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BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

(By Thornton W. Burgess)

LOOKING AROUND

You can't be sure the best is found without a thorough look around. —Reddy Fox.

"It is a wise Fox who always knows just what to do," said Red-

dy Fox to Mrs. Reddy as they trotted back to the Old Pasture.

"Do you know of any such wise Fox?" asked Mrs. Reddy.

"Not around here," replied Reddy ruefully.

"Which means you haven't made up your mind yet about moving," said Mrs. Reddy.

"Right, my dear. Quite right. I am not that wise a Fox. Are you?" replied Reddy.

Mrs. Reddy grinned. It was a feeble sort of grin. Reddy grinned back at her. It was an equally feeble grin, but it was an understanding grin. "No," said Mrs. Reddy. "No, I'm not. I just hoped you were. I still like the Old Pasture better than any place we have looked at yet. It would be best if only he were here."

Reddy knew what she meant. He knew she was thinking of Farmer Brown's boy. He had been gone all winter and now it was spring. When he has been at home they never had had any real cause to worry about their home in the Old Pasture. He was their friend, a friend on whom they could depend. He would not allow any one to interfere with them or disturb them in any way.

But since he had been gone things had changed. Reddy had twice found a trap set for one of them right near their home there in the Old Pasture. Strangers had been poking around that home that until now had seemed so safe. Both had a feeling that it was no longer a safe place in which to try to bring up a family of young Foxes. Yet where was there a safer place? They had looked and looked. So far they had found no place that seemed any safer. Indeed, so far they had found no

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

AN INFURIATING EXPERIENCE

Perhaps the most disgusted bridge expert in New York was "made that way" because of what happened to him when he sat West in the following deal in a high-stake rubber bridge game at a New York club:

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ 9 7 4 3							
♥ A 10 8 5							
♦ K 10 8 6							
♣ 3							
♠ J 10 8							
♥ K J							
♦ J 7 4 3							
♣ Q 10 8							
G							

♠ A K 5							
♥ 8 7 6 4							
♦ 2							
♣ A 2							
♠ Q 6 2							
♥ Q 3							
♦ Q 9 5							
♣ A K 7 4 2							

This was the bidding:

East	South	West	North
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2♣
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	2NT (1)	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West's double of two diamonds was rather light, obviously enough, but this sort of double is often made by experts, in the minor suits exclusively. It is simply a matter of "percentage". They feel that there is a good chance to defeat the contract, perhaps by two tricks; and if the double goes wrong and the bid is made, there is no great loss—at least the opponents do not make a game.

South's "rescue" to two notrump was an amazing action, and it will be observed that West had a much better double of two notrump than of two diamonds, even though the risk was greater. Strange things can happen at a bridge table, however, and observe what happened here!

The king-jack of hearts looked like excellent supporting cards to his partner's suit, so West inno-

cently laid down the heart king. Dummy's ace won and South boldly led a spade toward his queen. East, who was naturally desperate about the heart situation, felt that deception was needed, and so ducked the spade lead. South must have been pleased to win with the queen. He led the diamond five and, when West played low, put in dummy's eight. East won and shifted to clubs, but in vain. Declarer took the club trick, cashed the heart queen and diamond queen, then cashed his second club trick before taking the marked diamond finesse against the jack.

Thus, South fulfilled the contract with two extra tricks, making four heart tricks (against East's opening heart bid and West's heart holding) while East-West made no tricks in the suit!



Mrs. Reddy grinned.

place that even promised to be as safe.

"Do you know what I think?" asked Peter Rabbit of Mrs. Peter as from the edge of the dear Old Briar-patch they watched Reddy and Mrs. Reddy crossing the Green Meadows toward the Green Forest.

"No, I don't. What is more, I don't want to know. Probably it is just foolishness as usual," declared Mrs. Peter. She was feeling out of sorts.

"I think those Foxes are looking around," replied Peter good-naturedly.

"They are always looking around, more's the pity," grumbled Mrs. Peter.

"I mean for a new home," said Peter.

Mrs. Peter's long ears shot straight up. "Do you mean they are going to leave the Old Pasture?" cried Mrs. Peter. She no longer sounded cross.

"I didn't say that," replied Peter, and Mrs. Peter's ears dropped. "But I wouldn't be surprised. The Old Pasture isn't the place it used to be. No, sir, it isn't the place it used to be."

Mrs. Peter looked sharply at Peter. "What do you mean?" he asked. She never went to the Old Pasture any more herself, but she had been born there, and her father, Old Jed Thumper, still lived there.

"It isn't as safe as it used to be," explained Peter. "There is no one to keep strangers away as there

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used to be." He was thinking of Farmer Brown's boy. Mrs. Peter knew what he meant.

"Well, if those pesky Foxes are going to move away from the Old Pasture I'll say good riddance," declared little Mrs. Peter. "Perhaps I'll feel it safe to run over there once in a while, then," she added.

"Blacky the Crow says he has seen them poking about a long way from here, but of course that may not mean a thing," said Peter.

"And perhaps it does," declared Mrs. Peter hopefully.

"It would seem funny not to have them for Old Pasture neighbors," said Peter.

"Funny, but good," remarked Mrs. Peter drily.

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