

The man said, "My wife ought to get here just about any minute now. She'll soon be here." They waited and waited. The food was on the table. Everything was ready but the wife did not arrive. The man was very cheerful, he knew his wife would get there most any time. Finally he began to look at his watch. He kept saying, "I don't know why she doesn't get here. She certainly is due. She ought to be here by this time. She ought to get here any minute. After all, it's three months since she left and she promised to be back on this day. This went on for quite a time. Finally, the man said, "I don't know why she doesn't come." He went to the door. He began to look up and down the street. He began to yell. He began to call her name. Then he went out and ran around the house, looking and hunting for her. Finally he came in and said, "I wonder if something could have happened to her. I wonder why she doesn't get here." The friends tried to comfort him. They said, "Wait a little. Doubtless she will arrive." He said, "Oh, she ought to be here now. Something must have happened to her." Finally he gave a shriek and became unconscious. The friends took him upstairs and put him to bed. Then they went on with the meal. The visitor thought this was very strange, and asked them just why is this? Why don't you go out and inquire about the wife?

"Oh," they said, "Ten years ago his wife went for a visit to her parents for 3 months. On the way back she met with --something happened to her, nobody ever knew what happened, but she just disappeared. Her body was never found." The man was absolutely convinced that his wife would get back on that date. Every year at that date he had the feeling that she was bound to appear. He would have a big dinner in her honor. The friends simply could not refuse him. He would not take no for an answer. They must be there to welcome his wife back. And every year he kept waiting and waiting, sure she would come, until finally in misery and disappointment, he would faint away. They said he had doing this already for ten years. He was just absolutely sure she was coming. But she would never come if she was dead.