

"The Masked Hostess"

by BLAIR STEVENSON

CHAPTER IX

"How do you do, Mr. Sloan," said Nathalie as she heard the click of his telephone instrument and recognized his voice at the other end of the wire. "This is Miss Van Slaick. I am speaking from Brookville where I have just had an interview with Mr. Pound of the bank. He has made me a proposal which I wish to talk to you about and I'm calling to ask if you could make it convenient to see me tonight."

"Certainly," said Sloan, while he mentally cancelled another engagement for the evening to which he had been somewhat eagerly looking forward. "Shall I come to Brookville or—"

"No please," Nathalie interrupted. "I am leaving for New York at once. If you think well of the plan of which I wish to talk to you I will have some shopping to do in the city tomorrow. I was thinking," she hesitated, "that we might dine together."

Sloan laughed delightedly. "So was I, Miss Van Slaick."

"I am not exactly dressed for dinner," Nathalie interrupted again, "so if you know some quiet little place—"

Sloan knew one and gave its street and number and said he would be at its entrance door at seven o'clock and wait there till she appeared.

Because she feared that the train gates at Pennsylvania Station might still be under surveillance by the detectives who, she was convinced, were trying to catch up with her, Nathalie engaged an automobile to take her to New York. The ride to the city



was particularly pleasant and the chauffeur skillful. By the time she

restaurant and walked to the table he had reserved.

It had been in his mind, from the moment when he heard her voice on the telephone and appointed as their meeting place the restaurant in which they were now established opposite each other, to tell her how he had taken care of her "overdraft" on her bank—in his thoughts he called it that—and to assure her that he had been glad to do it and that she could repay him at her remote convenience. But when a young man is profoundly in love there are subjects which he prefers not to take up with the girl he loves.

Nathalie equally had meant to tell him the miserable truth about the check and ask him to see her bankers and implore them to grant her time to make repayment. But as she sat facing him she realized how greatly she desired his respect. Could she keep it if she were to confess that she had as good as stolen five hundred dollars? Being feminine she called on her courage and found it lacking and in the end temporized. Instead of coming direct to the matter of the check she made only a vague reference to a "solemn obligation" which lay between her and her aunt, and then began to talk about "Fredwell Pond" and the unknown tenant of The Pirs whose service she proposed to enter as a masked hostess.

"You see, Mr. Sloan, I have to have money because I owe a large sum, or practically owe a large sum, to Aunt Olivia." Here Sloan concluded that Nathalie had confessed to her aunt, and he promptly erased the whole check transaction from his mind. "So that," went on Nathalie, "while this offer from an unknown man seems suspicious and may seem even a little dangerous I am tremendously anxious to take it for two reasons. In the first place I understand the salary will be more than generous—so that at the end of three months I can pay back Aunt Olivia and have some extra money for myself. In the second place by wearing a mask, I can practically disappear from the sight of everybody and there is a very special reason why I want to do that."

"If I might ask—" Sloan be-

gan. Nathalie colored. "What my reason is?" She looked away from him as she thought of the man in the dark clothes and derby hat from whom she had fled by a back door at Southampton. "It's a rather silly reason, Mr. Sloan. Just that I belong to a well-known family and none of the women of it have ever worked for pay."

Sloan shrugged his shoulders. "A perfectly reasonable reason. Particularly so, I should say, from your aunt's point of view. I'm used to it anyway as I belong to a fairly snobbish family myself."

"That makes two of us," said Nathalie and they both laughed outright.

"But seriously," Sloan continued after another moment, "I don't see just how you're going to put it over. There's your distinctive gold hair, for instance. And the further fact you're well known throughout society and some of the guests your mysterious employer will have in are sure to recognize you."

