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Sparing Bill's Girl

By H. LOUIS RAYBOLD . .

Francesca - pretty, scatter-brained, flirtatious Francesca-was honest-togoodness worried. So worried was she that her usually blithe step lagged as she walked homeward through the bracing, crisp autumn air, and her fair brow was puckered in three fretful wrinkles. How under the sun was she going to get rid of poor old Bill?

You see, Bill Thorpe was the very first one of Francesca's victims-and there had been many-to cause her so much as the tiniest twinge of regret. Perhaps this was because she had known him since kindergarten days, or tively speaking, walked over his prostrate body with a more heartless, roughshod tread even than usual, presuming on his good nature. However that may be, the fact remains that Francesca was experiencing a very real desire to spare Bill the pain she when he came to see her that night. | turous

"May I run up this evening, Fran?" he had telephoned her. "I have something that's-well, something I want to tell you." And even over the coldly impersonal wire his voice had rung strangely vibrant. It had come at

Now, between you and me, deep down under her genuine concern for Bill. Francesca harbored a motive other than altruism in breaking definitely with Bill. For how could she expect, as long as he hung around her like a faithful watch-dog, alert to fetch and carry, that Roger Benedict would propose? Roger was not the sort of nan to interfere with a rival. And



meanwhile there was Betty Lane, the prettiest girl in the gay small-town Bill and Roger. Oh, she must be very cannot get it out. Now immerse the firm with Bill, for his own good-and bottle in hot water and presently the

Arrived at this decision, Francesca ing rolled into one. If only Betty-

"Betty!" Rounding a corner Franesca pulled up short as she all but catapulted into the object of her not exactly charitable thoughts. "Betty Lane! Haven't seen you in a very She was almost--not quite-jealous of this trim little Betty, so attractively gotten up in her tailored suit and smart little neckpiece and cocky yellow felt turban, but not sign of so base an emotion. "Run over

Betty nodded, her brown eyes mysand when I do-oh, I can't tell you vet but I'm-I'm going to have glorious news. You'll see!" The words fairly bubbled forth and then Betty. all unconscious of the havoc she had wrought, swung gayly by.

"Something to tell me-something glorious-that means, oh, no! Betty and Roger! Why-why, I was worrying about sparing Bill and now he's all I've got left!

The Bill that Francesca found that B. C.? But the birth of this musical evening when she came downstairs was a Bill who acted precisely as nervous been supposed to act-walking jerkily about the room and examining pic- B. C. The harp has ever played a tures and books and various objects great part in legend and history. That

with unseeing eyes. With a start he gathered his wits together at her entrance. "It's-it's a wonderful night, Frank. Just wonderful. Moon and

so sweetly, seating herself remotely

> "I-I-hang it, Frank, I've got to get it over with." Bill helped himself to a chair opposite and, looking quite miserable, paused in what he was say ing. Then he braced himself and plunged. "We've known each other for years and years and years and-"

> "Years," completed Francesca. "Yes, Bill." After all, with Roger gone, it might be the sensible thing to hang on to Bill for a while.

"Well, I've always thought, Frank, would be you and I, but-well, it isn't! I've gone and gotten engaged to another girl and-and, doggone it, I love her!'

Francesca rose slowly, not so much in dismay as in utter perplexity. Bill, her property, engaged to another girl? Good heavens, and she had been worrying about sparing his feelings! And was this the way it felt when somebody turned you down-the way she supposed her victims of the past had felt-yes, as she had expected Bill himself would feel this very evening? perhaps it was because she had, figura- Well, she was merely being paid in her own coin. It was up to her to be sporting, as Roger, Betty's Roger, would say.

> with a brave smile and held out her hand. "Is it some one I know?" 'Know? Why who should it be but

"Congratulations, Bill," she managed

felt she was going to occasion him Betty Lane?" Bill's tone was rap-

pounding she almost let the cat out of the bag

this afternoon and would have onlywell, she knew I was coming tonight to tell you myself!" "You're in luck and she's a darling!"

and there was no doubting the enthusiasm in Francesca's voice. But several nights later, as, in the arms of Roger, Francesca told the whole story, she finished with a vow that was solemn if brief. "Never again for me, Roger! I'm through with flirt-

"Thank heaven," said Roger fervent-

ly. "It's a promise I'll see you keep!" REQUIRES TIME AND SKILL

Working of Tortoise Shell Into Marketable Material Calls for Great Care and Attention.

