

## The FICTION Corner

### ANYTHING FOR A FRIEND

By MARJORIE ABBOTT

SAM looked uncomfortable as he stood with his large feet planted awkwardly on Harriet Sweet's oriental rug. His violin was tucked under one arm, and with his free hand he pushed a thick lock of hair away from his dark, ugly face.

"All right, Sam, let's try it again," said Harriet. She sat straight-backed on the piano bench and played the introduction to "Traumerel" on the mahogany grand. Her gray head kept time to the music with lively little nods.

"Yes, ma'am," said Sam. His voice was changing. Every move he made was done in an agony of self-consciousness. He brought his violin up to his chin, and then forgot himself as he brought the rich tones to life beneath his fingers.

Harriet sighed as the last note became stilled. "That was splendid, Sam," she said. "I haven't another pupil as talented as you are."

A light showed briefly in his dark eyes, and then he blushed and moistened his lips.

Harriet wondered sometimes why she wanted so much to win this boy's friendship. He was unattractive. He had a last name she couldn't begin to pronounce. It was partly the longing of a lonely, childless woman, she supposed, for someone to mother.

The music should have formed a bond between them. But up to now she felt she was losing the battle to pierce his shyness and win Sam's friendship. For six months he had come to her for his weekly lesson, but although she had tried in every way she knew to get next to the boy, she had failed.

"I have no friends," he had told her once bluntly, when she had questioned him, and she had an aching picture of him, working hard after school to earn money to help out at home with his brothers and sisters.

moment his shyness and awkwardness were gone.

"I played your violin all week," he said feverishly. "It was smooth as—oil or something. Gee, it was swell!" His eyes were blazing, and his dark face was no longer ugly.

"Look, Mrs. Sweet, I can get 50 bucks from my uncle. I'd work to pay it back to him."

"Mrs. Sweet, I'm going to stop taking lessons," he said.

"Oh, Sam," said Harriet. "Why?"

"My kid brother busted my violin. This one is borrowed from my old man's sister just for tonight. I'm going to earn another fiddle. It will take a while. They have them at Brothers' music store for 15 bucks. As soon as I get it I'll be back."

It was the longest speech he had ever made.

Harriet reached over the bronze bust of Beethoven on top of the piano and took her own violin lovingly from its alligator case.

"There's no need of missing those lessons, Sam," she said. "You may use my violin as long as you need one." She tried not to think about the kid brother who busted violins. This one had cost her a thousand dollars.

Sam's face was shining. "Gee, Mrs. Sweet, Gee! I'll make it right with you," he added hastily.

"I know you'll take good care of it."

"Oh, yes, ma'am."

She followed up her advantage.

"I wish you'd always try to think of me as your friend, Sam. I like you very much."

He looked down at the floor and shifted from one foot to the other.

HARRIET thought of Sam often in the following week. She thought of his large, strong hands that would bring heartbreakingly

sweet melodies out of her violin. She wondered if the boy would like the incredibly rich, full tone of the instrument.

She didn't see him again till the following week. As he came in he was filled with a strange restlessness that he couldn't control.

"Last week you said that you were my friend."

"Why yes, Sam."

"There's something important I've got to ask you."

This was the moment she had been hoping for, in all her months of knowing Sam.

"I'll do anything I can for you, Sam," she said quietly.

He stood there facing her, almost defiant in his earnestness. For the

He saw the look of surprise on her face. His voice cracked as he went on.

"Gosh, I know it probably cost you some dough. I'd even pay 75 bucks for it."

She was staring at him incredulously. There was no sound in the room but the slow ticking of the grandfather clock.

He flushed and looked down at the floor. His fingers were restless on his plaid cap. In a sudden agony of embarrassment, he thrust his hands behind him.

"You think it's an O. K. fiddle too," he said. "I suppose I shouldn't be asking you for it. Even if you are my friend."

She hesitated only a moment be-



She had an aching picture of him, working hard after school to earn money to help out at home with his brothers and sisters.

fore she walked toward him and placed her small, blue-veined hand lightly on his arm.

