

Lady Agatha

the wife

My name is Lady Agatha Carew. I am 45 years old and married to Sir Archibald Carew, who is what our American cousins would call a 'tycoon', a rich and powerful businessman.

We have one son, Richard. He is the apple of my eye. My other children, twin girls, died as babies after catching scarlet fever.

I married quite young, at the age of 18. But many things have changed since Sir Archibald and I made our wedding vows.

I knew when I married that a woman's place was in the home and her job was to devote herself solely to the care of her husband and children. Men are here to command and women to obey, as the Bible says.

I was brought up in my parents' home in the country. My family lived in a very large house with 20 bedrooms. Like other girls of my class, I was taught to play the piano, sew and embroider, speak French, and paint pretty pictures of flowers in watercolours.

I was not allowed to go out on my own, and was always accompanied by a maid or a footman when I wanted to leave the grounds.

I met my husband at a house party. Though not from the same background, my parents approved of Sir Archibald because he was so very rich. He was later made a knight.

I spend most of my time reading, sewing, visiting, running my household (with the help of my housekeeper and butler), receiving people into my home, and changing my dress – up to six times a day sometimes!

