

Clare Boothe Comedy Is Satiric Fun

Satire on Search for Scarlett Is 'Kiss The Boys Goodbye'

Clare Boothe of "shooting cats" and "The Women" fame slings some more very sophisticated mud packs on the faces of the fair sex in her latest comedy, "Kiss the Boys Goodbye."

Although the author claims she wrote it as an allegory on Nazis and the Fascist method of government, "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" will be read chiefly because it is a delightfully biting satire on the much touted search for a Scarlett O'Hara in Hollywood. Her heroine, a daughter of the ol' South, she is Cindy Lou, brought from her beloved Georgia by publicity man Lloyd Lloyd is the hope that she will not get the job.

Hollywood Wise Guy Lloyd is planning for the role to go to a buxom peroxide mamma who will shortly be passed if she doesn't get a good role to bolster her slipping so-called prestige. Lloyd plans to show Missy Cindy Lou, in all her saccharine southern hospitality coyness, to a moronic cinema producer—he has to be a producer, he's got Z for a middle initial—and by way of contrast (inexperience vs. been-aroundness) get the job for the fading movie queen.

Morals Via Hollywood

All this takes place at a New England summer home, where, though far from the unclouded skies of California, now blossoms in colorful disarray the morals and manners of Hollywood.

Reading "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" is probably the second best thing to seeing it performed. It is fast, racy fun that will make Americans smile at themselves.

Miss Boothe's declaration that she is poking fun at Hitlerism, Inc. should be disregarded on first reading at least. After the laughs are put aside, read the author's introduction and decide for yourself whether her claim will hold water.

Anyway, simple Cindy Lou has the last laugh on her hypocritical hosts and Author Boothe has the last laugh on the public's susceptibility to "Scarlett fever" and general gullibility for Hollywood publicity.

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The Emerald Reader's Page

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The Pond of Truth

By JAN BREVET

Gazing into the sombre pool,
I saw a beautiful form,
With a look so strange, and cruel
'Twas as my heart was torn.

And as I further gazed
At the resemblance of my own,
Too much was I amazed
At the clear reflection shown.

Looking longer still,
The truth was realized then,
Against my strength of will,
I was one of many men.

'Seasoned Timber' Tells Of Struggle Between Race Prejudice, Tradition

Novel by Dorothy Canfield Advances Problems of Anti-Semitism, Democratic Ideals, Modernization of Old Schools

One of New England's greatest living novelists, Dorothy Canfield, has written, in "Seasoned Timber," a timely and dramatic story of the struggle between race prejudice and democratic tradition. Her scene is Vermont, and as an old Vermonter, she knows the land and the spirit of its people well enough to put a potential problem of their society into a powerfully moving document of present-day society.

Timothy Coulton Hulme, principal of Clifford academy, who struggles with the meager budget of his school and with the "football" ideas of his New York trustee, is affectionately called "Old T. C." by his students. But Timothy's 45 years have never seemed old to him until, incredibly enough, he finds himself deeply in love with a young teacher, a girl 20 years his junior.

Of his second-youth love, Timothy's dark-haired Susan knows nothing. Nor does his nephew, Canby Hunter; nor his laconic old friend, Mr. Dewey, town-meeting moderator; nor Aunt Lavinia, who lives in the past. Just as Timothy thinks that his unbegun love affair is to become his greatest problem, his half public, half private academy suddenly becomes the focal point of the town election, the instrument of power and material advantage if the people will have it so.

Uproar in Vermont

Anti-Semitism raises its head and becomes the issue on which the hot election turns. On the prospect that the school exclude all Jews and women students and become sufficiently "modernized" to cater to the sons of rich city families the scene turns into one of the wildest uproars the little town of Clifford, Windward county, Vermont, has seen in its long and comparatively uneventful existence.

Dorothy Canfield writes with a calm and unexcited skill that at times seems will become tedious. But the author has a keen sense of balance and weighs her problems with ease and sureness of touch. Her picture of life in Timothy's school, her careful eye from which no detail escapes, her keen perception into human character show more clearly than ever before the

spirit of the New Englanders; for that matter the spirit of all Americans.

For, though the author might have us believe that hers is a tale of a small community, whose troubles go unnoticed by the outer world, her story is one of drama that people of America may be forced to recognize and cope with. Her climax is carefully prepared for, and the power and intensity of its presentation is a bit of writing which Mrs. Canfield, for all the fine writing behind her, may favorably compare with any she has ever done.

