

# What a Young Wife Should Know

By W. E. Hill

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The suburban couple with a little house all to themselves will do well if the bride fixes up a little room somewhere as a den or study for her husband. Because a man's den is where things that cease to be wanted around a house, like old bridge lamps, radios, tinted cathedral pictures, and boxes (it seems such a pity to throw them away), seem naturally to find their way. (The little wife in the doorway is showing a dear friend over the house. "This," she explains, "is where George likes to go with his pipe and his book and browse for hours.")



A bride intent on interior decorating the home should never under any stress of circumstances allow her husband to visit an auction room unattended. An auction of antiques will go to the head of the most practical husband, and he will come home bursting with pride, shouting, "Hey, Laura, look at this for a bargain—I got it for eighty-two dollars and thirty-five cents at Ginsberg & Finnegan's auction rooms! It's either medieval or early American, I'm not quite sure."



Very often a young wife will discover that her lambkin boy takes too great an interest in the home and wants to spend all his leisure moving the furniture around and rehanging pictures and one thing and another. It is best to humor him up to a certain point. When, however, things have gone far enough the tactful wife will say, "Yes, Harold, it would be lovely, but you know Selma can't clean the room properly if we have the chest of drawers in that corner," or "you see, Harold, love, Selma needs that corner to rest in when she's dusting the room!" Any mention of the hired help will carry weight.



This is what probably will happen to a young wife's pet imported toilet water if left unprotected in the bathroom.



Upon the death of a relative on her husband's side the young wife should immediately write or telephone her condolences and should strive to put a homey touch to what will distract the bereaved family for the moment. For instance, let her speak of the will. "Do you," she might say, "think Cousin Mamie left those two Paul Revere silver salt shakers to anybody in particular? Because if she didn't, you might keep Howard and me in mind when the things are divided. And that maple highboy—" etc., etc.



It is well for a young wife to note that a man addicted to gas attacks usually has one shortly before unwelcome callers are expected for the evening. "Guess you'll have to excuse me, Lou," he will say, "I'll go upstairs and lie down."



"Don't hang up, Julia, we aren't going to bed for hours yet, and I've lots to tell you!" A bride new to housekeeping arrangements should see to it that the extension telephone is put by her husband's twin bed so he can answer in case it's a business call. And if it's for her, why, it's only a step over to the phone.



Before entertaining guests a recently married lady should always peek into the bathroom to make sure her husband has not left his bridgework on the wash stand.



How to meet an old flame of her husband's. "I'm so glad to meet you, Ted always said you were the sort of girl a man could say anything to without her getting mad, and really I think that is a very great compliment, don't you?" This is just a sample of how a bride should converse with the girl who nearly married her husband.