"Yes, Sam. I am a little attached to the instrument. But if you think you can raise 50 dollars, the violin is yours. For a moment I was shocked, because you see, 50 dollars is quite a bit of money to take. Especially from a friend."

## Tricks for Teens

By Nancy Pepper

**PETTICOAT PROTEST**—There we go again—the girls introducing a new fashion and the boys giving it the well-known Bronx cheer. We're referring to the new P.H.D. society (Petticoats Hanging Down)—and to the caustic comments that are being made by your best friends and severest critics.

Petticoats have made the front pages of your high school papers, just as your long Gibson skirts did last season. But not even the ridicule of your favorite three-letter man can shake your belief in them.

**CAN-CAN COMMOTION**—Instead of lifting your cotton skirt demurely at one side with a pin or petticoat peeper, you sew a little buttonhole loop to the center back, at the edge of the hem, and sew on a button at the center back of the waistband. Then you can button up your skirt in back to form a can-can bustle and to reveal your con-

trasting petticoat beneath. It's a smart trick to play with a black cotton ruffled skirt over a striped or plaid cotton petticoat.

**WELCOME RELIEF**—You teenagers who must wear uniforms to school have welcomed petticoats as a means of breaking the monotony—without breaking the rules. Before and after hours you can pull down your petticoat so that your ruffles show beneath your uniform hemline. During school you tuck your petticoat out of sight. So far, we haven't heard about any petticoat protests from the faculty.

**PEGGED PETTICOATS**—So you thought that petticoats were pretty only with your ballerina skirts, did you? Then you haven't seen them peeping between the side slits of those straight and narrow pegged skirts to which so many girls still cling—and vice-versa, which cling to so many girls. If your pegged skirts are too short, let your petticoat ruffles hang down below about an inch.

**CONVERTIBLE PETTICOATS**—Some petticoats are made to serve a double purpose. For instance, a pastel cotton petticoat with double hemline ruffles of eyelet, comes with its detachable cummerbund belt. Without the cummerbund, you wear it as a petticoat under another skirt. With the cummerbund, you top it with a peasant blouse and wear it as a skirt. It's a good idea for those of you who are making their own petticoat, and judging from the reports of home ec teachers, lots of you are.

Now, that you've revived petticoats and camisoles, will you be saying "twenty three skidoo" instead of "scram" and "I love my wife, but, oh, you kid!" instead of "hubba, hubba?"

**They Started On the Screen.** So many of your customs and fads start with the movies. Why that Peter Lawford-June Allyson lesson scene from "Good News" has even inspired you to do your French homework these nights! Has your crowd adopted this movie-made idea yet?

**YOUR NEW DANCE**—It's that oldie, the Charleston—ever since you saw it danced in "Good News." Bet your parents could give you some fine points on it. Bet they could show you the cups they won in Charleston contests back in the days when Joan Crawford scintillated more than she suffered.

**YOUR NEW CUSTOM**—Since you've seen "Captain from Castile," you've revived the custom of giving a handkerchief to your T-man (top man) as a keepsake. He keeps it in his jacket pocket for show—not for blow.

**NEW HAIR-DO**—The short cut with bangs, as Eleanor Parker wore in "Voice of the Turtle" is sweeping through the high school halls these days. But do any of your upper classmen try to look like Ronald Reagan?

There will be bread while men have faith to plow. We thank Thee, God, for the heartening thought of men

Sowing and plowing and reaping, to plant again...

Grace Noll Crowell

Because men plow

So many furrows in so many lands,

So many plows beneath men's guiding hands,

And lo! the old earth's surface has been tilled.

To meet the world's need, granaries are filled

With corn and wheat and rye from countless fields.

Because men plow, there are these golden yields;

Because their silver shares have pierced the sod

And they have worked together with their God.

The hungry world has food enough to eat

If we share wisely—and shared loaves are sweet.

The plows go down the land, the furrows run

Forever curved and deep beneath the sun:

The ancient furrows, and the fresh-turned furrows

now—

There will be bread while men have faith to plow.

We thank Thee, God, for the heartening thought

of men

Sowing and plowing and reaping, to plant again...

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You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up at night, leg pains, swelling—feet constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

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DOAN'S PILLS

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Are Always A Good Buy

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