

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

## JOHNNY CHUCK IS CURIOUS

No matter how you may resist, temptation always will persist. —Old Mother Nature.

Johnny Chuck sat on his doorstep and watched Peter Rabbit running happily across the garden. He wondered if there were any over in that garden now. It wasn't the time of year for beans; spring was the time for plants of that kind. Still there might be some! He wished that garden wasn't so far away.

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Watching from his doorstep, Johnny Chuck saw Peter when he turned a back somersault.

to just touch it," said Peter to himself. He reached out a paw, and touched the lowest wire on the fence. Once more, he was knocked sprawling. It wasn't a blow on the nose this time. Peter scrambled to his feet. "That fence did it. Yes, sir, that fence did it," thought Peter.

Watching from his doorstep, Johnny Chuck saw Peter when he turned a back somersault. Peter was too far away for Johnny to see what really happened, but he saw Peter tumbling about in the grass for a moment. Then Peter sat up. He didn't appear to be hurt. Johnny Chuck became more curious than ever.

"I wish it were not so far over there," muttered Johnny.

Really it wasn't very far, but Johnny was very fat. He waddled.

He was too fat to really run. This made a short distance seem long. Johnny left his doorstep of yellow sand, and waddled to the nearest patch of clover. Somehow it didn't taste as good as usual. It wasn't as sweet as it had been. He ate a little then sat up very straight and looked over toward the garden.

"What I need is a change," said Johnny.

He was talking to himself. Folks who live alone often talk to themselves. They seem to like the sound of their own voices.

"Yes, sir, what I need is a change. Probably that garden is full of good things I like. If I should go over there now I might find out what happened to make Peter act so. At the same time I could get a good dinner in the garden, a change from just clover," he continued, still talking to himself.

"Don't be silly. Don't do it," whispered a voice inside.

"It isn't far over there, and it is too early for many folks to be around and see me," said Johnny, still talking to himself.

"You can't run fast and you know it. You're too fat and too heavy for running. You don't need a thing in that garden. The next time Peter Rabbit comes around he probably will tell you what he was doing over there and what happened to him. Don't take

(Continued on page 16)

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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KQ7 52 J10 KQ7 Q97 AJ10!

643 84 K86 A96 J985 AK7 Q97

The bidding: South West North East

1 Pass 1 Pass Pass

NT Pass Pass Dble.

Pass Pass Pass

Contract Bridge By Josephine Culbertson

THE "SHORT CLUB"

The practice of opening minimum hands with one club, though sound enough under expert treatment, has not been uniformly kind to the average player. Obsessed with the idea that partner may have opened a short club suit and that he must not be left in that sort of contract, responders figuratively break their necks to get out of clubs—with the natural consequence of getting much deeper into other trouble. This device is far too typical.

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