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The Long Engagement
By W. E. Hill

Dorothy's fiancé loves canoing and is planning to take Dorothy out on the river as soon as the weather gets better. Dorothy has been reading Mr. Dreiser's "American Tragedy," and the poor little thing is frightened to death. There was a girl in the story who got drowned into a canoe, you'll remember.

It seems as if Betty and Joe never will get married. There's a lengthy engagement period filled with misunderstandings, followed by tears and explanations. Joe is always meeting Betty somewhere she isn't supposed to be and then there's a scene. And Betty is continually hearing that Joe was somewhere with someone he shouldn't have been with, after he had told her he was going home early to bed. The quiet periods are too short to get married in.

A long engagement is a very trying time for the girl who has promised to wed an intellectual young man. She has to keep up on all the highbrow magazines and look pleasantly interested when he tells her about strikes among the clock and mill workers, the Near East, and the ups and downs of the franc. After the wedding bells she can let down a bit and ease the mental strain, but not till then.

A long engagement is really harder on the young man than it is on his dream girl. Especially those young men who keep house all alone. Here's Arthur, if you please, coming from the toilet goods counter with a jar of cold cream and a bottle of almond lotion. His hands are being matted by the breakfast dishes he has to wash.

Edith and Ed have been engaged for going on a year now. Ed is waiting for his raise. Meantime the wear and tear on the overhead has started Ed's hair coming out in perfect handfuls, and Edith is terribly worried about it. Ed is one of those big mystery fellows, "just all boy," and you can imagine what a time Edith has had enticing him to Mme. Ada's beauty parlor for really treatment. "Lots of men come here," Mme. Ada is explaining. "Right now we're putting water waves on all of the boys from the 'Chase Me, Charlie,' company!"

Fred Mau and Clara Sandberg have sung in the choir for years, and despite the rumors during the dull season nothing seems to happen. That is, nothing definite. There must be some sort of understanding between them, however, for Fred was seen going into a real estate office not long ago, and old Mrs. Rams surprised Clara swinging on something she had right away.

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