LIFE'S MINOR COLLISIONS

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Life's minor collisions by Frances Warner & Gertrude Warner

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FRANCES WARNER & GERTRUDE WARNER

LIFE'S MINOR COLLISIONS

Trieste

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BY

FRANCES AND GERTRUDE WARNER

AUTHORS (RESPECTIVELY) OF "ENDICOTT AND I" AND "HOUSE OF DELIGHT"

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BOSTON AND NEW YORK HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY Che fliverside press Cambridge 1921

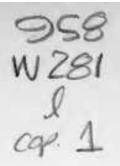
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TO OUR GRANDMOTHER MARCIA JANE CHANDLER CARPENTER

WHO NEVER COLLIDES

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WHY MINOR?

COLLISIONS are measured by what they will smash. Potentially, all collisions are major. A slight blow will explode a bomb. But since most of us do not commonly carry dynamite through the busy sections of this life, we can take a good many brisk knocks and still survive.

The collisions, though dealt with in separate chapters by two of us, are seldom between two people alone. They are collisions, mostly minor, between the individual and the group, the individual and circumstances, the individual and the horse he rides on.

All the chapters are for those kindred spirits who try to be easy to live with — and find it difficult.

> F. L. W. G. C. W.

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LOVE'S MINOR FRICTIONS



INOR friction is the kind that produces the most showy results with the smallest outlay. You can

stir up more electricity in a cat by stroking her fur the wrong way than you can by dropping her into the well. You can ruffle the dearest member of your family more by asking him twice if he is *sure* that he locked the back door than his political opponents could stir him with a libel. We have direct access to the state of mind of the

LIFE'S MINOR COLLISIONS

people with whom we share household life and love. Therefore, in most homes, no matter how congenial, a certain amount of minor friction is inevitable.

Four typical causes of minor friction are questions of *tempo*, the brotherly reform measure, supervised telephone conversations, and tenure of parental control. These are standard group-irritants that sometimes vex the sweetest natures.

The matter of *tempo*, broadly considered, covers the whole process of adjustment between people of hasty and deliberate moods. It involves alertness of spiritual response, alacrity in taking hints and filling orders, timely appreciations, considerate delays, and all the other delicate retards and accelerations that are necessary if hearts are to beat