Since its publication March 2, "Seasoned Timber" has become one of the leading contenders on best seller lists. According to figures at the Co-op, it is one of the most popular spring novels.

The author, better known by her full name, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, is a descendant of a New England family who have been in America since the early seventeenth century. But most people do not know the interesting fact that the first Canfields, who came to America in 1636, were not Puritans, but staunch Church of England people who loved the good things of life. They first settled in Connecticut, and moved a century later to Vermont to escape the Puritans. Throughout all of its 175 years, Arlington, Vermont, where Dorothy Canfield lives, has lacked that traditional austerity of the rural American scene. The Rector Emeritus of the parish was recently head of the local athletic association which provides baseball games on Sunday afternoons.

Liberal Heritage

Dorothy Canfield's heritage of liberalism is thus well founded in liberty. Her father and mother were both radical-minded people, great believers in the rights of man—and of woman. The notion that, before the feminist movement women were always oppressed by their men-folks is disproved by one of the Canfield old-time stories.

When the younger branch of the Canfields came riding upon horseback from Connecticut in 1704 with the other first settlers of the town, that Canfield woman who was her great-great-grandmother had laid down the law on the subject of having the right kind of water for the washing of her fine household linen. Hard water she would not endure. And most Vermont water is hard. She alighted at every brook, took a cake of soap out of the pocket of her riding skirt and washed her handkerchief to see whether the water was soft enough to make a good lather.

The reason the Canfield land and home is two miles out of the village of Arlington is that this practical ancestress found there one of the few brooks in the region which run through slate instead of limestone. "Here, where we can have soft water, we'll settle," she decreed. And there her descendants still are.

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Postmaster Loses Shirts, Receives Book

Publishers have received strange requests and publishers have received strange requests, but one received by Harcourt, Brace and company recently after publication of James A. Farley's "Behind the Ballots" is among the most amusing. The book is very popular among postmasters throughout the country, since a chapter on Farley's term as postmaster general is included.

The strangest order blank came in the mail the other day from Ronnie Green, postmaster of Amory, Mississippi, containing under the legend **Please send me the following books this message:**

"Shirts too large. Am returning same."

The publishers accepted this as one of the milder forms of error which sometimes creep into envelopes. When, two days later the threatened shirts actually did arrive (opened in the editorial department for a very hefty-appearing manuscript), the publishers decided it was the most dumfounding error ever received by them. Mr. Green's odd action may mean, to him, any mail order house was all right in a pinch.

The Show-Off

Hero! . . . From Hollywood comes this story of Doug Corrigan, soon to appear in the "Flying Irishman." It seems that Corrigan was invited for dinner abroad the luxurious yacht of William H. Leeds. Cocktails were served but Corrigan asked for ginger ale. The expensive elegance of the yacht afforded a fitting background for the following conversation: Mrs. Leeds: "Do you like ginger ale, Mr. Corrigan?" Corrigan: "No, it makes me belch!"

Loaded! . . . Marquee billing in San Francisco: "They Gave Him a Gun"—and "Bingo!"

Jitterbugs! . . . The hotter waxes are really taking a melting with aspirants in practically every living organization warming up for the AWS shag contest. The contest ought to be a good deal—that is if the aspirants don't get shy at the last moment.

Radio! . . . Next Monday, the Lux Radio theater will present Errol Flynn, Brian Aherne, C. Aubrey Smith, and Jackie Cooper in a radio adaptation of "Lives of a Bengal Lancer." It can be heard locally over KOIN.

Heil! . . . The new phone number of RKO's casting office was HI 8537. Nothing wrong with that except when dialed spells H-I-T-L-E-R. The number was immediately changed. RKO is Jewish owned.

Subtle! . . . Did you happen to listen to the Lucky Strike program the other week when W. C. Fields kept making references to his son Chester? Get it—Chester Fields on a Lucky Strike program.

Pigging! . . . By the by—giving Her favorite recording not only keeps that light shining in Her eyes but also puts you in good with her sorority sisters. I hope!

Hurry . . . Once there were two penguins—a guy from the North Pole and a gal from the South Pole—who met, went around together, and then parted. Several months later the North Pole penguin received a cable from his gal friend. It read: "YOU'D BETTER DO SOMETHING. I'M WITH BIRD AT THE SOUTH POLE."

A "Georgia Garden Center" has been established on the University of Georgia campus.

