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BASED ON NCERT

Chapter. 5

While the Auto Waits

By O Henry

continue....

Read the story

The girl gives a musical laugh of genuine amusement.]

Girl' ,: You must understand that we depend for our amusement on novelties. Just now it is a fad among modern royalty to use me rather than we to mean I. The idea was started by a visiting Prince of Tartary while dining at the Waldorf. It will soon give way to some other whim. Just as, at a dinner party this week on Madison Avenue, a green kid glove was laid by the plate of each guest to be put on and used while eating olives.

Young man: [humbly/ I see.

Girl: The common public does not know of these special habits of the inner circle, of course.

Young man: Of course. It's all quite fascinating. I've always wanted to witness first-hand the rituals of the elite.

Girl: We are drawn to that which we do not understand.

Young man: I guess that's true.

Girl: I have always thought that if I should ever love someone, it would be one who is not wealthy.

But what society expects from me will prove stronger than what I want. Just now I am besieged by two suitors. One is a Grand Duke of a German principality, known to be a cruel man.

The other is an English Marquis, so cold and hungry for wealth that I prefer even the diabolical nature of the Duke. What is it that makes me tell you these things, Mr Packenwacker?

Young man: Parkenstacker.

Girl: Of course.

Young man: I don't know why you should bare your soul to a common man like me, but you can't know how much I appreciate it.
[The girl looks at him with the calm, impersonal look that befits the difference in their social standing]

Girl: What is your line of business, if you don't mind my asking?

Young man: A very humble one. But I hope to rise in the world someday. There's so much I want to do.

Girl: I admire your enthusiasm. I myself can find very little to be enthused about, burdened, as I am, by the constant demands of my class. Young man, really mean it when you said you could love a man of a lowly station?