

Seasoned Timber

By Dorothy Canfield CHAPTER ONE Continued

He had, however, but a few steps to go before a summons from his profession called him back to the illusion of safety, power and success. A stranger was mounting the front steps, an embarrassed middle-aged workman. He came to an uneasy halt halfway up and wanted to know would it be all right to ask Professor Hulme was it true about last year's Domestic Science teacher at the Academy not coming back, because his sister, she had graduated from Simmons and had been teaching for ten years in a Massachusetts high school only she'd had appendicitis this summer and her doctor wouldn't let her work where the classes were big—"My name's Lane, Johnny Lane. I work in a chair factory in Ashley."

Mr. Hulme said yes that was so. "My sisters' out here in the car," his interlocutor now said slyly, as if apologizing for being pushing.

"Ah..." said Mr. Hulme, more alertly. "Just wait a moment, Aunt Lavinia." As he walked towards the car he set his mind rigorously to the prosaic work of using his professional experience to read personality through the camouflage of looks.

It was easy reading. There was no camouflage. Stoutish, forty, plain, tailored, eyeglassed, self-respecting—successful experience had written his not-to-be-imitated symbols all over her. Seeing the Principal approach, she got out of the car without hurry, and composedly introduced herself by name to him, with the manner of one speaking to an equal. By the time he had shaken her hand, he was ready to lead her into the Domestic Science room, give her an apron to tie around her comfortable middle, and begin to expand his ideas about the importance of teaching Clifford girls how to make better use of the raw material to be found around them. She looked as if the idea would not be as surprising to her as to some of the teachers he had trained. To be continued

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluerton

AN EXPERT SLIPS

One of the strangest paradoxes in bridge is that some hands which would be taken in stride by run-of-the-mill players present real problems to the expert. The following deal, for example, was a "headache" for the Life-Master declarer.

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North and South in Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, and Clubs.

The bidding:

Table showing bidding sequence: North 1♠, East Pass, South 1♥, West Pass, North 2♥, East Pass, South 3♥, West Pass, North 4♥, East Pass.

In fairness to South it must be reported that West got off to a very odd opening lead—the spade queen from his K-Q-10. The lead apparently convinced South that the spade king and, in all probability, the ten as well were held by East, and he seemed to worry about this situation for the rest of the play.

Winning with the spade ace, South cashed the heart king and then let the heart jack ride for a finesse. West won and knocked out dummy's last heart, South over-acking the ten with the ace so as to lead a diamond toward dummy. East helped along the defense by sucking the diamond jack without hesitation, and South, apparently satisfied that he had located the diamond king, was foolishly enough to use his own club ace as an entry for another finesse. This time East leaped on the trick with the king; he then cashed the club king and, after some thought, shifted to a spade. East knew from the bidding that West must have had at least three spades (since South, with four spades, would have raised North's second-round bid), and East also knew that West could not conceivably have laid down the spade queen from a holding of Q-K-Q.

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