



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE SMOOTHEST TONGUE
 Sometimes you find a tongue is just too smooth to ever really trust. —Ragged-Ear.

There are rough tongues and smooth tongues. You find both everywhere in the Great World. Rough tongues say unpleasant things; no one likes to listen to them. Yet often they are honest tongues and tell the truth. Smooth tongues say pleasant things, and are easy to listen to. But, as sweet

peered in through the brambles at Ragged-Ear. It was the first time Ragged-Ear had seen Reddy Fox close at hand. He knew nothing about Reddy, but something inside him warned him that this stranger was not to be trusted.

"I see you have come to make your home in the Old Pasture," said Reddy. "I've come to welcome you. I hope you will like it here, and will stay a long time. I will do all I can to keep you here." He tried to smile, but it really was a grin and not nearly so pleasant as he meant it to be.

"I haven't yet made up my mind about staying," replied Ragged-Ear. "But I like it here. One of my neighbors, a big, gray, old Rabbit, says I can't stay here."

"That must be Old Jed Thumper. Don't mind him. He thinks he owns the Old Pasture, but of course he doesn't. If you like it here just forget Old Jed Thumper and stay. I hope you will. You cannot find a better place. You will be the kind of neighbor I like to have," said Reddy, and grinned again.

That grin was a mistake. It gave the young Rabbit an uneasy feeling. It showed too many sharp teeth. "Are you a neighbor? Do you live in the Old Pasture?" asked Ragged-Ear.

Reddy nodded. "I've lived in the Old Pasture a long time," said he. "I'm not as near a neighbor as I would like to be, but still I'm a neighbor. That is why I have come over here to call. I wanted to get acquainted and welcome you, and tell you how pleased I am that you are here in the Old Pasture. I am sure you will love it here. Are you very busy this morning? I would love to show you around. I know every path and every good hiding place, and I will be delighted to show you these. It is very nice around here, but there are other places much nicer, and it would give me much pleasure to show you these. What do you say?"

Ragged-Ear didn't know just what to say. This handsome neighbor talked so smoothly, and seemed so pleasant, that he was much tempted to accept this invitation. "Is it far to where you live?" he asked.

"Not at all," replied Reddy. "I can take you over there in just a few minutes." Reddy grinned once more.

That grin really decided Ragged-Ear. It was intended to be pleasant, but somehow it was unpleasant. The young Rabbit didn't know just why, but it was so.

"If you please," said Ragged-Ear, "I am a little tired. I would love to go, but perhaps it would be better some other time."

"Any time," replied Reddy. "Any time at all. I will be glad to take you there whenever you feel like going. Supposing I drop around tomorrow morning. If you are going to live here, you really should know all about the Old Pasture. No one knows it as I do, so no one else can show you around as I can. I will gladly take you everywhere."

Reddy spoke truly when he said he would gladly take the young Rabbit anywhere. But of course Ragged-Ear didn't know the double meaning of that word "take." He liked this handsome pleasant neigh-

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Clubertson

STRONG RECOVERY

Today's declarer got off to an unfortunate start, but when the defense was not quite what it might have been, he made an excellent recovery.

North dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.

♠ A Q 7 2
 ♥ A J 5
 ♦ A 10 5
 ♣ Q 3 2

♠ J 9 8 4 3
 ♥ K Q 9
 ♦ 7 2
 ♣ 9 5

♠ K 10 6
 ♥ 10 8
 ♦ K Q J 9
 ♣ 8 4 3 2

♠ 5
 ♥ 6 4 3
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A K J 10 8 7 6 4

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 NT 4♦ 6♣ Pass

West opened his singleton diamond. Winning with the ace in dummy, South then drew trumps in two rounds, keeping the queen in dummy.

Now there was something of a problem. Should South play to ruff out the spade king, or should he try for the finesse? Needless to say, South could not know that both heart honors were so well placed, and thus it seemed that he would have to establish an extra spade trick to make the slam.

It was nothing to South's discredit that he elected to take the spade finesse. East, however, captured the queen and things looked very dark for the declarer. He was not quite through, however. He ruffed East's diamond return, went to the club queen, cashed the spade ace for a heart discard, ruffed a spade (taking away East's last card in the suit), then ran off every trump. When South was finally reduced to two hearts, West found himself squeezed; he either had to give up his heart stopper, or throw away his last spade and thus promote dummy's seven-spot.

If East had thought very hard, he might have returned a heart after taking the spade queen and thereby destroyed the squeeze. With East himself unable to top the heart jack, he should have seen the danger of his partner's being squeezed.

East returned a heart, but he couldn't help wishing that Reddy didn't show those sharp teeth of his so often.

bor in a red coat, but he couldn't help wishing that Reddy didn't show those sharp teeth of his so often.



By Ham Fisher

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KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



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HENRY

By Carl Anderson



By Bob Carlson



By George McManus



By Edwina



By Ruford



By Walt Kelly



By Charles McBratton



By Harry Hoenigsen



By Harry Hoenigsen

