"And She Went to College..." A Short, Short Story

Margaret Quaife

Iowa State College
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A Short, Short Story  

By Margaret Quaife

AFTER Sue Jane strapped the last strap on her shiny new black trunk, she plumped down on it with a sigh—college tomorrow and a new world!

High school had been fun, Sue Jane thought, reminiscing. She had done a lot of amusing things. The school paper and the Girl Reserves presidency had kept her busy enough, then all of those other class committees and her music had been almost too much. The doctor had even threatened the possibility of a nervous breakdown last spring during finals. Jim took so much time, too. But after tomorrow Jim would be miles away.

Sue Jane smiled to herself as she thought of college and of what she planned to do there. Everyone should know her before she left, and she would know everyone, at least she was sure she would know everyone of importance. "I'm rather ambitious," thought Sue Jane, and felt most pleased at this analysis of herself. "Tops or nothing!" she exclaimed and jumped from the trunk to go back to packing the larger overnight case. Silky hose and handkerchiefs, pajamas, and these feathered mules for this bag.

Three years later Sue Jane slipped the last strap in place on a scratched and worn trunk. School again tomorrow.

Sue Jane's burning ambition of three years earlier had been dulled with disillusion and bitterness. Sue Jane had had so many disappointments last spring at college.

Sarah, Sue Jane's roommate, whom she had always secretly considered rather dull, had had so many honors and glories that it did not seem fair. Sarah always made it a point to be very frank with Sue Jane. She always told her just what she thought of each of Sue Jane's many boy-friends, and once she had even told her that the reason Sue Jane got no more out of college than she did was because she was not good enough in any one thing. True she had been in lots of different things, but somehow there was no one thing to stand out enough to get her into Cap and Gown, the campus's highest honor.

Sue Jane had been pretty angry when she heard these things and had thought less of Sarah for saying them ever since. How could anyone say a thing like that to her, Sue Jane, who had tried her hand at almost every activity on the campus?

Sarah was slow and rather bookish, Sue Jane thought, but still Tom was just perfect to her, and she had made Cap and Gown. Of course Sarah was only in two activities, but one did have to admit that the "Y" had become a new organization since she had become president and she had done a great service to the freshman girls in dormitories in that personnel training program. That idea of hers for student leaders had been quite successful.

Still Sue Jane could not understand why it was not herself instead of Sarah who made Cap and Gown. Without a Cap and Gown key Sue Jane didn't feel much like going back to her sorority house. To promise such an honor to oneself and to a whole house of girls and then not to be able to fulfill it was pretty hard to face. The girls hadn't been very sympathetic about it to her, either. Instead they invited Sarah everywhere and Sue Jane

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Rushing

By Gretchen Menich

and neat as possible, choose your clothes wisely, and then forget yourself and your clothes and have a good time. To appear at ease in making new acquaintances, even when you don't feel that way, is as important as your appearance. Little points of courtesy and consideration add much to social grace and personality. Be friendly and alert. Regard the receiving line as a pleasure rather than a formality to be gone through as quickly and painlessly as possible. Make a sincere effort to learn each name when you first hear it.

Some may feel a little diffident when meeting strangers and feel at a loss for conversation. Summer experiences make good subjects and may be a medium for the discovery of mutual interests. Of course you will be handicapped when the conversation swings around to Iowa State happenings, but don't let that bother you. Half of being a good conversationalist is being a good listener. Encourage the girls you meet to tell you about themselves and their activities.

Make the most of rushing. It's really not an ordeal, but an opportunity to meet upper classwomen in all houses.
Alumnae

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Norma Kinquist, '34, is employed in a dress shop in Austin, Minn.

Charlotte Jackson, M. S., '34, taught textiles and clothing in the summer school session at the Eastern Illinois State Teachers College, Charleston, Ill.

Wilma Miller, '32, who has been a half-time assistant in the Foods and Nutrition Department at Purdue University last year, is a full-time assistant this year. Her work will consist of the meal planning and preparation of food for two nursery school groups and teaching of freshman foods laboratories.

Ruth McBride, Ex. '33, is in charge of the food service in a college in Shreveport, La.

College

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thought it was very two-faced of them because some of them shared opinions with her about Sarah. The girls were gossiping about Sue Jane, too. She was pretty sure about it because one day, but Sue Jane jumped from the trunk. Why remember all of that? It only made it worse, it seemed. Wearily Sue Jane dropped silk stockings and handkerchiefs into the grey bag.

"Green crepe pajamas and this hat will go there," she said.

Come In Please

(Begins on page 1)

wider, to prevent slipping. You can save by not having a flounce on the wall side of your bed. It is a simple matter to bind the side and end pieces with bias tape and to seam them to the top section with more tape.

Girls have varied this cover by using knife pleats or gathers, with and without headings for the side and ends. Your appreciation of tailored smartness may be such that you will want to bind the edges with thick fringe or nautical white cotton rope. A spread of color-fast gingham can cost as little as a dollar and a half.

And now to make your lounge cozy

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