Forget Candles In the Kitchen

I was unfortunate enough to drop in unannounced during the dinner hour on a married couple I know. Later, the wife complained bitterly that she had done everything I had suggested in my column and "see all the thanks I got for my pains."

Her intent was right, but her efforts fell far short of what I really meant.

When I say to you, "Dine by candlelight to add ele-gance to a dinner," I don't mean to stick two candles in a holder on the kitchen table, where you have your beast jammed away in the corner next to the refriger-

Nor should you leave on the overhead kitchen light, which is usually one of the brightest and most glaring ones in the house. Au contraire!

The dining room is where you eat dinner. If you insist, the kitchen may be used for breakfast, but never, never for dinner. It requires very little more effort to carry the dishes into the dining room

I know. I know. Your beast makes all kinds of

cracks about "Who are we expecting, the President maybe, or your mother, that we're eating in the dining room?" If he jokes, it only points out how near to disaster you really are.

It won't hurt you to put out your good china, silver and glassware properly just for him once a day. They make your meal take on special significance, and give you more of an incentive to cook specialties instead of the same old diet of hamburgers, meat loaf, and what

Now about those special dishes. Don't be like the wife I saw the other night who burst into tears. She had asked her beast expectantly: "How do you like it, dear? It's new."

He snapped viciously, "Lousy! One of the worst, and that's saying something."

She had made the mistake many of you do, trying out a new dish on the husband. Try new recipes on someone else, never on your beast. Try it on your neighbors at lunch, on the children, or even on your mother but never, never on him until practice has made you perfect.

And as to manner of dress. When I say wear a hostess gown I don't mean your old bathrobe. One is elegant, the other is ridiculous.

Now, for goodness' sake, THINK. Do I have to do everything for you?

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