

Happy-Go-Lucky

By Mrs. Harry Pugh Smith

Tony had trouble getting started. He kept glancing sheepishly at her from time to time to see if she was interested. After a while he forgot, and carried away by enthusiasm, let the words tumble out, his eyes shining, his face flushed. "And so everything works out at the last curtain," he said at the end, and took a long breath. Barbara's heart was racing. "It's a gorgeous ideal," she cried. "You wouldn't kid your old man, would you, Mrs. Blake?" he stammered, squeezing her hand. "Oh, Tony," whispered Barbara, "some day you'll be a rich and famous playwright." Tony's eyes were blazing. "If I can put it over, we'll have the world at our feet." "I know," said Barbara, thinking how marvelous he was and wondering quite humbly how he ever came to fall in love with her who was neither brilliant nor talented. "We'll travel and everything!" exclaimed Tony, "and see everything and meet everybody." Barbara winced. She did not want to meet any more people. In her heart she felt they already knew too many. But she said, "Yes, Tony."

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hair, kissing her quivering lips. "No wonder you have a serious streak," he said. "Think of your going through all that by yourself!" "It was pretty terrible," Barbara confessed. His arms tightened about her. "You've got backing from here on, sugar. I may not be so good at it, but I'll fight your battles after this."

It was queer how he seemed to like the idea of protecting her. Without exactly realizing it, she had pictured herself in the role of bolstering up Tony's weaknesses, lovable as they were. Nevertheless she could not deceive herself. It pleased Tony when she betrayed any of the characteristics of the clinging vine.

He was like that when they went into the ocean the second morning. Barbara had learned to swim at the Y.W.C.A. pool at home. She swam well, just as she did everything she attempted efficiently, but she was not used the surf and it was very rough that day. She lost her footing, floundered, went under, and came up choking and terrified. Tony laughed until he hurt. Nevertheless, he kept a firm clutch on her after that and he was careful not to let her have another mishap.

"Hang on to me, Skeezicks," he advised. "I'll see that you don't drown, I shelp me."

He teased her about the encounter, yet he liked it when she kept a grip on his arm. Just as he did the time Barbara mistook her purse and burst into tears of dismay on his shoulder.

"Here, here, sugar. I'll find the darned thing if I have to sift every grain of sand on this beach," he said. He did find it, too, and he knelt down and put it in Barbara's lap and solemnly wiped her tears away and told her not to be an adorable little goose.

"I know it's silly," stammered Barbara, "but I—I—"

"Skip it," murmured Tony gently. "If you're silly — well, I like 'em silly."

Barbara laid her cheek against his hand. "Go on liking me all ways, Tony, because I couldn't bear it if you didn't," she whispered.

Tony kissed her. "Listen, I'm hooked," she said. "If you don't know it, I couldn't get over you if I tried."

"Honestly?" quavered Barbara. "Hope to die," said Tony, his arm tightening about her.

From Barbara's viewpoint there was only one cloud on the horizon of her honeymoon and that was Tony's carelessness with money. "But, Tony," she protested when he brought her an exquisite pair of blue bedroom slippers with tall silver heels. "I don't need them. I have a new pair, bought for the occasion."

Tony's eager face fell. "Don't you like them?"

(To be continued)

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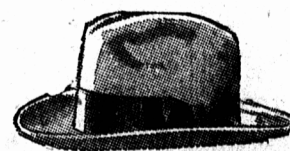
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Always Remembered by Daughter Mary, Son-in-law Fred, Grandchildren Shirley and Freddie.

IN MEMORIAM

CLOW — In loving memory of my dear Mother, Mrs. Herb Clow, who passed away three years ago today, April 12th, 1946.

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