

A WILD ROSE PARTY

By Mary S. Saxe



THE invitations should be sent out during the latter days of May, the invitation card, of heavy white paper, being decorated with a spray of wild roses. It might read as follows:

Mrs. — invites you to join a wild rose party on her lawn on Tuesday afternoon, the ninth of June. Weather not permitting the party will be transferred to the library.

CLOVERNOOK, May twenty-ninth.

When the guests assemble upon the lawn each one should be handed either bouquet or *boutonnière* of wild roses, the gentlemen being permitted to select partners, and all to arrange themselves comfortably in close proximity to the hostess, who for this occasion is given the seat of honor, close beside a rustic table filled with wild roses. Each lady is handed a long strip of rose-colored paper, and each gentleman a pencil, and the party begins in real earnest. The hostess reads aloud the following questions, the answers to which are to be found in the names of flowers and written in order on the slips provided—and as two heads are better than one the gentlemen may hold many consultations with their partners before they write down the answers which, between them, they have guessed.

THE hostess begins the story in this wise: "This is a floral love story taken from the leaves of a bud's journal; her name was Violet."

"1. What was her nationality and appearance?" [An American Beauty.]

"2. What was his disposition and name?" [Sweet William.]

"3. What was his object in matrimony?" [He wished to Marigold.]

"4. How did he offer himself?" [He Aster.]

"5. To whom did she refer him?" [Poppy.]

"6. What did her father ask concerning William's prospects?" [Anemone—any money?]

"7. How long had Violet been out in society?" [Four Seasons.]

"8. By whom were they married?" [Jack-in-the-Pulpit.]

"9. How many attended the ceremony?" [Phlox.]

"10. Who were the bridesmaids?" [Wild Rose and Lily-of-the-Valley.]

"11. What was the color of their gowns?" [Heliotrope and Pink.]

"12. What did the bride wear on her head?" [Bridal Wreath.]

"13. What did she resemble?" [Maid in a Mist.]

"14. What did the bridegroom wear for the last time?" [Bachelor's Buttons.]

"15. What did he resemble?" [A Night-blooming Cereus—Knight blooming serious.]

"16. How was the house decorated for the reception?" [With Blue Flags and Yellow Flags.]

"17. What did they throw after the carriage?" [A Lady's Slipper.]

"18. Where did they go on their wedding trip?" [Magnolia.]

"19. What animals did they see on visiting a menagerie?" [A Dandelion, Tiger Lily and Great Solomon's Seal.]

"20. What two presents did they take to her parents?" [A Dutchman's Pipe and Yellow Jacket.]

"21. What did they take to her good little brother?" [Trumpet-vine.]

"22. At what hour did he awaken them blowing it?" [Four-o'clock.]

"23. How long did he keep it going?" [Until Deadly Nightshade.]

"24. What happened when they took it from him?" [He did Balsam—bawl some.]

"25. Whom did they engage as cook?" [Black-eyed Susan.]

"26. Who was her young man?" [Ragged Robin.]

"27. For what was a plumber called in?" [A House-leek.]

"28. When Sweet William left home on business what were his parting words?" [Forget-me-not.]

"29. What did she reply?" [Speedwell.]

"30. What happened when she saw him returning?" [A Yellow Rose—a yell arose.]

"31. How did she salute him?" [With Tulips.]

"32. What bonbons did he bring her?" [Buttercups and Marshmallows.]

"33. How did Violet rule her husband?" [With a Goldenrod.]

"34. Was their happiness enduring?" [Everlasting.]

WHEN all have finished the papers are collected and prizes are given to the two who have guessed the most answers correctly, and, of course, to the two who have been least clever in guessing. Flower stick pins, sunflower pincushions, vases, or a box of buttercups and marshmallow bonbons make suitable prizes. The prize for the couple who have been least successful might be a huge bouquet of roses, or a bonbon box filled with rose-colored April-fool candies. Then refreshments may be served upon small tables covered with snowy cloths and lavishly decorated with viands of a rosy hue. A delightful afternoon party may thus be brought to an end.

It is difficult to imagine anything which can be made more charmingly pretty than the wild rose luncheon here described. The season is the one of the year which lends itself most readily to outdoor entertainments, and the prolific growth of roses during June suggests at once the suitable flower for the decorations.