

## **Exposure of Harsh Reality of Modern Living in the Never, Never, Nest**

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### **Abstract**

The play *The Never-Never Nest* shows the fact that the hire purchase system enables the low income group to have things which they cannot buy with their money. On the other hand, the system makes people extravagant. They fall into the habit of borrowing, which makes them unhappy. Jack and Jill believe in buying all things in installments. When Aunt Jane came to visit them, they preached to her the ease and comfort of buying a house and its furniture in installments. They also buy their baby in installment. The climax of the play is ironical, though an exaggeration. It is a satire on the materialistic bent of the modern man.

The play *The Never-Never Nest* is written by Cedric Mount. He is a considerable distinguished playwright of his age. He wrote some thoughtful plays which include "Twentieth Century Lullaby", "To cut a Long Short Short" and "Nature Abhors a Vacuum". His one act plays are easy to perform, satirical, witty and insightful. These one act plays expose the shams of the contemporary society besides delicately admonishing the guilty. His literary career was brief.

*The Never-Never Nest* is a comic one-act play about a young couple. They make full use of the buy now –pay later marketing system. This comedy is very relevant today, because we can buy almost anything now on the installment basis. Jack and Jill call their house a little nest. Like birds made their nests from wires, fibres, leaves and grass, all collected free of cost. Jack and Jill too made their nest. But they have bought everything right from new villa to the radiogram, piano, refrigerator, car and also their first baby all in installment. They believe that it is wise to do so. This play emphasizes the fact that hire purchase system enables the low income group to have things, which they cannot buy with their money. They develop the habit of borrowing, which makes unhappy forever. So, there is the double Negative in the title *The Never-Never Nest*.

Jack and Jill believe in buying all things in installments. Even though Jack's salary was not very high, they lived in a beautiful house with all comforts. Jack was a practical man with regard to buying a house in easy installment rather than spending all his earnings for paying rent. Jack had to pay more than seven pounds per week.

But he was earning only six pounds. He had to borrow from a Trust to pay the balance. And in return, he had to pay the Trust to pay the balance. And in return, he had to pay the Trust in installment. At the end of the play, humour takes on wings and we hear that the couple had their baby in installment.

The play shows the fact that the hire purchase system enables the low income group to have things which they cannot buy with their money. On the other hand, the system makes people extravagant. They fall into the habit of borrowing, which makes them unhappy. Jack and Jill believe in buying all things in installments. Jack bought a car on loan. Though he used it, he had so far paid for the car's one of the tyres, its steering wheel and two of the cylinders. He also bought radiogram in installment. He thinks that it is must because an entertainment is needed now-a-days.

When Aunt Jane came to visit them, they preached to her the ease and comfort of buying a house and its furniture in installments. They also buy their baby in installment. The climax of the play is ironical, though an exaggeration. It is a satire on the materialistic bent of the modern man.

Aunt Jane was glad to see Jack's wonderful house. She thought that she made a mistake of giving two thousand pounds instead of two hundred pounds as a wedding gift to the couple. She worried when she came to know that all the luxury things were bought in installment by Jack. Aunt Jack did not sit on Jack's sofa because it was not entirely owned by him. Jill explained to Aunt Jane

that they can enjoy all the pleasures of a motoring for a mere five pounds down and the rest amount to the given in easy installments.

Aunt Jane was shocked by Jack's life style because she did not like the idea of borrowing money to pay their installments. She believed that one should spend less than what he was earned. Aunt Jane advised Jack and Jill to spend less than what they earn. Feeling sorry for their pathetic situation of buying everything in installment and unable to pay anyone of their bills fully. Aunt Jane gave them a cheque of ten pounds, she told them they can own at least one thing that they have bought in installment by settling that amount. But Jill sent the money to Dr.Martin, as their last installment for their baby.

It is very pity to see the couple for their extravagance, due to which they fall into the habit of borrowing which will make them unhappy in near future. Like Jack, most of

people feel it is wise to buy even an expensive villa by paying for it in installments. The new trend of young middle class couple in buying so many household items and houses in easy installments, has become a commitment now a days. People love a luxious life.

Though their income is low, they go for luxurious furniture, car, refrigerator, washing machine and costly mobile phones. To buy all these things, it is beyond their income limit. So they opt for Equated Monthly Installments. They feel like Jack in the play, that they can clear the installments in few years. But Buying things in EMI is a serious matter to do dealt with. We have to run greater risks like Jack in owning his villa that was beyond his access. It will take us years to own our villa, car and furniture. We can never settle happily with this EMI Scheme. It is better to avoid EMI and spend less than what we earn.