



By Thornton W. Burgess

THE BOSS

Sometimes 'tis better to retreat. Before obliged to, in defeat. — Old Mother Nature

It is a wise Bear who knows when to go and when to stay. Buster Bear has lived long enough to find that out for himself. One reason he has lived as long as he has, is because of this knowledge. Buster Bear was in a bad temper. Yes, sir, he was in a bad temper. He felt cheated. Most folks are in a bad temper when they feel cheated. Buster felt that he was, or had been, cheated of a dinner. He had been sure of that dinner. He had thought to get it without too much trouble. Now, he was having to work, and work hard, and might not get it in the end. That dinner consisted of two very small Bears, and they didn't consider themselves a dinner at all. What is more, those little black imps were his own children. That sounds horrible, doesn't it? It isn't quite as horrible as it sounds. You see, he didn't know they were his own children. He had no idea at all they were his own children. Of course, it is a dreadful thought that any body should be a cannibal. But, among some of the Green Forest folk, there are at times more cannibals than most folks know about. It all depends on how hungry folks are, and how difficult it is to get enough food to satisfy that hunger. Great big Buster Bear is a cannibal only once in a while. You see, he is without affection; and comes across a very small Bear, that little Bear mean no more to him than would jumper the Hare, or any other small person not of his own kind.



"Get out of here!" growled Mother Bear. Buster had thought to catch those Cubs in their home den. He had followed them in there sure that he would catch them without trouble. But they had been too smart for him. They had man-

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

BOLD AT THE WRONG TIME

North's "heaven" in the bidding of the following hand should have met with large reward, but he had apparently been bold with the wrong partner!

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, East, and West.

The bidding: East South West North 1 NT 3 Pass 4 Pass 4 Dbl. Pass Pass Pass

West could have struck a valiant blow for his own side by leading the queen of hearts, but he chose the "cautious" opening of his top diamond. This should have been all declared needed to bring home the doubled contract, but it wasn't. When South saw his partner's singleton trump, he was so ardent over North's rates that he "blew up."

Clearing across the table, South covered West's diamond ten with dummy's jack and ruffed East's queen. Then South led the ace, king and ten of trumps.

East, on lead with the trump queen, had a very unpleasant exit problem, and for want of something better, chose the queen of clubs. South was with the king, led to the club ace, and prepared to throw East in again with another round of clubs. East, however, was having none of that. He hastily got out of the way of playing his club rack on dummy's ace, and the next round of trumps, if South failed to ruff, would be won by West. Seeing this, South ruffed the third club, but it didn't do him any good — he finally had to lead hearts and ended up by losing all four of his cards in that suit.

South was a bit hasty with his trump throw-in of East. The correct line of play was simply to cash the two top trumps, the king and ace of clubs, to ruff a club, and then to put East in with the trump. Dummy would now be down to the K-8 of hearts, the K-6 of diamonds, and two good clubs. East could not get out unless South let him out. If East laid down the diamond ace, South should simply discard a heart; then East could do no better than cash his heart and surrender.

beneath which Mother Bear had made their bed. Now Buster was trying to tear away those fallen trees to get at those frightened little Cubs. He was fugging and hauling and pulling, and snarling and growling. He was so busy doing these things, that he had no thought for anything else. He didn't hear Mother Bear coming. He didn't know she was anywhere about, until a great paw knocked him almost off his feet as Mother Bear came up behind him unheard. With that blow, was the ugliest snarl you can imagine. If you should hear such a snarl, even if it were not directed at you, I am sure it would send little chills running up and down your backbone. Buster didn't wait to be hit again. He jumped to one side, then turned to face Mother Bear. He was snarling now, and his snarl sounded just as bad as Mother Bear's. He stood up on his hind feet like a man. My! How big he was! Mother Bear did the same thing; she wasn't quite as big, but this made no difference to her. Both had their lips drawn back to show all their big sharp teeth. Such growling! Those growls had an ugly sound. They sounded just as ugly as the snarls that mingled with them. For a moment or two, Mother Bear and Buster Bear glared at each other. "Get out of here!" growled Mother Bear. "You won't!" snarled Buster Bear. "Get out of here yourself!" Mother Bear made no reply. She dropped to all fours and made a sudden rush at Buster. Buster jumped to one side, and retreated. Then the two circled each other, snarling and growling and threatening. "Don't you dare touch my Cubs!" growled Mother Bear. "I didn't know they were yours," replied Buster Bear weakly. It wouldn't have made any difference to him providing she had not appeared. Way down under that great windfall Taddy Bear and Totty Bear listened as they clung to each other. They recognized Mother's voice, and to them it was the sweetest sound they had ever heard. Of course, they also heard Buster's voice, and that was the worst sound they had ever heard. How they did wish they could see what was going on. Anyway, they were sure mother was boss. She was. Buster Bear was slowly retreating.

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Exit Tony Continued from page 11 "I haven't a ghost of a notion!" he said. "My memory's gone back on me, and I didn't even know who I was when I came to my senses aboard here. In fact, if they hadn't found my warrant of appointment in the case, I'd have been taken up to Suva." "Still, we did find it — an' here he is," the captain announced with a touch of complacency. "He ain't got no clobber nor so much as a razor with him, but I reckon you can fix him up with most things he wants, can't you? The main thing is that he's safe here." Strang nodded, still staring at Tony. "Yes — that's the main thing," he agreed, somewhat mechanically. "But — do you mean to say you don't know anything about yourself?" he asked. "Has your memory gone altogether?" To be continued

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