

**MARY JANE'S
BOOK OF
HOUSEHOLD HINTS**

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Mary Jane's Book of Household Hints by Mary Jane

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PROLOGUE

INTRODUCING MARY JANE AND THE BRIDE.

"And so," said Mary Jane, "they've gone and put me in a book!"

The Bride giggled, and bit her pencil.

"What have you got to say," she asked, "to those who will read the book? I'll write it down for you."

Mary Jane sat silent for a few minutes smoothing her already smooth apron. Then she looked up and spoke so seriously that The Bride's blue eyes grew round and dark with wonder.

"Tell 'em," said Mary Jane, slowly, "tell 'em that I'm an old woman, and I've seen many a home in my day, and I've learned many a thing from them that the brides—bless their hearts—have no time to learn, what with all the new-fashioned things, and the clubs and lectures that takes up their time. Tell 'em that Mary Jane is a plain-faced old woman, but she's learned many a little help that only experience teaches, and she's taken the hard knocks that I hope they'll be spared. Tell them for me—and you can fix up the grand words,—that when things go wrong, they

mustn't sit down and cry and spoil their pretty eyes—let them get the book about you and me, and read all the things that it took me a long lifetime to learn, and they'll laugh at the spot on the carpet, or the jelly that won't jell.

"And tell them," finished Mary Jane with a dignity wonderful to see, "that I wish them all well, and long life to them. Can you write that in book words for me?"

"Your own words are lovely words, Mary Jane," said The Bride. So this book is dedicated to you, Little Brides, with Mary Jane's love.

MARY JANE'S BOOK

ALMOST the first time The Bride Ocleaning spoke to Mary Jane it was to tell Jewelry her a trouble.

After the excitement of settling down in her new house, The Bride wandered to the kitchen with her jewelry case in her hand.

"All my jewelry is in a frightful condition," she complained, "how can I clean it?"

And almost the first time Mary Jane spoke to her mistress it was to give her a helpful hint. "Wash it in hot soap suds, to which a few drops of ammonia has been added, then rinse it in alcohol and dry in jewellers' sawdust," she said. And that's how it all began.

THE next day there was a calamity. Broken

The Bride dropped one of her new Glass cut glass tumblers, and then cut her hand trying to pick the pieces off the floor. But Mary Jane bound up the little finger, and put a woollen cloth down where the fragments were, and patted it until the smallest bit had adhered to the cloth. "And after that, be sure you burn the cloth," she told The Bride.

MARY JANE'S BOOK

"**M**OTHS have got inside my piano; Moths in
 what am I to do?" exclaimed The The Piano
 Bride.

"**M**ake a mixture of turpentine, benzoline and oil
 of lavender and squirt inside with a small sprayer,"
 replied Mary Jane. "Use seven parts benzoline to one
 of turpentine and a few drops of lavender."

"**T**HIS lamp does not burn brightly," Sputtering
 said The Bride. Lamps

"It should be emptied out at least every two
 weeks," replied Mary Jane. "Rinse the bowl each
 time with a little clean kerosene. Never use water as
 even one drop will cause the lamp to sputter. When
 you fill the bowl again, add a little salt. It will make
 the light more brilliant."

"**I** CAN'T seem to clean this milk bot- Cleaning a
 tle," said The Bride. Milk Bottle

"Use a small piece of chain," replied Mary Jane.
 "It is better than shot."