

ONCE UPON A time there was a newly married couple; still dressed in their wedding finery, they relaxed in their new home when the last of the guests at their feast had left. A bridegroom in this splendid costume, with a priceless robe and a dagger studded with jewels? The policeman called massive reinforcements and the swarming custodians of the law became more and more enraged at the total silence, which to them seemed obviously a calculated affront. Still the pair sat there, while the thieves collected all the valuables, and even rolled up the carpets under them. The robbers crept into the silent house, which seemed so deserted, and began to load themselves with every portable object of any value which they could find. Neither of them spoke or moved as the burglars went from room to room, until at length they entered the sitting room and at first failed to notice the utterly motionless couple. Mistaking the idiot and his stubborn wife for wax dummies, they stripped them of their personal jewels – and still the couple said nothing at all. The thieves made off, and the bride and her groom sat on their sofas throughout the night. There were two sofas in the room, and the pair settled themselves, face to face, one on each, sitting mutely looking at one another. They had been in this posture for two or three hours when a party of thieves came by and noticed that the door was open. Neither man nor wife deigned to reply. said the groom.