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## **Mail-Order Bride** Helen Tzagoloff

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## **Helen Tzagoloff**

### MAIL-ORDER BRIDE

Only this can be said with certainty: she was left alone right from the start. He had many responsibilities-dinners with an elderly mother, tennis on Saturdays. Didn't she want him to be fit? Drinks with the boss, that's how it is in America, if you want to advance, stay on top.

At breakfast he read the newspaper. In the evening they watched snatches of shows on television. "Such junk," he declared, switching channels. She longed for conversation and tea with fragrant, old-world bread. "I'd like to have a baby," she told him. "Let's wait. Maybe I'm too old. This is such a nice life," he said.

When she became a citizen, she moved out to a one-room apartment in the basement and found a job in a nursing home. Some said she was selfish and calculating.