Foreword

How a reumahed person, with designs upon his wife's estate, tried to get rid of the unfortunate woman is told in the accompanying tale, "The Rat," by Thyra Samter Winslow. A modern writer with marked ability as a story teller. She has been writing for the American public 27 years and has a large following of readers. Her first literary offerings appeared in newspapers and magazines when she still was in her teens. Not only has she published short stories, but nondiction articles, novels, and plays as well. The second of the two stories in this section is a masterpiece of more than a century ago. Alexander Pushkin, famous Russian poet and novelist, published "The Fatal Shot" in 1830. The version appearing here is from a translation of a translation into the French by Prosper Merimee, another celebrated writer. The story deals with duels, which may have been a subject that projected itself into the writer's mind in a provocative manner, for Pushkin himself, on Feb. 18, 1837, was fatally wounded in a duel with Baron George d'Enasthe.

By

THYRA SAMTER WINSLOW

Undoubtedly this was the wrong time! But the words trembled on Laura's lips. She said them before she was quite aware of what she was saying.

"I may be old-fashioned. But I still don't think—that a married man ought to run around with another woman—"

"What do you mean?" Jerome's face was dark.

"I've heard all about a girl named Sadie Fisher."

"Tell us how you've been bringing you a lot of lien. Your fire friends hate and their. They've got n't any beans. I went and jolted your back. I— I won't stand for it!"

"There isn't any other woman?"

"Sure, I know a girl named Sadie Fisher. She goes with Hal Spero. I've been with them a couple of times. Had a drink with them a couple of times. What's the harm in that?"

"Laura said.

"I hope it isn't serious. If it is, we ought to separate. I don't want to be married to a man that's running around with any other woman."

Jerome grewl out something. And changed the subject.

He was grumpy, for the next few days—but then Jerome was often grumpy. But he didn't say anything about Sadie Fisher.

Laura didn't say anything either. Maybe he'd be better. Maybe he'd be different?

A Marked Change

Apparent in Jerome

And, curiously enough, from then on Jerome was different. The change, from the outside, was all in his favor. He was cheerful. He got home to dinner on time. He even suggested, occasionally, taking Laura to the movies. He still went out by himself—but not so often. Jerome was changed.

Laura felt she ought to be happy over the change—but she wasn't. For he was more imperious. And, even his politeness was the politeness of a stranger.

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