

The Pleasantville Lady



How to Pick the Perfect Look

by Lily Merriman

As we all know, Mrs. Wickon's beautiful annual Masked Ball is fast approaching, and it is best we start now to assemble ourselves to put our best foot forward when it arrives. Although the economy of Pleasantville is at a bad point to make buying or sewing new dresses a necessity, there are plenty of things you can do to update an old outfit or create an entirely new one.

The most important thing to remember for events like the Masked Ball is *originality*. No matter what you wear, you must make certain that no one else there will be dressed similarly, for nothing is more embarrassing than wearing the same costume as another fashionable lady and having her outdo you. So come up with an idea that matches your dress, and then choose accessories that will set you apart from other ladies. Add a fan or a beaded handbag, and do your hair at Cristal's according to a photo or clipping that you particularly admire. Your mask *must*, of course, be handmade by you to match your dress, or people will think you stingy.

If you absolutely cannot get a new dress for the ball, then be sure to make an entirely new and fashionable mask at least. If you are making an entirely new ballgown, make your mask out of either the same fabric as the dress (to make it appear as if it was made *particularly* for the Masked Ball), or out of one of the accent colors on the dress. For example, if your dress has gold braid or black beads, you could make your mask out of gold or black, respectively. Good luck ladies, and remember to think out of the box with your creations!

Elizabeth has taken up the hobby of stealing muffins.
Teresa's initials TIB now stand for Teresa Ice Berg for how she acted towards Sonja Romanakov at the Nutcracker rehearsals last year. But seeing as who she is related to that's now surprise.
The Larson family is a disgrace!! When Kirsten plays the violin (yes, I know, it's hard to tell she is actually playing the thing and not squashing it into jelly...) she moves the bow with her nose!!
Anna Larson babysits spoons, while Britta Larson calls her smaller brother "that thing." The whole town, I am sure, wonders if she was the one who shut the little boy in a cupboard.
The Parkingtons still don't even have enough to pay their maids, but they probably don't deserve the pay anyways. Why, Louisa Hawkins calls herself a rusty old wagon!!!
Rebecca Parkington has a long curly tongue and her twin, Samantha, rolls down muddy grass hills. Rebecca Montoya, on the other hand, is the utmost of rudeness! She calls people names and then grabs them by their necklace to break it. But Clara and Nancy are unofficially the silliest fools in town and plan on attacking the Larson farm!
They also have decided that they are scarecrows. Angelica attempts to scare her customers away with her horrid guitar racket, does Lily know this?
William Merriman eats his sheets but claims 'tis only the mice!!
Lara and Dolores have their heads screwed on!! Clara Montoya likes to speak in different languages that only she can understand. Nancy purposely attracts ants by hiding chocolate under her bed, while Felicity Merriman used to help out escaped convicts!
Continued—>

All the Latest Gowns:



The Latest Town Gossip

By Suzanne Wickon

Surprise or not surprise, Felicity Merriman has actually smiled more than once in her life; while she makes people cover their ears with the horrible music she makes. But seeing as her mother crunches on pickles and says, "what a wonky wonky day it is," it isn't such a big surprise that Felicity turned out how she did.

Lily has also taken a leaf out of Dolores's book and started to starve her children. Dolores's best friend is a rag, and her and her family dress up as pumpkins for Valentines day, now confirming that the rumor is true about their ballet school truly being an academy of pumpkin-bumpkins!

Dolores also takes other Mothers' babies, ties them to a leash, and takes them out on walks. She also believes that Peder Larson is a worm!!!
Celine currently has amnesia and cannot find her home again. (No wonder we haven't gotten our taxes lately...)

The Montoyas' vicious horse bashes into stores and it even ate some of the General Stores' fabric! (Don't buy from their fabric selection, for it may actually have horse slobber on it.)

William Merriman is a pig and loves to roll around in the mud all day. Also, the Parkingtons don't even have enough money to pay their maids, and —>



Cristal's Hair Salon

All the latest hairstyles in one luxurious salon. Spend your day at Cristal's relaxing in a bubble bath or getting a facial.
8747 Tulip Avenue * BEUT-1



Violet's Clothes Boutique

Offering masks for the upcoming Masked Ball and displayed at the Parkington's house. Don't let your friends catch you wearing the same dress to the Masked Ball twice!
Custom dress orders also available—bring us the fabric and pattern and we will up the perfect dress for you and the occasion.

