

Not His Deal.
"Are you truly sure that we can always be happy and contented to live together, darling? Do you really believe that you can give up all the world and its vanities and settle right down like a motel husband should, love? You will never wish to stay out all night 'with the boys,' as they call it. You are quite sure you will not?" and two blue eyes gazed a sweet interrogative into his eyes.

"You can just put your whole stack on that to win, sis," he murmured.
"You will never, never sigh for some other fairer one than I? You will never read me poetry that you sent to your first love and hint that a man can only love once in a lifetime? You will never call me by some other girl's name in your sleep. Ah you will never do that, will you, darling?"

"Well, you just copper anyone to lose that says I will," he whispered, throwing his arm about her more or less supple form and giving her one on the lips for luck.

"You will always tell me everything that passes in our busy life, darling? You will keep no secrets from your own little wife? You will let me read your letters, and tell me all about your business. We shall be truly and really one in everything, shall we not, ducky?"

"Well, I'm just taking as they put up, old gal, that we will," he said, giving her another plump upon the lips, with a good hug thrown in by way of interest.

"You will never smoke in bed, or refuse to make calls, or dislike my mother, or compel me to ask you for money, or be cross because I have a headache in the morning, or—"

"See here, sis," he clipped in, as his arm relaxed its hold about her form, "I should like to ask you a question before we splice. Just one, and then you may fire 'em in on your side to the end of the last quarter."

"What is it, darling?" she chirped, getting hold of his hand and putting the arm about her once more.

"You'll go your last chirp, you'll give it to me straight?" he whispered.

"You may trust me always, love," she lisped.

"Well, then, on the dead level, are you a maid or a widow?"

"Why you horrid thing. Of course I—I've never been married," she sobbed. "How could you ask me such a question?"

"Well, I kinder thought I dropped to too much knowledge in your questions," he replied; "when did you catch onto so much wisdom, little one?"

"Oh, mamma told me to ask you—"

"That whip-saws me," he said, "somebody else can have my chair. There's too much mother-in-law in this deal for me to play it out," and he skipped.

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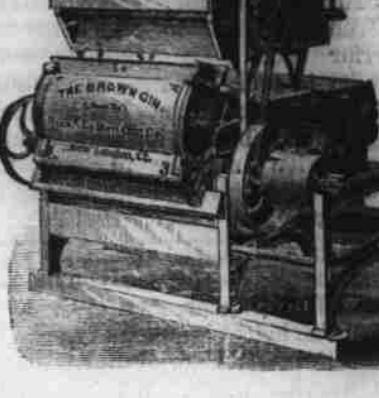
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