

Charmed by A Laugh

By WARREN MILLER

I was working up a trout stream. It was early summer, and the birds were flitting among the trees that grew on both sides of the brook and united above, forming a complete arch and shade except where the sun threw bits of light between the leaves.

There is a bird—I think it is the thrush, but I am not sure—that continually gives out two notes, the first higher than the second. These two notes were repeated time and again in the trees above me and came from a distance. They were very musical, and I loved to hear them. In short, they put the finishing touch on a perfect morning.

Suddenly there came one of these brief songs, not from above, but apparently from the other side of trees beyond which I knew there was a road, though I could not see it. I was in doubt whether the sound proceeded from a bird or a human being and, if from a human being, whether it was an imitation of the bird or whether it was one of those short laughs that may come from a child or a girl while conversing and something pleasing or funny is said.

Hearing voices approaching, I became more interested in the song than the trout, and, wading to dry ground I went up the bank a short distance and, craning my neck, caught sight of a bevy of girls passing down the road. I could see only their backs, but by their figures and their light tread I knew they were young. I caught only a glimpse of them before they were hidden by the trees, but in another moment I heard again those two melodious notes. I knew that they came from one of these girls and were a response to some facetious remark.

We are grownup children. A child will chase a butterfly, but will be turned aside by a gray squirrel. I had been intent on fish, but my interest in them had been suddenly turned by two musical notes of the human voice. Imagination stepped in and constructed the girl. I pictured her fair, of a happy disposition and altogether lovely. I wanted to haul in my line, put away the fly and go after that girl. If I did I would have to appear before her in khaki suit and rubber boots to my thigh. If I did not I would probably lose her forever. I decided upon immediate action. My reel clicked for a few moments; then putting my rod under my arm and catching up a few trout I had hooked I climbed the bank and set off down the road.

I was too late. I did not catch the girls I had seen passing. Where they had gone I could not discover. But a short distance from my point of departure I came to one of those country inns where guests abound in July and August and are deserted the rest of the year. On the porch were a great many persons, old and young, among them several girls, but I did not notice any feminine group such as I had indistinctly seen. However, it seemed to me that quite likely they belonged here; that they had been for a tramp and, having returned, had gone inside. If this hypothesis were not correct they must have down up and away in the air. I could readily conceive of the girl with the bird notes doing so.

It is singular that a man with many attractive women to choose from should set so much store by one he has never seen, but has been attracted to by nothing more than a couple of flute-like notes emanating from her throat. It goes to show that the imaginary is stronger than the real. Be this as it may, I resolved to leave the hotel where I was stopping and take up my abode at the place I hoped to find my imaginary idol. Returning to my quarters, I got into more presentable apparel and the same afternoon rode down to the inn.

One of the first things I did was to make inquiries whether there was a girl in the house who laughed as a bird sang. The question was well calculated to make me ridiculous, and it was not long before I was known as the man who was hunting for a girl with a birdlike laugh. Having been presented to several ladies sitting together on the porch, I asked my question. One of the group remarked to the others, "That must be Annette Thurston. I've noticed that little laugh of hers, and now that my attention has been called to it there is something birdlike in it."

Though all the group knew Annette Thurston, no other of them had noticed what was so attractive to me.

As soon as the young folks in the house learned that the girl I was looking for might be Annette Thurston she was informed that a man had fallen in love with her laugh and was hunting for her. A young fellow of seventeen came for me and took me to her for an introduction.

Naturally the meeting was a trifle embarrassing. Miss Thurston, who found herself the center of a bantering circle, blushed, but I noticed that she looked at me as an object of interest. The boys and girls ran away, and I, throwing off my embarrassment, reassured myself and began a conversation.

I took up my quarters at the hotel and paid much attention to Annette Thurston. At first she was rather shy of me on account of the fun I had had at her by the other young people, but I was not long in winning her love.

All this happened years ago. I am now known as the man who married his wife so that he could always hear her laugh.

How little romance most persons have in theirs!

Children's Hair Bow Ribbons, 25c yd.

Good wide taffeta ribbons especially suitable for hair bows. Colors, Pink, Copen, Navy, Rose, Red, Sky, Yellow, Cream, also Black and White.

