



# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

## THE FURY OF MOTHER LOVE

Mother love, devoid of fear,  
Dares all things for those most dear.  
—Old Mother Nature.

Mother Lightfoot, the Deer and her twin fawns stood listening to a sound the twins had never heard before. It was a sound that made them afraid. Mother was afraid, because she knew exactly what that sound meant. The two little fawns were afraid simply because mother was afraid. Fear is catching, you know. It is very, very catching. The sound the three were listening to now was the voice of a Dog. When they first heard the voice it had been very faint. It was still faint, but not as faint as it had been. This didn't mean anything to the pretty little fawns standing beside mother, their small ears cocked forward, just as mother's big ears were. But it did mean something to mother. It meant something rather dreadful. It meant that that Dog was nearer now, and that he would keep drawing nearer unless they were able to out-run him or get so far away he could not find them. "What does it mean?" asked one

of the twins. For a moment mother did not answer. Then, as that voice sounded a wee bit louder, she said, "It means that Dog is getting nearer to us, and if we stay here he is bound to find us."

"But how can he? How can he know where we are?" asked the other twin.

"He doesn't know yet where we are, but he'll find us unless we can fool him in some way," replied mother, and she looked more anxious than ever.

"But if he doesn't know where we are, how can he find us?" persisted the small fawn who had spoken last.

"It's his nose," replied mother. "It's his nose. He has a wonderful nose, and it has found the scent we have left behind us wherever we have been. Now he is following that scent with his nose. As long as he can smell that scent, he can follow wherever we go, and sooner or later catch up with us."

"What will he do then?" Wee Spotty, the smaller of the twins wanted to know.

Mother Lightfoot shivered. She wasn't cold. You know, people shiver from fear as well as from cold, and that was what was making mother



She made them crawl under a pile of fallen trees.

shiver now. She knew exactly what would happen if that dog should catch up with them. It wasn't fear for herself that made her shiver. It was fear of what could, and very likely would, happen to one or both of those precious, helpless darlings of hers. She didn't answer the question. "Follow me," she said, and bounded away.

Of course the twins bounded after her. When Deer are running, it sometimes seems as if they have springs in their feet. They bound over the ground, and over sticks, logs and other things on the ground. They bound very much as a ball bounces. Yes, sir, they sort of bounce over things.

They did not run far because mother knew that these fawns would soon be tired. When they stopped to rest and listen the voice of that Dog was not quite so loud. But, in a few moments, it was just as loud as before and growing louder.

Once more, Mother Lightfoot bounded away with the twins at her heels. When they stopped again to rest and listen the voice of that Dog was much louder. He was gaining fast. Mother knew that it would not be possible for those precious small folk of hers to out-run that Dog. She made them crawl under a

pile of fallen trees. Then she stood outside. The hair along her shoulders and the back of her neck stood on end. Great fright is sometimes said to make hair stand on end. It wasn't fright that was making Mother Lightfoot's hair stand up, it was fury. Yes, sir, it was fury. She had been running from fear and was simply furious. She was in a rage. She was just waiting for that Dog to come near enough for her to fight him.

That Dog was very near. The twins under the windfall trembled all over as they listened to the fierce eagerness that sounded in that voice. As they peeped out at their mother, they didn't know what to make of her. Always she had seemed so gentle, but now she was a fighting fury, and it was all on their account.

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

### TOO SIMPLE?

It is remarkable how many contracts can be defeated by following this cardinal principle (which sounds absurdly simple but apparently isn't): Look for defensive tricks in suits where they may exist. For example:

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ A 8 6  
♥ K J 8  
♦ A K J 9 6  
♣ 9 7

♠ K J  
♥ Q 10 7 4  
♦ 7 5 3  
♣ 8 6 4

♠ 5 4  
♥ A 9 3  
♦ 8 2  
♣ A Q J

♠ Q 10 9 7 3 2  
♥ 8 5 2  
♦ Q 10 4  
♣ K

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1♣ 2♣ 2♣ 3♣  
4♣ Pass Pass Pass

North felt, with some justification, that South's free spade bid made his own holding very strong, and therefore jumped to the spade game. Actually, South was straining a point when he made his free overall of East's two clubs. If North could take no action when that bid reached him, it was scarcely possible that North-South would have "missed anything" because of South's silence.

West opened his fourth-highest club. East put up the ace and, even though he saw South drop the king, East continued clubs. South ruffed and led a trump to the ace, then gave West the trump king.

West shifted to the four of hearts, but this did not present any difficulty for declarer. With the club situation what it was, and with West holding the K-J of spades, it was a foregone conclusion that East had the heart ace for his bid; so declarer played the jack from dummy, and the defenders could then retire. Four spades, bid and made, for game and rubber.

Evidently, East felt that a club continuation at the second trick was the only play he could afford, but the fact of the matter was quite to the contrary. The only reasonable hope for the defense was to find West with two trumps in trumps, or one trump trick and the Q-10-x of hearts. The first condition was highly improbable in view of the bidding, but the second possibility should not have been ignored. East should have shifted promptly to his three of hearts and routine defence thereafter would have beaten the contract.

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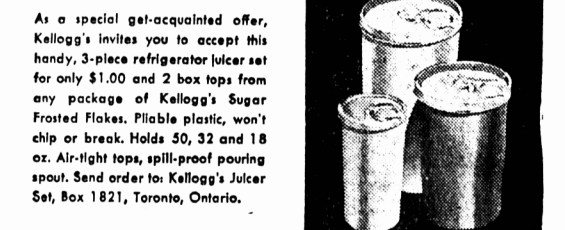
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