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## Guest

Josephine Saunders

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JOSEPHINE SAUNDERS

## GUEST

During world war two, when just about all  
the men were overseas, we  
were married at my Father's house in  
the presence only of the immediate family, and one  
of my two best friends.

Partly out of exhaustion,  
partly out of fear that  
I would be a burden to you (and  
I have been a burden to you, dearest, more  
than I ever dreaded being),  
I got drunk at the wedding.

Seated on the terrace after the ceremony,  
"Do you  
see what I see?" said  
the friend. Across the lawn between  
my house and my Father's approached  
the only boy I knew who had not been drafted.

He drew up a chair to join our minute group,  
"What's new with you?" he asked me.  
"I got married," I said, "a few minutes ago."

He flushed and made polite remarks about  
having missed the boat.

But what interested me was that this  
was apparently the way  
he imagined we spent our suburban afternoons:

the men city-suited; the women hatted, gloves  
and purse in lap—and all  
sipping champagne without even  
the excuse of a party.—