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Clifford Odets, Young Playwright From Bronx, Writes Realistic Drama

Success Began With 'Awake and Sing,' Story of Typical Middle-Class Family In New York Tenement District

By JOAN JENNESS

Clifford Odets, young Broadway playwright, has been keeping the critics and the theater goers guessing with wide scope of play themes since 1935. He claims to be a realist and writes plays that carry real and definite punches. Odets says that his only business and purpose in this world is to present the truth dramatically, appealingly, and entertainingly to the public. He seems to carry out his plans by his vivid character portrayals. The humanity of his plays is irresistible to all who read them.

Butcher Boy Doesn't Like Cucumbers

A telephone call from a butcher was one of the many congratulatory messages Mildred Walker, author of "Dr. Norton's Wife," received after recent publication of her novel.

In Great Falls, Montana, her town, she was honored by felicitations from a local meat dealer that went something like this: "That book of yours was all right, but I got a criticism to make. That doctor you got there is supposed to be a hearty kind of a man, and you have him going places where they have cucumber sandwiches. Now, Miss Walker, it would be much more appropriate to have meat sandwiches, or liverwurst anyway!"

Society Problem

The Bergers are a problem to society as well as to their friends, because they live from day to day always thinking about some scheme that would make them rich quickly, and yet they are faced with the thought of having their landlord throw them out into the street as he has their neighbors the day before. Each character is a selfish individual with ideas of some day gaining high premiums for himself alone.

'New Western Front' Topical New Book By Stuart Chase

Stuart Chase's "The New Western Front" explains the various ways in which the United States differs from Europe, and tells why we do not need to go to war. Chase points out that the United States is not like Europe, divided into 27 sovereign nations with armies, navies, spy systems, Maginot lines, tariff walls, diplomatic corps.

Any foe of the United States must cross thousands of miles of ocean, to find a nation with almost immeasurable strength and military security, with a sufficiency of food and materials which no other power in the world can match. The author has illumined his argument with an array of facts, and until a real emergency comes he urges that the American people be not stampeded into war.

she is afraid to have her husband move his practice to another locality even though it would add more prestige to their standing, because she has a fear of being without security. Although she is strong and dominating in most respects she is weak and dependent when it comes to taking a chance. Odets portrays the wife in this play as the head of the family just as he does in "Awake and Sing." In short, women seem to have the stronger influences.

One of his best character portrayals is the one of Willy Wax, the dance director. His part is both funny and pathetic. Odets shows him as the effeminate Hollywood Romeo with little background or education. To people who are fed up with the movie star attitude the idea may be conceived that Willy Wax could easily be one of the extra stars that Odets must have come in contact with on his recent trips to Hollywood. This play seems to lack the usual amount of interest and spark that is found in Odet's earlier plays.

Dentist's Troubles

Dr. Stark is a capable dentist who has always done as others want and expect. His wife has all of the social climbing aspects, but

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In the Wind



Noel Coward . . . pauses to light a cigarette as he looks askance at the photographer. He probably looked much the same at some of his recent critics, who liked his current Broadway musical comedy, "Set to Music" because Beatrice Lillie and several other comics kept it moving, but were thumbs down on what was left in the original Coward "wit."

FOR SKIERS

"The Hannes Schneider Ski Technique" by Benno Rybizka is the newest book on this famous skiing method, now taught officially only in America because of the Nazis' destruction of the Austrian school. It carries a foreword by Hannes Schneider himself and is copiously illustrated with photographs.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL

The seventeenth annual collection by Thomas Moutt, "The Best Poems of 1938," contains nearly 100 poems which appeared during the year, collected from English and American periodicals.

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Novels, Plays Biographies Received

Co-op Gets Spring Books for Student 'Consumption'

Topical novels, current Broadway plays, and biographies are included in the many new spring books added to the High Hat library in the University Co-op.

Among the plays are Paul Vincent Carroll's "The White Steed," the Stark Young translation of Sherkov's "The Sea Gull," in Robert Sherwood's "Ab Lincoln in Illinois," and Charles Morgan's "The Flashing Stream."

In biography, there are Edith Bolling (Mrs. Woodrow) Wilson's "My Memoir," the annotated and unexpurgated Reynal and Hitchcock edition of Hitler's "Mein Kampf," and Nora Wahn's "Reaching for the Stars."

Among the newer novels are John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath," Mildred Walker's "Dr. Norton's Wife," and Faulkner's "The Wild Palms."

Various non-fiction works are George Selde's "Lords of the Press," G. W. Seaton's "What to Do and See in Mexico," George Fielding Eliot's "The Ramparts"

(Please turn to page four)

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