterday. They ought to be dry now."

"This is such a lot of trouble, Jane," "Yes, but once in a life time. Now, if you should want something, I'll get it, because if you got out of your chair you'll forget which one you sat in, and if you got into one of the others—all will be lost!"

The stage was all set for the play, when Ted, with his mother and sister, drove up to the door. The room had gone through a transformation. The carpet and dainty white curtains, the freshly-painted chairs, the tables arranged with books and flowers, a calm and happy mother, and, best of all, a radiant Jane, presented a beautiful picture to even the most critical eye.

Jane noticed a puzzled look on the face of Mrs. Somerville when she looked at her mother. As she was warmly greeting Ted's sister Bessie at the time, Mrs. Wilson was oblivious to this.

For a moment Jane was dismayed. "I wonder if it is the earrings?" she asked herself, but she did not have time to worry about it, as she had to go out and make the tea. Everything was going on splendidly, and she was chattered with her success.

"You simply have to get into one now and you must pull it tight enough to get into that white muslin dress I made for you last summer and which you never wore."

"You see," she instructed, "when I go in and out for the tea things it will look as though we had a kitchen out there, besides keeping this room perfectly cool."

"Yes, I see." "Now, mother, you run up stairs and I'll finish. When you get far enough along I'll do your hair, and for goodness sake, put on a corset! Get out the one you bought a thousand years ago in Philadelphia. Let out the strings, but get into it somehow."

"I haven't had one on for over two years."

"Jane had called in a couple of the men working in the orchard to carry the kitchen stove out to the back of the house."

"You see," she instructed, "when I go in and out for the tea things it will look as though we had a kitchen out there, besides keeping this room perfectly cool."

"Yes, I see."

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