Lovely New Blouses

\$2.49, \$3.49, \$4.95,
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Keeping in constant touch with the new blouse modes, so you may have the new styles when they are newest, is but one of the many branches of service at this store.

New Voile Blouses \$2.49

Trimmed with filet lace, a long wide collar that hangs half way down the back and comes over the front in graceful frills, with lace inserts, are remarkably fine and stylish.

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Are also trimmed in fashion's favorite laces "filet." They have the new detachable neck jabot which may be taken off in a jiffy when one wishes to wear a low neck blouse, long hanging collar and filet lace medallions—in white or flesh color.

Many other blouses that are new and beautiful, that we are unable to tell you about here, are waiting your inspection in our Blouse Section.

\$1.25 up to \$17.50

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New Arrivals of Smart Pongee Dresses

Specially Priced at
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Fashionable one-piece and two-piece frocks; very cleverly designed—for instance—the slip over the head blouse feature is smart and practical, as it may be worn with other skirts when the occasion requires.

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Suits that regularly sold up to \$22.50 now— **\$ 9.95**

Suits that regularly sold up to \$27.50 now— **\$13.50**

Suits that regularly sold up to \$29.75 now— **\$18.95**

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Coats that regularly sold up to \$15.00 now— **\$ 6.95**

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A regular 25c hose of good wearing qualities; has reinforced flexible ribbed top. To people who know hosiery, to simply say they are "Gordon Make" is proof of their dependable value.

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White Gabardine Poplin
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Plain white or plain colored models; very simple and very smart; also sports, striped and new designs with becoming pouch pockets—patch pockets.

Plain Models

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One of the Popular Fabrics for Summer Wear is

Imported Natural Silk Shantung

Priced at \$1.25 and \$1.50 yd.

This silk is very durable and lends itself wonderfully to the making of summer frocks, suits, skirts and motor coats. It is 36 inches wide.

Figured Silk Shantung \$2.45 and \$2.49 yd.

In new and very pleasing designs that are especially adapted for the making of sportswear garments.

Special Black and Silk Taffeta \$1.25 and \$1.50 yd.

A good substantial-bodied silk, is full 36 inches wide, in two different qualities, both specially priced.

MINOT AND VICINITY

A. P. Slocum is putting in three sections of flax near Nashua, Mont.

Olaus Wooster and Max Johnson motored down from Carpio Thursday.

John Flemming, prosperous Foxholm farmer, was in the city Wednesday.

W. A. Sherman, prominent Donnybrook businessman, was in the city Monday.

Kent Morgan, genial Union National banker, is visiting at his home at Oakfield, Wis.

Sam Hanson, who is engaged in the land and loan business at Circle, Mont., is in the city.

R. J. Piper of the Piper-Howe Lumber Co. is transacting business in Minneapolis this week.

Jesse Evans is in from his ranch in Topping township recuperating from a severe attack of the grip.

E. D. Skinner, who had charge of the registration at Sawyer Tuesday, brot the returns to this city Wednesday.

Miss Margaret Holz of Willow City

passed thru the city Sunday enroute home from Balfour, where she has been teaching school.

Bring your scrap iron to the Minot Hide and Fur Co. on Central Avenue East. We are paying from \$9.00 to \$10.00 per ton for it.

B. J. Snyder from near Sawyer was in the city yesterday. He reports 17 registrations from Sawyer township and 21 from Sawyer village.

Mrs. Abbie Stenersen has gone to Minneapolis for a visit and will return via Casselton, N. D. next week to attend the state W. R. C. meeting.

L. S. Fahler, one of the efficient employees of the J. B. Reed Transfer Co., has invested in an outfit and is in the business for himself. His telephone is 40 White.

J. E. Elsberry, who bought the Talmadge ranch at Towner, is selling hay f. o. b. Towner for \$20 a ton. Mr. Elsberry has 400 acres of hay land on his ranch which can be irrigated when desired. This makes a sure crop and last year he cut 800 tons.

Olaf Christianson, registrar from Spencer township, visited the Independent office Wednesday. Twenty-

nine registered in the township, several claiming exemption from military service because they are farmers with families.

Major Person left for Waukesha, Wis., Monday night, where he is attending the Western Guernsey Breeders' Association convention. He will attend a big Guernsey sale this week and probably buy a few more record breakers.