"I think not," answered Nathalie. "I have lived abroad for several years and now that I am back in America I am amazed myself at the few people here who know me well—especially which is the important thing, the very few who know my voice. If you don't know a voice a half mask is a wonderful disguise. Try picking your friends at a masquerade ball some time and see. As to my hair that would be an out and out give away except that I'm going to clip it and put a black transformation over it, and to still further delude the curious I'm going to lay aside mourning while I'm working and go in for flashy colors. In fact I'm going to turn Spanish for a while." (To be continued tomorrow)

The Creamed Dish as a Main Course for Sunday Supper

WHAT'S for Sunday supper? It depends on the custom of the household with regard to the other meals. In the old-fashioned household, Sunday was, for some perverse reason, the day when most people ate too much. The day of rest when the least amount of food was needed was often the one day of the week when everyone ate three substantial meals.

But the older generation, with cook expecting one complete day of rest in seven, and father making Sunday the day of golf, and most of the family on a diet anyway, everybody is pleased enough to let Sunday be the day of moderation in eating, as it should be. The two-meals per day is a growing custom—a substantial breakfast and a moderate but adequate supper in the early evening. Perhaps tea in the late afternoon, and it's really tea in the English sense, not the New England tea which is a minor feast.

The ideal Sunday night supper is easy to prepare, easy to serve and is elastic. One should be able to expand it to take care of whatever extra guests happen in unexpectedly. That means having a goodly reserve

of emergency cans on the shelves. If the fresh food provided is the sort one cannot keep in quantities. Service is informal—which means that it is easy for the hostess herself to handle the meal with a minimum of equipment. Three courses are ample—a hot dish, a hot vegetable or cold salad, and a dessert, and all of these can be prepared, at least half way, the day before.

For the main dish any one of the creamed foods either in patties or on toast points are always delectable—and not nearly so much trouble as they appear. The patties have to be purchased the day before, of course, but they should be crisped in a warm oven for a few moments before being filled, and served on a hot plate.

Mushrooms, flaked canned fish like lobster, crabmeat, shrimp, any left-over diced meat like lamb, veal, chicken—these are easy to heat in cream or cream sauce, and are agreeable but substantial dishes. For salad, endive is especially useful. A few heads keep easily and can be crisped by placing in ice-water a few minutes before serving. Endive is especially good in combination with any of the fruits—grape-

The Home Kitchen

By ALICE LYNN BARRY

Dessert should be something prepared the day before. Ice-cream cakes which takes twenty-four hours in the refrigerator to solidify properly is an excellent dessert for Sunday night. It is substantial, wholesome and really is desirable to top off a light meal—as Sunday night supper should be.

Basis for Creamed Fish, Meat or Vegetables

- 2 cups any diced meat or vegetables or flaked fish.
- 1 cup fresh mushrooms, peeled and diced.
- 1 pimento.
- 1 large green pepper.
- 1/2 teaspoon salt.
- 2 tablespoons flour.
- 2 cups milk.
- 1/4 teaspoon salt.
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper.

Melt butter, add mushrooms, green pepper and pimento. Cook for 5 minutes over a moderate fire, add flour, and gradually hot milk, stirring smooth. Finally add flaked fish or diced meat and seasoning. Pour on toast points, or fill patties.

LAND ARMAMENTS PRESENT QUESTION

By KIRKE SIMPSON

WASHINGTON (AP)—Renewed Franco-British conflict of opinion on limitation of land armaments discloses that factors which prevented the Washington conference of 1921-'22 from dealing with land as well as sea forces remain largely unchanged.

The latest controversy over land armaments developed at the Geneva sessions of the assembly of the League of Nations.

Not many recall that the Washington conference was called to deal with limitation of land as well as of sea armaments. That, however, was the fact.

Extensive studies were made by the American army general staff, and army as well as navy experts were included on the technical ad-

visory commissions named by President Harding to aid the American delegation.

Washington made no effort, however, to prepare a plan of army limitation. It felt then, as now that this was primarily a question for "European powers, specifically for France, America's chief concern as to security then and now has to do with naval armaments.

And France found it utterly impossible in 1921 even to consider army reduction proposals. The most eloquent speech delivered at Washington was that of Aristide Briand, French foreign minister and head of the French delegation stating why France could not discuss land armaments limitations.

Briand apparently came to Washington only for that purpose. He returned soon to Paris, leaving naval aspects of the conference to his colleagues of the French delegation. His speech inevitably closed the door to any land armaments discussions at Washington.

