

“IT JUST WON’T COME OFF”

by Edna Means
(Cut for Literary Program)

My mother says that as a babe I was a chubby sprite:
A sort of roly butterball ... my poundage wasn't light;
And as fond friends would lift me up, they'd look surprised and say,
“The little dickens! Goodness me! And how much does she weigh?”

As a child I ran and played and capered with great joy;
In fact, I was what's sometimes called: a regular tomboy;
My muscles grew so hard and firm and I was proud of them;
And if I tipped the scales on high ... I didn't give a hang!

So then I cut the sugar and the starch out of my diet;
My eyes grew hollow, cheeks so wan ... I really was a sight;
But here and there about my frame there still were certain places
Which yielded not to diet, nor to tightly pull-ed laces!

I tried Reducing Systems: streamline by radio;
I pounded and I pommeled ... but it simply would not go ...
That cruel extra poundage which makes the scales to scoff
As if to say, “Aw, what's the use ... it just will not come off!”

And then I tried the sleepless game ... to sleep just four hours daily
But all I got was circled eyes and cheeks which sank in palely.
I yawned by day, I yawned by night, I yawned both morn and noon.
“I won't come off! I won't come off!” my poundage seemed to croon.

Then on the air I heard it said, if gelatine you'd drink
Dissolved in water twice a day, 'twould make you simply blink
With vim and vigor, pep and zip, just like a youthful sprite ...
So gel I took in the morning and gel I took at night.

Oh, gelatine, oh, gelatine, ... oh, shades of quivering gel!
Oh, Mr. Knox, I took your stuff till I could almost yell!
I quivered here, I quivered there, outside... inside ... around...
But as for pep and happy days ... Oh, these I never found!

And then my husband said one day, "Say, what's the big idea?
Why are you always looking for some thinning panacea?
I picked you out because I like a woman nice and plump
And not a hungry-looking one: a frail and fainting lump."

Since my beloved spoke these words, I have made up my mind
To sit right back, relax and eat, and in this life to find
All the fun and all the taste of all good things in life:
Candy, butter, ice cream, ... and imbibe them without strife.

Those crispy pies, hot biscuits and thickly frosted cakes,
Delicious French fried taters, and juicy, sizzling steaks
Shall be my daily portion ... with many a luscious bon-bon ...
For if it JUST WILL NOT COME OFF ... THEN IT CAN JUST STAY ON-ON!