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W. E. Delaforce, registrar from Hiddenwood township, brot the returns to the city Wednesday. Forty-three registered in that township. He was accompanied by Mr. Russell, the Makoti banker, who was registrar for Makoti, where 43 registered also.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. Schlimgen of Des Lacs, brot their 10-year-old daughter, Edna, to a Minot hospital, where a successful operation for appendicitis was performed Tuesday. Mr. Schlimgen is one of the successful farmers of Des Lacs and has 300 acres in crop.

The Independent enjoyed a good visit with S. M. Camp, a Velva farmer who visited the city Wednesday. Mr. Camp is an old soldier and fought in the Battle of Gettysburg and accompanied Sherman on his march to the sea. He has lived near Velva since 1886 and is one of the best of the pioneers of early days.

The state W. R. C. will meet at Casselton June 12 and 13. The delegates from the city, including the state officers who will leave June 11 are Mrs. C. F. Truax, state president; Mrs. Otto Gross, state secretary; Mrs. Nellie Hendrix, Mrs. Madden, Mrs. Gertrude Rowan, Mrs. Maxham, Mrs. L. J. Palda and Mrs. Walker. Mrs. Hunter, state treasurer, will return from a visit in the east in time to attend the meeting.

Petitions declaring Adolph Lehman a dangerous character and signed by 73 fellow citizens in Richland county, were read at his preliminary hearing. The man is charged with the murder of Matthias Wetzstein in a quarrel over the latter's wife. It is said that the man has threatened to kill at least twelve of the residents of the community, accusing them of stealing stock from his ranch. Neighbors were preparing to lynch him had he been turned loose.

H. W. Gunter from Des Lacs visited the Independent office recently and gave us an interesting account of his recent auto trip from Florida. Altho he is 69 years of age, he made the journey of 2500 miles in a little more than 20 days. His wife accompanied him. He says it cost them \$250 to make the trip more than railway fare. The roads thru Tennessee were almost impassible. The highways in that state are mostly toll roads, over mountains, thru mud and over rocks. He says he went with his auto over places where he would be afraid to drive with a wagon.

Charles Larson, one of the successful farmers from four miles down the valley, visited the Independent office Friday. Mr. Larson is one of the pioneers of this section of the west.

His father built the old log house which is still standing on the Edw. Nelson farm 37 years ago. Mr. Larson still lives in one of the most picturesque spots along Mouse river, which would be ideal were it not for the sewage from Minot, with which the residents of the river district have to contend. In March of each year the odor is something fierce and Mr. Larson says if it gets worse, the people along the river will have to invest in gas masks.

Chas. Good of Westby, Mont., was in the city Monday enroute home from a three months' trip in the south and west. He visited a sister in Kansas City for three weeks and visited at points in Texas, California and Washington. He wandered around the old World's Fair grounds at San Francisco and before the guards could stop him, walked into a great building where torpedoes are being manufactured. Charlie "got his eye full" before a soldier took him gently by the arm and escorted him away from the building, informing him that the president himself could not enter the place. Charlie stopped at Ural, Mont., with an old friend, where he fished brook trout for several days with success.

P. P. Lee Visits Minot. P. P. Lee, prominent wholesale dealer from Bellingham, Wash., has arrived for a visit with old friends, and to look after the completion of his splendid new block on Second street southwest, which is to be occupied by the McKinney-Fuller Motor Co. Mr. Lee was one of Minot's pioneer merchants and still owns considerable valuable property in this city.

Stockholders' Meeting. To the Stockholders of the Minot Farmers' Grain Association:

You are hereby notified that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Minot Farmers' Grain Association will be held at the Farmers' Elevator, Minot, N. D., Thursday, June 28, 1917, at one o'clock p. m. Three directors are to be elected for three years.

VAC BARTA, Secretary.

F. A. Ganser of Leeds, formerly manager of the Bovey-Shute yards in this city, was in town last week and informs the Independent that he is making arrangements to move back to Minot in the near future.

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You will find our Furniture and Carpet Departments on the Second Floor.



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Our stocks are now full and complete, altho how long we will be able to keep them so we are unable to say.

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