Rebecca Parkington, Proprietress
1 (800) SBP-12

Dear Suzanne,

I always have to clean up another girl's shop because she is so lazy!! And do you know what? She still will not pay me for it!! What can I do?

Signed, Forced-To-Run-Two-Businesses

Dear Forced-To-Run-Two-Businesses,

You should give up this other person's shop, why should you help her? She was the one who ruined your business, she was the one who lost all of her customers! It was her fault that her business collapsed! Why on earth should you help her?

Signed, Suzanne

Dear Suzanne,

I can hardly get any peace of mind because of the noise pollution level in Pleasantville. The noise gives me a splittin' headache!

Signed, Iratus Est

Dear Iratus Est,

Try earplugs.

Signed, Suzanne

Send distressed letters to:

Suzanne Wickon
8749 Tulip Avenue
Pleasantville, DC, 54361

Sewing Circle Dates and Places:

These were drawn, as promised.

August 29th, 2008: Merriman House
7114 Bluebell Way / Pleasantville / 55462

September 5th, 2008: Montoya Rancho
6455 Lupine Ave / Pleasantville / 55462

September 19th, 2008: Furr Apartment
8747 Tulip Ave / Pleasantville / 55461

September 26th, 2008: Parkington Mansion
1141 Lilac Avenue / Pleasantville / 55460



Suzanne Wickon's
Elegant Dessert Column

Suzanne's Scumptious Crepes

This easy dessert can also be a fancy breakfast as well!!!

Ingredients:

Dough
1 bag flour
1 cup sugar
1 pinch salt
1 bucket milk
butter
strawberries
blackberries
lemons

1. Put the flour, sugar, salt and milk in a bowl. Stir while singing the "Queen of Sheba."
2. Let dough sit for an hour and then set the dough by your fireplace.
3. Heat a skillet on the fire and put some butter in.
4. When the butter is sizzling like Mrs. Montoya's temper, drop a scoop of batter into the skillet.
5. Sing three arpeggios and then flip the crepe. Sing three more and then remove the crepe from the fire and place in a shady place, such as under a bed.
6. Continue with the rest of the batter.

Sauces:

Strawberry or Blackberry

1. Let the berries thaw on your windowsill until they are slightly mushy.
2. Smash the berries with a fork and then add sugar.
3. Put the berry mixture in a tub full of freezing water.
4. Serve on crepes.

Lemon Sauce:

1. Squeeze all of the lemons' juice into a small cooking pot.
2. Put the bowl on the fire and add sugar.
3. Stir constantly, and make sure that your face is covered from the leaping flames.
4. Once the sauce is boiling, put it in a rose bush until slightly sticky.
5. Serve on crepes.

Enjoy!



Practical Things to Do

Hang new curtains

Go for a stroll in Town Square

Buy some new fabric

Taste Clara's cinnamon rolls

Dine out at Bamboo Terrace

Call on the neighbors

Enroll your daughter in Proper School

Pay your taxes on time

Dust out your carpets

Make an elaborate mask for the Masked Ball

Knit a sweater for your dog

Read this magazine

Whip up desserts to take calling with you

Order a custom dress at Violet's Clothes Boutique

Get a special treatment at Cristal's Hair Salon



*Mrs. Merriman's Household
Management Column*

The leaves are beginning to fall off the trees again, and we are all starting to remember the long Winter months that are coming for us.

This is the time of year where we must work to make sure we are ready for the elements in all their glory. Today we will be focusing on proper bed-covers for your beds.

We all must be warm during the winter, so I would recommend a sturdy cotton sheet covering the mattress, and at least two pillows. On top of that, a warm woolen or knitted blanket is advised. I believe that the Montoyas actually knit these, so you might be interested in purchasing one. It is not meant to be seen, but rather felt as a warmth when you are frozen to the toes.

This is placed between the cotton sheet and the comforter, which is the one that will be seen by prying eyes. Make your comforter as elegant as you can, whether quilted with fine designs, (stay away from block-work quilts, they are so overdone) or a silk cover with a lot of stuffing to make it appear warm and comfortable.

You should make your bed so appealing that in the winter months your children will simply beg to go to bed. No more worrying about them staying up all night!

Make sure that your comforters and pillows match, of course. This goes without saying, but sometimes people do tend to forget how important this is.

Once you have everything all tightened around the mattress, it is a nice touch to add a sewn or knitted doily to the center of the comforter as a decoration.

Please contact me if you have an idea for this column or an area of your house which you are having trouble cleaning or organizing.