

ABIE AN' SLATS

THE WEDDING WILL BE JUST AS WE PLANNED IT FIFTY YEARS AGO--THE SAME FLOWERS--THE SAME DECORATIONS--BUT THE MINISTER--OLD REVEREND MUNSON PASSED AWAY--YEARS AGO



Serial Story—

Kings Row

By Henry Bellaman

THE STORY: Schoolroom in small town Kings Row brings together orphaned Parris Mitchell, 12 and foreign-looking, who lives with French grandmother; Drake McHugh, 13 and "all boy"; beautiful Cassandra Tawer; tomboy Randy Monaghan. Teacher Sally Venable muses on sharp social lines that will groove their lives as they grow up.

CHAPTER TWO

THERE WAS ONE individual in that noisy playground crowd who felt something of this social difference, and who thought about it. That was Parris Mitchell.

Parris was, in his own dark way, a thoughtful boy. He was standing a little apart and was dreamily half-thinking something of Miss Venable's thought. Inside they were all well, kind of alike. But outside—here, everything was different.

Two or three girls were standing near, talking with their heads close together. Vera Lichinsky was one of them. She caught sight of him.

"You going down to Prof. Berdorff's for your music lesson?"

"No, not today."

"Why?"

"Cause."

"Well, 'cause why?"

"Oh... She looked slightly mystified. Nothing ever interfered with her violin lessons.

"I've got a new Bach piece."

"Have you?"

"Yes. It's not very pretty."

"I have a new Bach piece, too."

"Is it pretty?"

"No."

"Is it hard?"

"Yes. It's in four flats."

"I've had pieces in all the keys. Long time ago. Ain't you?"

"No."

"Well, I've got to go." She turned with an air of serious decision.

"Hello, Parris." Cassandra Tawer hung back from the other girls who were walking away.

Parris blushed.

"Hello, Cassie."

"Do you like Vera Lichinsky?"

"I--I don't know."

Cassandra smiled. "I heard you say today's your birthday. How old are you?"

"Twelve."

"I'm 13. Why don't you have a party?"

"I don't know."

"I'm going to have a party next Saturday. I'm going to invite you."

"I'd like to come."

She walked backward for a little while, smiling. Parris smiled, too.

HE WALKED slowly toward the stile which mounted the tall fence surrounding the school grounds. He did not see a little girl who stood outside watching him through the gap in the boards. She was smaller than Parris, and rather poorly dressed in a faded calico dress. She was extremely blond.

"Hello, Renee."

They proceeded without further speech along the road toward Parris' home. Renee lived on the von Eln place. Her father, Sven Gylinson, was the overseer of the nurseries owned by Parris' grandmother.

As they neared home Renee spoke. "I'll be glad when school's out, won't you?"

"Yes."

"We'll go swimmin' then, won't we?"

"Uh huh," he answered.

"Up in our own pond?"

"Uh huh."

Parris Mitchell's mother had died when he was born, his father less than a year later. Since then he had been cared for by his maternal grandmother. She adored him, and he adored her.

His grandmother, Marie Arnaut von Eln, was wholly French. Her family came originally from Lorraine. She had been twice married, the second time to a wandering German aristocrat who had come to America to make a fortune. Very carefully, counting aloud as he practiced, he attacked the Bach

FUNNY BUSINESS



THIS CURIOUS WORLD



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