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Affirming Alice of His Dreams

By LILY WANDEL

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JACK SEABURY looked at Billie Dorn in knickers cleaning her golf clubs energetically, with stern disapproval. He vigorously disliked the athletic type of girl and Billie was all of that, surely. He honestly could not remember ever having heard her say she was tired, or chilly or afraid; you could not protect or take care of a girl like Billie, she stood too firmly on her own feet. She was not the girl he dreamed about, a lovely feminine type of sweet delicate beauty and certainly not named Billie! He rather fancied the name of Alice, it was so distinctly feminine.

The girl he would marry, this Alice, would not be sitting on a tree stump where snakes were liable to be, in knickers with her arms burnt a nut brown! He fancied Alice would be in some fluffy dress safely on the clubhouse porch.

"Say, Billie!" He savagely swished off some leaves with his brassie, "I'm in love!"

If he had looked up he might have seen a deep red dye Billie's cheeks and throat, a jubilant shine come into her velvet blue eyes. "With whom, Jack?" she asked carelessly, but the brown fingers scrubbing the putter were not quite steady.

"With a wonderful girl, Billie, a girl of my dreams. I can see her now, blue eyes (he really did not know Billie's were blue, for they were such a dark blue, but Billie sitting there on the tree stump held her breath; what she had hoped and longed for was coming true!) that are gentle and soft," continued Jack; "hair that is fluffy and glinty and a skin—the kind that you love to touch!

"And," continued Jack, totally unconscious of the dagger he was about to fling, "she doesn't play golf nor ride! And she's afraid of snakes, and once in a while she gets tired!"

Billie picked up the putter and began to rub and scrape, and then with all the braveness of a hero started to whistle a popular air. "What's her name, Jack?" she asked in a teasing voice, her heart like lead.

"I think it's Alice," he answered softly. "Funny thing is I've never met her nor seen her—but I want to—if I only could!"

"Don't despair. Sooner or later you will; there are plenty of these Alices, you know. Jack, I believe if we want a thing bad enough we get it. Just affirm Alice. Every time you think of this Alice pictured in your mind, say very positively, 'Alice is.'"

It was a week later when Jack noticed a new girl at the club. A girl with pale gold hair, a white, transparent skin and baby blue eyes. She was knitting a yellow sweater that lay like a patch of sunlight on her white frock of soft silk. Jack lost no time in obtaining an introduction to Miss Willard. Almost immediately he asked her whether she enjoyed playing golf.

She shook her pretty head. "I'm afraid I'm not very athletic. I've never been very strong."

"But you ride? Or drive your own car?" he waited anxiously for a negative answer. "What is your first name?" he continued eagerly.

She looked up and smiled. "Alice."

"I thought so," he answered gravely. "I knew it must be Alice."

It annoyed him exceedingly an hour later when he rushed to the coatroom, his head full of plans of ordering orchids and roses, to have his best friend, Phil Raker, stop him. "I want to say goodby to you, Jack. I'm leaving for the West."

Jack wasn't a bit interested, but his friend's face looked so grief-stricken he was forced to stop and ask why the hurried trip.

"You wouldn't understand, Jack. You're a bachelor and I've been married seven long years; No one knows what I've been through married to Emily, living with that terribly pampered girl!"

"Why, Emily was always the sweetest little thing, so frail."

Phil shuddered. "Have you ever lived with anybody who is always getting a headache? The slightest unpleasantness sends her into hysterics? Have your vacations been just toting shawls and pillows and finding comfortable seats for somebody who is too lazy and indulgent to exercise and get up a little strength? Have you ever been forced to stick in the house for weeks and when you suggested playing a round of golf have a woman burst into tears?"

It was a very thoughtful, enlightened Jack Seabury who dressed for the Country club dance that evening. He found her almost immediately, a woman who suggested strength and glowing health, in her dress of shimmering green, beautiful against the soft tanned skin.

He hurried her out of the clubhouse for a walk over the knoll to the ninth hole, and there in the darkness, without a word of explanation, he drew her close and kissed her warm little mouth.

"I've always loved you, though I did not know it," he said softly, tenderly. "You've been my little pal, always there, always ready for anything. I don't want any wishy-washy delicate girl for my wife, but a real woman like you, Billie."

And as they walked back to the clubhouse, Billie said happily: "It worked after all, affirming Alice. Billie's just a nickname; I was christened Alice, you know."

Why Word "Won't" Is Good

The word "won't," universally considered a contraction of "will not," is a contraction of an old form, "woll not."

Why Dead Birds Disappear

The Department of Agricuture says that birds' bodies disintegrate rapidly. Dead birds are eaten by predatory animals and insects.