The subject was never mentioned again.

Briand drew on General Luden-

dorf's post-war writings to outline France's fears:

"Eternal peace is a dream; it is not even a beautiful dream," the French delegation chief read from the works of the great German soldier. "War is one of the elements of the order of the world created by God. Without war the world would sink into a morass of materialism."

"I do not wish to be unfair," Briand said. "There is a Germany made up of a great body of working folk, of reasonable and enlightened people anxious to leave war behind. We (France) shall do everything in our power to aid that Germany."

"But there is another Germany all unlightened by the recent conflict, a Germany which still cherishes hidden motives and evil designs."

Briand outlined France's intention to reduce the period of service of her army classes, saying this would cut her army strength in half.

"But there is another Germany," he added, "that it is impossible to do more than this."

How to Play BRIDGE

Series 1929-30 by Wynne Ferguson

Author of "PRACTICAL AUCTION BRIDGE"

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ARTICLE No. 11

What are some of the important points about auction that the average player should remember? Here are three pointers from three different players that are well worth remembering:

First: "An important thing for an auction player to learn and remember is that he cannot always be at his best. That sounds fairly obvious, yet sometimes a player goes a long way before he realizes it. Until he does, he will fret too much over a session of bad play or catch up with her. Nathalie engaged an automobile to take her to New York. The ride to the city

they were the proper thing to do, so began to bid and play in such a way that, theoretically, at times I was at wrong. Even my partners called me boob but that didn't stop me as long as my apparently illogical bids and plays upset my opponents and kept winning for me."

The foregoing advice can be taken for what it is worth, but it certainly should make all players think and help starting them to think, cannot help but improve their games.

End Plays

One of the usual statements heard at a card table is "That was a pretty end play" or "Partner, you missed chance for an end play."

What is an end play, and is there any way for the average player to learn how to make one? There are thirteen tricks in every hand and by the time the first eight or nine tricks are won or lost, every player should either know exactly or have a good idea as to the location of the remaining cards held by each player. Very frequently such knowledge can be put to good use and tricks can be won that would be impossible if the location of the remaining cards were not known. Such plays are the so-called "End Plays" and the best way to master their principles is by a study of numerous examples.

Here are four simple cases. Study them over carefully and decide what you would do. Your results should make an interesting comparison with the analysis that will be given in the next Article.

Problem No. 6

Hearts—Q
Clubs—none
Diamonds—Q, 8
Spades—7

Hearts—A, 10, 4, 3
Clubs—none
Diamonds—none
Spades—none

Hearts—J, 8
Clubs—8
Diamonds—2
Spades—none

(a) If hearts are trumps and Z is in the lead, how can Y Z win one trick against any defense?

(b) If hearts are trumps and either A or B is in the lead, how can A B win all of the tricks?

Problem No. 7

Hearts—none
Clubs—9
Diamonds—A, 3
Spades—8

Hearts—2
Clubs—none
Diamonds—9, 7, 5
Spades—none

Hearts—10
Clubs—none
Diamonds—J, 4
Spades—2

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. How can Y Z make all of the tricks against any defense?

Problem No. 8

Hearts—none
Clubs—J, 2
Diamonds—K
Spades—J

Hearts—7
Clubs—Q, 3
Diamonds—9
Spades—none

Clubs are trumps and Z is in the lead. How can Y Z win three of the four tricks against any defense?

Problem No. 9

Hearts—K
Clubs—none
Diamonds—none
Spades—Q, 4

Hearts—none
Clubs—Q
Diamonds—none
Spades—10, 3

Spades are trumps and Z is in the lead. How can Y Z win two of the three tricks against any defense?

POLLY AND HER PALS



"A Ripping Good Valet"



"Lost Appetite"



TILLIE, THE TOILER



By CLIFF STERRETT



LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY



hing' Mother Aggie Out of a Job



By BEN BATSFORD



TOOTS AND CASPER



"The Debt Collectors"



By JIMMY MURPHY



By JIMMY MURPHY



By JIMMY MURPHY

