

The Voice of Love

By WILLIAM NEUBAUER

(AP Newsfeature)

CHAPTER 20

He came out of the back door of the cottage. It gave him a start to see Bob there in the patio. His grim face gave no indication. He pumped Bob's hand as Ruth made the introductions. "Let's consider just for a moment, Mr. O'Brien—"

"Call me Bob," Bob paused in the act of filling his pipe with tobacco. "Incidentally, you may as well know that I've loved Ruth a long time. But until she does choose you I'll scrap."

"Bob!" reproved a girl with scarlet, burning cheeks. "Dan's sharp black eyes made her feel very young. 'It has to be that way, Ruth. People have the right to love.' He's full of attention to Bob. 'In the first place,' he said, 'Doctor doesn't want it on that basis. He wants the community hospital, the fulfillment of his duty to his people to make sure that would seem, he doesn't want to practice in this town. I understand he's been checking up on me. Well, that's all right. He has a duty to his people to make sure I have the right to practice and the skill to practice. But this opposition to the practice itself—what am I to think but that he wants the whole plum, if plum it is, for himself?"

"He's never made money, Dr. Curtis. I don't think he considers it a plum."

"Nor do I. But will you explain, then, this opposition? I want to practice medicine and surgery here. I am qualified to do that. I think I'll do a better job if I have a hospital's facilities here, and I'm prepared to build such a place at my own expense. Is there anything so reprehensible in all that? Am I a monster to be called names, to be doubted, to be insulted, because I happen to want to earn my living in my own way? How would you feel if farmers in a community were to deny you the right to farm in your own way?"

This was meaty stuff. This was a man pleading on a fair chance, and since Bob had always believed in fair play it was highly effective. "You have the right to practice and build a hospital, it seems to me."

"What's eating Doctor?" She spread her hands. "Who knows? Unless he is ready to retire, unless his dream means more to him than anything else."

"But Bob couldn't accept that. He shot Dan's face a quick glance. "Suppose the city gives you permission to build? Will you submit to the control of the city?"

"No, sir, I would not. Put the question to yourself. Would you invest over a hundred thousand dollars of your own money in a business you could not control?"

The figure made even Ruth gasp.

Bob whistled. "That's a tidy sum. How could you expect to make that kind of money back?"

"In time the capital would be made back. I'm thirty-four. Say I practice, in one way or another, for as long as Doctor has. The hospital would return three or four thousand a year, it seems to me. And you forget the vital thing. It would be a help to me in my work. If you're putting it on a business basis, then you must take into account every factor, not as doctor, as owner of the hospital, as director of the hospital, as seller of the hospital's services to the city and county and possibly state."

"A lifetime thing. Something like my setup out on the farm?"

Dan grinned. "The work I want to do, Bob."

Bob O'Brien drew a deep breath. He liked the sound of that. He liked the bigness of Dan Curtis' thinking, too.

"My dad likes it," he announced. "As a matter of fact, so I do. Here's an idea. You could set aside a certain number of beds and ask the city to endow them. They would handle the poor, who couldn't pay."

"Great!" Now Dan was on his feet, all smiles, all giddy elation. "By thunder, that's the first fairness I've met with yet! Luchetti and his crowd—they're in this for the political capital they think they'll make. But this—by thunder, put her there, Bob!"

The gray eyes twinkled. "As Ruth said, fair's fair. And speaking of fairness, may I have a few words alone with her?"

Dan had turned and left before Ruth could think of a protest.

"I love you," said Bob O'Brien. "Bob, please!"

"Very deeply," he went on. "And it'll be forever. And he doesn't love my, honey, nor do you love him."

She sprang to her feet. She stamped her foot. "Don't you dare say any more."

"I, for example, was aware of you all the time we were talking. He wasn't. He lives and breathes his plan for a long career. That's all right. That's fine. More power to him, and I'll help him all I can. But where does that leave you?" (To Be Continued)

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KGW 820 NBC	12:00 News
KOIN 920 CBS	12:00 Music
KEX 1130 ABC	12:00 Music
KSLM 1230 NBC	12:00 Music
KGAE 1430 KC	12:00 Music
KOCO 1430 LNB	12:00 Music
KOIN 920 CBS	12:00 Music
KEX 1130 ABC	12:00 Music
KSLM 1230 NBC	12:00 Music
KGAE 1430 KC	12:00 Music
KOCO 1430 LNB	12:00 Music
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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Climbing
- Sulks
- Sunshade
- Witchful
- Among
- Word of choice
- County in Ohio
- Vermilion
- Rescues
- Public stopping place
- Overhead railway
- Thoroughfares
- Pronoun
- Particle
- Lick up
- Toward
- Bar legally
- At no time
- Myself

DOWN

- Extra part
- Unclose poetic
- Freshen
- At an inner point
- Signified
- Southern state
- Short sleep
- Antics
- Mineral
- spring settlement
- Performance
- Disappointed
- Water wheel
- Brief pause
- Forest growths
- Inquisitive person
- DOWN

17. Bobbin

20. Ceased

21. Limb

22. Features

23. Ruts to the feet

26. Velocity

28. Near

31. Noted

32. Legislator

33. Actor

37. Tennysonian character

38. Japanese

39. Admirals

41. Scents

42. Petty malice

43. Serve food

45. Part

47. Lose one's footing

48. Hurry

51. Mountain in the Philippines

53. White

55. Half an

56. Thus

SUNDAY					
7:00	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air
7:30	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air
8:00	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air
8:30	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air
9:00	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air
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10:00	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air
10:30	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air
11:00	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air
11:30	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air	Church of Air
MONDAY—5 A.M. TO 11:45 A.M.					
5:00	Dave West	RFD Ora.	Farm Hour	News	Breakfast
5:15	Dave West	RFD Ora.	Farm Hour	News	Breakfast
5:30	Dave West	RFD Ora.	Farm Hour	News	Breakfast
5:45	Dave West	RFD Ora.	Farm Hour	News	Breakfast
6:00	Dave West	RFD Ora.	Farm Hour	News	Breakfast
6:15	Dave West	RFD Ora.	Farm Hour	News	Breakfast
6:30	Dave West	RFD Ora.	Farm Hour	News	Breakfast
6:45	Dave West	RFD Ora.	Farm Hour	News	Breakfast
7:00	Dave West	RFD Ora.	Farm Hour	News	Breakfast
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