

That Girl

The chapter "That Girl" captures the whimsical yet rocky beginning of a young couple's marriage, showcasing a blend of romance, humor, and determination. It begins with the anticipation of a perfect honeymoon in the Bahamas, overshadowed by the misfortune of lost luggage. After arriving in Nassau with nothing but winter clothes, Jeffrey, the groom, desperately engages with the airport manager, expressing the urgency of retrieving their bags for their short stay. The manager, swayed by Jeffrey's charm and urgency, offers him \$300 to buy essentials.

Back at the hotel, excited by their newfound "wealth," they joyously throw the cash into the air, only to be interrupted by the news that their luggage has finally arrived. Capitalizing on their windfall, Jeffrey surprises his bride with a pink cashmere sweater set and pearl earrings, fulfilling a long-held dream of hers. As their honeymoon wraps up, the couple faces the realities of married life: Jeffrey continues his military training, while the narrator heads back to school in Syracuse.

The chapter takes a comedic turn as the narrator grapples with unanticipated expenses, like the fur blanket she'd ordered months ago, forcing her to devise a plan to earn extra money during finals. She sells donuts door-to-door in her dorm to pay off the bill, an entrepreneurial endeavor reminiscent of her future food business ventures.

Upon settling into their new married life in Fayetteville, North Carolina, the couple experiences the challenges of finding suitable accommodation and establishing a comfortable home. The narrator expresses dismay at the state of their first living quarters and quickly moves to secure a more appealing place.

Throughout this narrative, themes of independence and personal growth emerge, particularly as the narrator navigates school and home life. Jeffrey encourages her to explore her potential and consider her aspirations beyond being a housewife, suggesting she enroll in classes and pursue her dreams. She reflects on her past ambitions and recognizes the importance of planning for the future.

Ultimately, the chapter illustrates the couple's journey as they learn to balance love, ambition, and the realities of married life, enriched by moments of humor and warmth.