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### —BEAU—

By Mrs. Harry Pugh Smith

Except this time it was Beau who had essayed a role which he was to have difficulty in maintaining. Everything about his new regime rubbed him the wrong way. He did not like sitting in a private office staring at four walls waiting for his father-in-law to find something for him to do. Beau was not accustomed to taking orders from another person. George Webster tried to be diplomatic, but even that grated on Beau's nerves. He could not see his life become vitally interested in the Scott estate. His talent lay in building up his own business, not in clipping coupons and collecting rents from someone else's investments.

It was even worse when he came home. Beau was bored to death with the conversation around the family dinner table. He thought his wife's uncles were doddering old dodos, though he made an effort to meet them on their own plane. Between him and his mother-in-law there had been a natural antipathy from the first, and dwelling under the same roof did not alleviate matters. Every time Julia Webster laid down the law to her husband, Beau winced. He liked it even less the way she coddled Carolyn. Away from her mother Carolyn was a responsible adult. In Julia Webster's presence Carolyn had a disconcerting trick of reverting to the spoiled child.

Invariably, if he sat down to read the sporting page in the paper, Julia Webster requested him to turn the light so it did not shine in Carolyn's eyes, or get up and bring her a glass of water. It was not that Beau minded waiting upon his wife. He simply did not enjoy being ordered to do so. After a week in the Scott house he was desperate. "How about looking at apartments tomorrow?" he asked.

Carolyn smiled. "Suits me." She was dressed when he arrived the next day and her eyes were sparkling. "I'll be lovely to be by ourselves again," she whispered. "You bet!" exclaimed Beau, kissing her enthusiastically. Unfortunately the problem of finding a place to live was less simple than Beau had imagined. All the apartments within his price range were held. Even Beau could see that. He had not realized that rents were exorbitant in good city neighborhoods. They found some housekeeping rooms which Carolyn insisted would do, but they were over a beer tavern.

They were both more dejected than either cared to admit when they came home. Julia Webster took control of the situation. She said there were only two apartment houses in town which she could recommend, the Wiltshire and the Boyer-Saxe. When she mentioned the amount of the rental Beau whistled with dismay. "That's over my head," he said.

The next morning George Webster raised Beau's salary. "We don't want you youngsters to stint yourselves," he said. When he came home at noon Julia Webster had as good as closed the deal for a six-room apartment in the Wiltshire. "It is much the nicest thing in town," she contended.

Beau shrugged his shoulders. "We must keep up with Lizzie." Later Carolyn said to him earnestly. "Don't take the apartment if you think we can't afford it, Beau."

Beau smiled grimly. "We'll cut corners somewhere else." Only there did not seem any corners which it was possible to cut. Given one very modern apartment in the town's most exclusive building, it was, or so it appeared, imperative to live on a scale which accorded with it. Beau went a little white when he added up the bills at the end of the first month. He had kept a family of eight on half what it was costing him and Carolyn to live.

"My Lord, he groaned, "what did we spend it for?" Carolyn felt guilty. "I didn't realize," she said. "I'll do better next month, Beau." She resolutely gave up ordering hothouse flowers for the table. She bought the cheaper cuts of meats. She studied her cook book for ways

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### Russia Vitaly Interest In Italian Election

By J. M. ROBERTS, Jr.

Associated Press News Analyst  
Direct action by the Kremlin to influence the approaching election in Italy emphasizes the critical situation of democracy in that country.

The Russians know, of course, that their suggestion for an Italian trusteeship over the former African colonies is out of the question. Britain long ago pledged, with United States support, that the people of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica especially would not be returned to Italian control.

But this is one way in which Moscow can intervene in the political campaign and still not hurt the chances of the Italian Communist Party. The Party would be sunk but for its pretension to freedom from foreign entanglements.

Even the Italian Government must accept with good grace such a gesture from Russia, who not so long ago was demanding a base for herself in former Italian territory. The Soviet willingness to make the gesture is a measure of the importance she attaches to the Communist effort in Italy.

All reports indicate a bitter and close election. Private observers consider the situation far more dangerous than appears on the surface. Not only because the Communists may actually win the election, but also because, if they don't, they may lose their armed partisans in frustration. That would mean civil war. And few believe that civil war in Italy could be localized. The Greek situation, which already is causing world-wide jitters, would be a minor irritant in comparison.

Aside from previous commitments to the Arabs which Britain is woeing throughout the Middle East, it would be foolhardy to let Italy have anything back while there is doubt about her future political complexion. If she were to get such a trusteeship, and then be taken over by the Communists, Russia would be astride the Mediterranean just as the Axis was during the war.

Something must be done about the colonies. Their peoples are sick of being suspended in mid-air, and are beginning to demonstrate against the British Military Government. They are reported largely resigned to a British mandate for an interim period of preparation for independence. But if a settlement is much longer delayed general unrest may develop to the point where no solution can be imposed except by force.

The outlook for a decision, however, is not bright. A Big Four commission now at work is supposed to act by Sept. 15, otherwise the problem will be referred to the United Nations. Russian participation in such a study always makes it unlikely that there will be any agreement. Now that the Russians have dragged the Italians themselves into the situation, the complications are multiplied.

The Western Powers, working to keep Italy in the democratic fold, will also be in the position of opposing Italian aspirations on a touchy point. The Communists, meanwhile, will be making hay with Italian public opinion.

to utilize left-overs. She would have got by on her budget if her mother had not felt it necessary for Carolyn to give a house warming.

"But we can't afford to give a party," protested Carolyn. "You can't afford not to," said her mother firmly. "I'll give you a check."

She spoke to the caterer and the florist herself. She canceled the invitation list. Carolyn was unable to work up a great deal of enthusiasm for the affair.

"It's going to be a nuisance," she said when she told Beau about the party. "I'd a lot rather sit here with you by the fire and talk." Beau rumbled her hair caressingly. "Oh well," he conceded generously. "I suppose we can't be hermits. I only hope the old bank account will stand it."

Carolyn knew Beau had no conception of what it cost to give a fashionable buffet supper. He seemed to have the impression that it was going to be some sort of indoor picnic. Carolyn did not enlighten him, nor did she explain that her mother was footing the bill, though Carolyn thought that was only fair. Neither she nor Beau had felt any urge to entertain thirty people at supper.

"It was Mother's bright idea," Carolyn told herself. "Why shouldn't she pay for it?" (To Be Continued)

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