

## Apartment for Rent

Janice Richardson

**Y**es, we have an apartment for rent. It's a beautiful apartment, and I'm certain that once you see it, you'll not be satisfied until you have it. Children? Oh yes, we're very reasonable about children. After all, it's the social and patriotic duty of every couple to have a family. I say "patriotic," because, after all, we're in a war practically every year now, and every mother wants to experience the feeling of pride in a soldier son. Don't you think so? Of course, I've never had any children of my own, but I'm certain that's just exactly the way I would feel.

But, as I was saying, we are very reasonable about children. We have made a few restrictions, but I'm certain you won't find them inconvenient. I am very touchy about my lovely flowers, and I would prefer that the children play in the street rather than the yard. My husband retires very late and likes to sleep until noon, so please keep the children completely quiet until well after that time—you see, he is usually very disagreeable for perhaps an hour after he awakes, and the noise would annoy him. Those are the only restrictions I can think of, because, naturally, the children will devote Sundays to quiet, religious study.

Here's the apartment. I knew you'd be completely captivated! It isn't often you can find a beautiful apartment like this for such a reasonable rent. Now, I feel that I must warn you about the plumbing. It isn't very good. You had better carry your dishwater out to the back of the yard, and don't ever throw coffee grounds in the sink. The blinds in here are rather torn, aren't they? Well, perhaps we'll get some new ones some day. The floors really need to be refinished, but we can't afford it right now. The broken window? Oh, I'm sure you can replace it with no trouble.

We have some house rules, of course. We turn off the electricity at ten o'clock every night. We don't believe it's necessary to use the gas oven for heat, as we always make certain that the room temperature is sixty-five degrees. We ..... Rent? Oh, yes. The rent is only ninety-five. It's very reasonable, really. Most places are asking one hundred, you know. You'll look further? Well, if that's the way you feel! After all, we'd much prefer a couple with no children.