

# Our Compulsory Friends

By W. E. Hill

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The radio friendship. "Now folks," says the radio announcer, "if you've enjoyed our little hour won't you just write us a sweet little note, telling me you like me? Just write to WPPM and say you love me, and it will mean a lot to us."



Truthful friends pride themselves on being very candid. "For your own good, dearie," is their slogan. These truth-loving girl friends have come to tell a bride, for her own good, mind you, that she is getting dull and ingrowing, and naturally they feel terribly about it.



Foul weather friends. Mrs. Perry Truehardt is one of those people who stand by when trouble comes, and get a grand emotional kick out of it. Mrs. Truehardt seems to have special intuition about disaster and can oftentimes sense a sprained ankle or a money loss hours before the actual happening. "Frances, dear," Mrs. Truehardt is wont to say via the telephone, "are you ill or anything? I've been thinking about you all morning!" And Frances will be ready for almost anything terrible after that.



The express office friend. Ella is one of those friends you're bound to run bang into in the express office in Paris. She will nearly wreck the place in her joyous enthusiasm at seeing you again. "You must come to see me. How about tonight? Or tomorrow? Or any night this week?" urges Ella. "Well, then, next week. And did you know Mrs. Leon Lookdown had a baby? And that Leslie had a tumor the size of a summer squash removed?"



Childhood friends. Joel and Marvin used to play together as boys and haven't seen each other since. They are trying to link up the halls of memory with the present time, which is pretty hard work. "Well, Joel," says Marvin, "I really think I'd of known you anywhere. You got the same look around the nostrils you had as a boy."



The mutual friends. These three charming people are friends of friends of some lucky person, and they are about to make the fact known presently. Won't said person be pleased, because, having so much in common, everybody concerned will be all around the neck in no time at all.



The suburban friendship. Harry and Pearl live in Hollywood Vistas, which used to be the old gravel pit before the city realtors took it in hand. Harry and Pearl call on all the new residents and get very intimate right off, which is necessary because Hollywood Vistas friendships are transitory, seeing there is a great deal of moving back to the city, and one thing and another.



Some of the friendliest attentions are unwelcome at times, even when actuated by the very highest motives. Here's Mr. M. Balm, the sexton and undertaker, with a box of lovely flowers for a sick old lady. The old lady is going to be frightened out of her wits when she gets the flowers. "Like as not they came off some grave," she will say to her nurse. Such ingratitude!



The shipboard intimacy. Mrs. Wad and Mrs. Foil are becoming great friends, or so it would seem, because Mrs. Wad, who has to talk to somebody or explode, is telling all about how her husband used to do the weirdest things before they took him off to the asylum. Mrs. Foil is not feeling a bit intimate. All she is feeling is the motion of the boat. Otherwise she would high-hat Mrs. Wad, and then Mrs. Wad would be all womanly reserve.