Why Abbreviation "Cwt."

The "C" is the Roman symbol for 100 and "wt." is a shortened form of "weight."

Horse Racing Popular With Ancient Peoples

The earliest recorded organized trials of speed with horses were the chariot races at the Greek national festivals, of which the most notable were the Olympic games held every fourth year. Greek sculpture frequently represents the horse as used for riding, apparently without a saddle in most cases; but not as so employed for sport, except as an incident to the chariot racing. On the other hand, the horses in the Roman contests were to a very great extent ridden. All the formalities of entering and of differentiation of classes and of starting were minutely laid down and followed, even to the color of the riders' uniform. In the earlier times these Roman races were held on the open plain. There has always been a tradition in England that on Salisbury plain, just outside Stonehenge, the remains of a Roman race course exist; and the oldest race which still takes place in England is run over a flat meadow just outside the walls of the Roman city of Chester.—Washington Star.

East Indian Idol Held in Supreme Veneration

The name Juggernaut itself is an Anglicized corruption of the Hindu Jagannath, the name of Vishnu or Krishna in one of his manifestations. It means literally "lord of the world."

It is the name of an idol in the temple at Puri, India. The temple itself is a magnificent one, built in 1198, at a cost of $2,500,000, while the idol consists of an irregular block of stone, pyramidal in shape, having two large diamonds for eyes.

On its festal days the idol is conveyed to another shrine on a magnificent car, 45 feet high and 35 feet square, having 16 wheels, each 7 feet in diameter. The number of pilgrims who visit the temple was formerly estimated at 1,200,000 a year. At the present day 100,000 or more may assemble there on the great festivals.

Hohenzollern Family

The Hohenzollerns trace their descent from Count Thassilo, who lived about the beginning of the Ninth century, and built a castle on Zollern hill in the Swabian alps near Hechingen. From this height his descendants derived their patronymic. A separation took place about 1165 when Frederick IV founded the elder or Swabian, and Conrad III, the younger or Franconian line. The first was subdivided into the branches of Hechingen and Sigmaringen in 1576. From the Emperor Sigismund Frederick VI, of the younger line, received the investiture of the electorate of Brandenburg, in 1415, and founded the dynasty of kings of Prussia and German emperors that reigned till November, 1918. The branches of the elder line continued unbroken till 1849. Then the reigning princes surrendered their respective rights and principalities to the king of Prussia for annual pensions.—Literary Digest.

Atlantic Coast Plain

Piedmont plain is a name used in the physiography of the United States to designate that part of the Atlantic coast plain which lies between the Appalachian highland and the low coastal plain proper. It is distinguished from the latter topographically by being more rugged and eroded with deeper river valleys and geologically by consisting of much older and harder rock strata. The change from the hard to the soft and recent formation is marked by a definite line of escarpments over which nearly all the Atlantic rivers fall in rapids or cataracts, and the line is known as the "Fall Line." The Piedmont plain is less defined in New England than in the southern states. It is narrowest and also approaches closest to the sea in New York and broadens southward, being about 300 miles wide in North Carolina.

Bee Keeping in Book Form

The Miller library of the University of Wisconsin has one of the most complete collections in the world relating to bee keeping both in the shape of books and historic material. This institution has been recently made the recipient of a straw "skep," a type of beehive which is now only occasionally seen in old pictures. This particular skep or beehive was made on May 29 1848, the day Wisconsin was declared a state, by D. D. Danniher, a Madison beekeeper, who spent that day in making a straw skep in which to quarter a colony of his bees, and he kept the bees in it for many years.

Can Anybody Answer?

The Stroller recently purchased an eight-day clock and had talked about this purchase a bit in the presence of little Billy. Now daddy was able to answer most of Billy's questions, but the latest one was "Why is it an eight day clock?"

Daddy promptly answered, "It is wound today, and will then go eight days before winding again!"

Billy, not satisfied said: "Well there's only seven days in one week. Does the clock go one day of last week, or does it wait 'till the end of the week and go one day the next week?"—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Crater Lake

Nature hollowed out the top of the ancient volcano, Mount Mazama, in Oregon, to make a setting in lava for a jewel-like lake of unbelievable blue. The spectacle of Crater lake in the making, can only be faintly imagined. Indian legends wove a fantasy about it, and scientists explain it only by some titanic cataclysm. The lake which gives its name to the national park is 2,000 feet deep in places. It has no inlet of any sort, nor is there any stream running out of it. The water is supposed to escape by underground channels and to reappear in the Klamath river a few miles away.

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