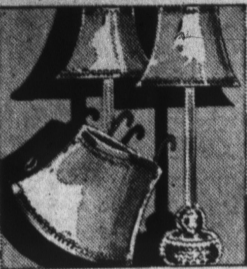


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A NEW TIMES SERIAL—

Shade of Sycamore By Percy Marks

THE STORY: Bart meets Gayle's brother, Jimmie, and Gayle announces the engagement officially. She is amazed at the amount of space given the story in the newspaper.

CHAPTER 16

WHEN Gayle got back to New Haven she found that her anonymity, which she hadn't known before was precious, was gone forever, and before a week had passed, she thought despairingly that her privacy was gone, too.

The students at the school made a kind of awe of her over her that she found almost painfully embarrassing. She was to them a person suddenly transfigured by the Bartlett millions and Bart's fame.

She was about to leave their world for a world of shimmering splendor all of them had read about but which most of them had never even glimpsed.

GAYLE felt as if her life were being torn to shreds. Her work suffered, but that didn't matter particularly. She was completing, only her third year; so she was a candidate for neither a certificate nor a degree. But she found little things upsetting her badly.

They all seemed menacing portents of dreadful things for the future. A detail in her mother's first letter after her return disturbed her as much as if Bart had done something unkind, though what he had done was, she told herself, just typically generous.

But since it wasn't the kind of thing normally done in her home, it seemed to mean a good deal.

"I WISH you could have seen Belle," her mother had written. "She went to Bart's room to straighten up after we left for the airport. When we got back she handed me a ten dollar bill and

told me to send it to Bart."

"He forgot it," she explained. "He left it on the dresser. When I told her he had left it for her, her eyes all but popped out of her head."

"She was tickled to death, of course, but I think she was almost shocked too. It's too late to say anything to Bart now; so don't, but a dollar would have made her quite as happy. Now she'll look forward every time he comes to a big tip. Belle's only human; she'll be shocked only once."

"I OUGHT to have known he would do something like that," Gayle thought unhappily. "Oh dear, if he spoils Belle! She's always been so sensible."

She did her best at the school, but it was hard to keep her mind at her work. Bart was at her continually, it seemed, with questions about the house.

GAYLE had to go to New York so he could take her to Bronxville and show her the big double lot. She had to discuss plans with the landscape artist, and she had to discuss plans repeatedly with the architect.

THEY HAD had one magnificent

fight, and Bart stood on the sidelines almost unbearably proud of Gayle and of her fortitude.

It had never entered his head, he confessed later to his father, that she had so much scrap in her. "She told him," he reported proudly. "She certainly told him."

The fight had been over the location of the cook's bedroom. According to the plans, all the women servants' rooms were to be on the third floor. There was to be a room and bath for a man over the garage, with an extra room for a possible visiting chauffeur.

GAYLE insisted that the cook's room be next to the kitchen, and she said that the breakfast room should be made into a servants' sitting room. "We can do without a breakfast room," she said definitely. "We don't need one at all, and servants do need a parlor. They've got to have some place to sit and see their friends."

The architect was willing to sacrifice the breakfast room to the servants, but he balked at adding a room for the cook. "Can't you see, Miss Kent," he protested, "what you are doing to the plans? You've studied art."

He placed an indignant finger on the blueprint. "I can't stick a little room on here. Even with the bath, it'll look like a woodshed. Why, to keep the proportions, I'd have to build a room fully twelve by fifteen."

"Well, suppose."

He looked at her, amazed. "For a cook?"

"COOKS are people," she retorted. "A decent room won't spoil her. Now, listen to me, please. I've studied art, and I can see easily enough what you're talking about; but I've cooked too. I'm young, but I know how tired you can get after you've stood over a stove two or three hours. You ache."

"But there are times when you have to wait for things, and then you can rest—if there's any place to rest. You can't be running up to the third floor; I'll tell you that. It's got to be somewhere close."

"Well, we've put in a sitting room. What more could anyone want?"

"A PLACE to lie down—a place to sprawl and take off your shoes."

MEDICAL GROUP TO HEAR A. M. A. HEAD

Dr. Olin West of Nashville, Tenn., president elect of the American Medical association, will speak at the annual dinner of the State Medical association next Wednesday at the Murat Temple.

Col. Jack Major of Paducah, Ky., humorist, also will be on the program.

A good cook isn't apt to be young, and the older she is, the more she'll need a room right by the kitchen. Make it 15 by 12. It won't cost much more money, will it?"

"A good deal, Miss Kent. It's an extra room and an extra bath. Of course, we can pick up an old-fashioned tub cheap, perhaps."

"No! I want a tub with a shower. I tell you, when you've been working all afternoon getting a dinner ready, it's a life-saver if you can have a quick shower before the rush begins of getting things finished and on the table."

She turned to Bart. "Ask your father, will you, please? I'd rather cut out one of the baths upstairs than give up the cook's bath."

"I'll ask him," Bart promised.

The cook had a room 12 by 15, and the bathtub was strictly up-to-date with an excellent shower.

(To Be Continued)

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