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Two Can Sing

by James M. Cain
 CHAPTER FOUR

Part Two

"All right, I got it."
 "When you finish your song, stop. If the piano has the final finish, hold everything until the last note has been played, no matter whether they break in with applause or not. Hold everything, then relax. If you've done anything with the song at all, they ought to applaud. When they do, bow. Bow straight to the center. Then take a quarter turn on your feet, and bow to the left. Then turn again and bow to the right. Then walk off as quickly as you can."
 "Do I do that after every song, or—"
 "No, no, no! Not after every song. At the end of your group. There won't be much applause at the end of your first two songs; they only applaud the group. Bow once after the first song, and when the applause had died down start the second, and then on with the third."
 "All right, I've got it now."
 "If the applause continues, go out, exactly as you went out the first time, and bow three times, first center, then left, then right, then come off."
 "Go ahead. What else?"
 "Now, about the accompanist. Most singers turn and nod to the accompanist when they are ready but to my mind it's just one more thing that slows it up, that adds to the chill that hangs over a recital anyway. That's why I have Wilkins. He can feel the audience as well as the singer can, and he knows exactly when it's time to start. You wait for him. While you're waiting, look them over. Use those five seconds to get acquainted. Look them over in a friendly way, but don't smirk at them. Be sure you look up at the balcony, and all over the house, so they'll all feel you're singing to them, and not just to a few."
 "Must be a swell five seconds."
 "I'm trying to get it through your head that it's a battle, that it's a tough spot, and that you have to use every means to win."
 "All right; I hear what you say."
 "Now go in the bedroom and some out and do it. The center of the stage is over by the window and I'm the audience."
 She made me rehearse that entrance about ten times, and then she seemed satisfied. "And now, one more thing. I picked Carlisle's 'Victoria Mio Core' for you to begin with because it's a good lively tune and you can race through it without having to worry about fine effects. After that you ought to be all right. But don't forget that it has no introduction. He'll give you one chord, for pitch, and then you start."
 "Sure; I know."
 "You know, but be ready. One chord, and as soon as you have the pitch clear in your head, start. Don't let it catch you by surprise."
 "I won't."
 We had another cigarette, and didn't say much. I looked at the palms of my hands. They were wet. Wilkins came in. "Taxi's waiting."
 We put on our coats, went down, and drove to the theater.
 The stage was all set for the recital, with a big piano out there and a drop back of it. There was a hole in the drop, so we could look out. First she would look and then I would look. She said it was a sell-out.
 My mouth began to feel dry. I went over to the cooler and had a drink, but I kept swallowing.
 At 8:25 a stagehand went out and closed the top of the piano. He came back, Wilkins took out his watch and held it up to Cecil.
 "Ready?"
 "All right."
BURGESS BEDTIME
 Continued from page 10
 desire to see what that noisy fellow looked like. He worked his way out on a branch where he could see.
 "That fellow isn't big enough to hurt me. I'm the biggest," thought he, and felt a little bit scornful. He moved a little farther out in order to see better.
 Blacky's keen eyes saw the movement. He stopped cawing to stare for a moment. He saw not only that there was an Owl, but that it was a young Owl and that he was alone.
 "C-a-a-w, c-a-a-w," shrieked Blacky, and began flying about the tree in which Young Hooty was sitting.

We all three went to the wings, stage right. Wilkins raised his hand. "One—two." Cecil swept out there like she owned the place and the whole block it was built on. There was a big hand. She bowed once, the way she had told me to do, and then stood there, looking up, down, and around, a little friendly smile coming on her face every time she warmed up a new bunch, while Wilkins was playing the introduction. For her first appearance, she was singing just one long piece, not a group of songs.
 To be continued

Mount Pleasant and Vicinity

—Mrs. Mary C. Ballum was a recent visitor to Victoria West, and also attended the March meeting of the Presbyterian Ladies Aid which was held at the home of Mrs. Edward MacLellan.
 Friends are pleased to welcome back to the vicinity Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Williams who spent the winter months in Inverness.
 Mr. and Mrs. William Buchanan and little daughter Elizabeth, were recent visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roderick MacLeod.
 Miss Mildred Ramsay, employed at the R. C. A. F. station, St. Eleanor's, is spending a few days at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Ramsay.
 Hockey is continuing at the Mount Pleasant rink, and good crowds are attending.
 Friends of Mrs. Thomas Ford will be sorry to learn she is ill at her home.
 Mr. and Mrs. Lester Keyser spent a recent weekend with their family in Charlottetown.
 Mr. and Mrs. Rose Schofield, Annapolis Valley, N.S., were recent visitors at the home of Mrs. Schofield's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Major Noye, Enmore. They also called on several old friends at Mount Pleasant.
 Mr. and Mrs. Orin Enman, Victoria West spent a recent week-end in Mount Pleasant.
 Mr. Earl MacLeod was a visitor to Elmsdale last week, and attended

the services being held there by Rev. Roy Sellick.
 Mr. Joseph Ladner and daughter, Drucilla, Connie and Grace, were visitors to Northam on Sunday, March 23.
Contract Bridge
 Continued from page 10
 diamond suit without loss — but will he? There is a habit which must be vigorously resisted at this point! That habit is to put down the ace or king of diamonds from the closed hand, exactly as though dummy's diamond holding were Q-10-5-4 instead of the vastly different Q-8-5-4. In the former case, where dummy's suit is headed by Q-10, the lead of an honor from the closed hand is absolutely right, because this lets declarer see whether either defender is void, and declarer can take the winning action on the next round. But when dummy lacks the ten-spot, as in this case, the lead of the ace or king is absolutely wrong! The only 4-0 break of the suit which declarer can guard against is East's possible possession of four diamonds — if West has them, declarer is helpless. Thus, the correct first play in diamonds is a low card to the queen! If both opponents follow suit there is no problem at all; but when West shows out, as in this case, declarer can now take successive finesse through East and prevent the latter from winning a trick.
DROMORE SCHOOL
 Report for March:
 Grade IX—1. Avila Hughes; 2. Elizabeth Corrigan.
 Grade VII—1. Eleanor Hughes. Grade VI—1. Gladys Hughes. Grade V—1. Imelda Callaghan; 2. Margaret Hughes; 3. Eric McGuirk.
 Grade IV—1. Hope Rose; 2. John McGuirk and Joseph Corrigan; 3. Audrey Hughes.
 Grade III—1. Mary Hughes and Reginald Corrigan.
 Grade II—1. Shirley Hughes; 2. Shirley McGuirk.
 Grade I—1. Thelma Hughes and Pauline Hughes.
 Highest average, senior grades: Avila Hughes.
 Highest average, junior grades: Hope Rose.
 Theresa Corrigan, teacher.

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I've learned my lesson

Look at me... This hat looked adorable in the picture. I sat right down and ordered it—could hardly wait until it was delivered. Well, it finally arrived and when I tried it on... What a disappointment! Yes, I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON...

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BE WISE... SEE IT BEFORE YOU BUY!

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