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## Modern love

by Rosalyn Hurst

The two sisters looked out from the upstairs window, across next door's paddocks to the trees that had stood there all their lives.

'See she's moving out,' said Enid, 'Pity, liked her couldn't stand him. Easy these days to start again, not like our day when you made your bed and had to lie on it.'

Joan nodded, and as she remembered George and his wild ways, glad to be rid of him though that could never be said. She cuddled Tiger to her ample chest.

'Can't see what you see in that smelly old tomcat ,' said her sister with a sniff, 'if it weren't for the fact he's a good ratter, I wouldn't have him near the us.'

Her sister rounded on her, 'You leave him alone, he's my love and he loves me,'

'She's getting dafter by the day,' thought Enid, but she and Joan had lived together all their lives except for a brief time married to local men, who had died, or left. She really loved her sister and was dreading the approaching day they could not manage and even might be separated.

Their neighbour had come out of the house and was walking down to the line of trees. She was standing by one, her arms around the broad trunk.

'Well,' said Joan, 'Would you look at that! What's she doing now?'

'Saying goodbye to the trees,' replied Enid, who always liked her mad neighbour, 'I expect they were the only constant in her life in the last year or two. I saw her crying when the sheep went, though they are only up the lane to Steve's. Said she couldn't afford to stay on in the house alone. That's modern men they go off leave the women alone.'

'Hmm, ' said Joan thoughtfully, 'Not like Steve to do a good turn to anyone, is he hoping to get his feet under the table?'

Enid turned and went downstairs, 'Just calling round to say goodbye', she called up to her sister. 'Think I'll give her a nudge, tell her to keep in touch, tell her that Steve is not so bad once you know him.'

And so it was that Enid's kindly gesture was more the one of the traditional matchmaker and far more effective than any internet dating site.