

"The Snowball" OR The Adventures of Felix

THE old story of a man mislead- his wife as to where he intends to spend an evening forms the basis of the plot of a witty and ingenious farcical comedy by Sydney Grundy, entitled "The Snowball," or "The Adventures of Felix," which will be broadcast by Clement May and Company from 2YA on Tuesday, March 28.

The scene is laid in the sitting-room of the Featherstone home, and the action of the play commences toward the hour of midnight.

Earlier in the evening Felix Featherstone had announced to his wife that he was going out for dinner and a quiet game of bridge with an old friend. Instead, he went to see a risqué play, and in so doing subsequently becomes involved in such a series of untruths that he gets himself seriously entangled.

His wife, in company with his niece and her fiancé, had intended to go to a classical concert, but at the last minute they decide to attend the same play. Felix, observing his wife's party in one of the boxes, foolishly concludes he has not been seen, and shrinks back into his seat until a pillar hides him from their view. However, unfortunately for him an inconvenient mirror reveals his presence to those in the box above, and they watch him, to their great amusement, all through the play.

When the curtain falls, Felix, still under the delusion that he is undiscovered, jumps in a cab and hurries home. Here he finds that his Uncle John, who incidentally has also been to the play, has arrived unexpectedly. He is surprised to see Felix coming home without his wife, and asks him why he has been out without her. Felix explains, and also avows his intention of playing a trick upon his wife to teach her a lesson for misleading him. To this end he writes a note, making an appointment with her after the others have retired. This he places in her work-basket, hoping she will see it on her arrival home.

In due course the party arrive home and the wife finds the note, but, seeing through his strategy, she evolves a plan to punish him for his presumption by making his plotting recoil upon his own head. She makes the maid a present of the work-basket and gives her a note written by the niece in a disguised hand, purporting to be from the maid. This she instructs is to be given to her husband.

Uncle John, knowing that Felix has been doing something to deceive his wife, implores him to tell her the truth. He, however, thinks the joke too good to miss

and insists upon carrying out his plan. Shortly afterward everybody retires, but Felix stays up to keep his appointment. He is greatly astonished to find a little later that it has been kept by the maid instead of his wife.

Shortly afterward the Uncle comes back into the room and finds Felix in serious conversation with the maid. He immediately suspects an intrigue, and will not believe Felix when he tries to explain that the note he wrote was intended for his wife.

The next morning Felix, frightened to face the family, does not come down to breakfast. Mrs. Featherstone sends the maid upstairs to call him, but when Felix, who has scarcely slept at all, hears her voice he slams and bolts the door in her face. Finally, after the butler has been sent to tell him his wife has left the table, he creeps downstairs, only to be met with another withering barrage of criticism from his uncle, regarding his scandalous behaviour.

IN the meantime Mrs. Featherstone bribes the maid with the promise of increased wages to deliver further clandestine messages to Felix, which leave him half-demented.

The maid, noticing his obvious distress, seizes the opportunity of making a little on her own account, and asks Felix for another rise in wages. She further insists that her young man be given a position as a servant in the house.

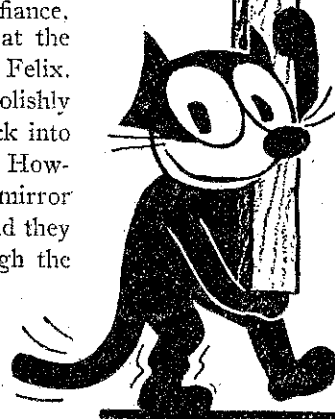
The next act finds Felix driven almost to distraction with the reproaches of his uncle and the demands of the maid, who, still not content with spoils she has gained as a result of her master's innocent indiscretion, blackmails him still further, and receives a ten-pound note as the price of her silence.

Felix, thinking that he is now safe, once more assumes his position as master of the house, but collapses like a pricked balloon when Mrs. Featherstone tells him that the maid's young man is below making inquiries as to the identity of his sweetheart's admirer, who has presented her with so much money.

And so a series of complications is set up which involve the unfortunate Felix in the most awkward and ludicrous situations until he is finally exonerated at the end of the play.

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The comedy is full of brilliant wit and ingenuity, and should provide a fine hour's entertainment for those who tune to 2YA next Tuesday evening. Mr. May has selected an excellent cast for its presentation, as shown by the accompanying panel, which gives the characters in the order they will speak.



The Cast:

Saunders, a manservant Nares Owen
Penelope, a maidservant Joan Spencer
Uncle John Will McKeon
Felix Featherstone Clement May
Harry Prendergast Alan Paterson
Mrs. Featherstone Lenore Pulford
Ethel, the niece Eileen Bass