A tortoise shell is harder and more brittle than ordinary horn. Heat and pressure are practically the only neans which can be employed in working it, and it is impossible to work tortoise shell at a great heat, since the coloring pigment easily liquefies and absorbs the shell, thereby greatly lessening its value. Heavy pressure is also impossible, owing to spear through the ice and what game its brittle character. The plates of carapace, or black shell, are first separated from the skeleton by the application of gentle heat, and then flattened by a similar process. The superficial irregularities are next rasped off, and the material is polished ready for molding into any desired shape. Larger or thicker plates are produced by a process which requires great care land for the rest of the winter, but and attention. Two surfaces are first will take enough provisions to last unrasped and cleaned, and are gently til spring. White asserts he can make heated and pressed together. The heat more money trapping and hunting than liquefies them, making an invisible he can in the city. Six years ago he Tortoise shell combs are cut by highly ingenious twinning machine, so-called; two combs are cut from the same plate, so that the teeth of one dovetail into the spaces of the other.

Extracting a Cork.

One of the most puzzling things in the world is to get a cork out of a bottle. Nevertheless, it can be done easily enough, if you know how. Immerse the bottle in cold water for a few minutes, without allowing any of the fluid to enter. Then take a hatsucceeding in impaling the smaller end of the cork. This accomplished, having been "doped" into silence with you can pull the cork up into the lowrowd which included Francesca and er part of the bottle neck, though you cork will fly out of its own accord. forced out by the expansion of the quickened her step a bit and hummed aid inside. The way it works is quite a gay little tune beneath her breath. surprising and affords an interesting Bill was faithful and friendly and ever lesson in physics. The performance dependable, but Roger-oh, Roger was may be facilitated somewhat by young Lochinvar and Prince Charm- greasing the inside of the bottle

Word Blindness.

Word blindness has been discovered by school clinics. Two cases have boy of nearly thirteen years of age. healthy of body and normal of mind in all ordinary respects, can only now, after nine years' regular attendance just read words of two letters. "Of" for worlds would she have betrayed a he comprehends instantly; "offer" floors him. Oddly enough, though in mental arithmetic equal to any boy of his age, this "word blindness" exteriously radiant. "I will, Frankie, tends to the reading of numbers. He will, for instance, read "2" and is dumfounded at "122." The difficulty appears to be wholly in a failure to recognize written or printed words or

> Jews Did Not Invent Harp. Those in the habit of answering quickly will probably give the Jews credit for having invented the harp. for did not David play on it in 1063 instrument takes us much further back into antiquity, until we cross the path of the Irish monarch, Brian Boroime. is now in the College museum at Dublin, where it was placed in 1785. Ten years later an instrument maker named Erard improved and patented the harp much in the

MAROONED NEAR SAFETY BY STORM

Policeman on Vacation Is Held Prisoner on Island Close to Detroit, Mich.

Detroit, Mich.-Marooned six weeks on an Island within 38 miles of Detroit, Mich., in the Detroit river, with out food, fuel or adequate protection from the worst winter Michigan has known in 20 years, was the experience of Isaac White, a former policeman of

White had two weeks' vacation and decided to visit Sears Island and fish and hunt. He took a little more than a week's supply of food and fuel, expecting that he could walk across the ice or hall a passing boat. Seven days



A Blizzard Set In.

after he reached the island a blizzard, the worst in years, set in, and the heaving cakes of ice caused all navigation to halt and shut White off from the outside world.

After two weeks his food and fuel gave out, and for four more weeks he was obliged to live on fish he could he could shoot. He was without light of any kind, and most of the time he and he did not dare to "waste" any.

At the end of six weeks a boat ventured to the island in answer to distress signals, found White more dead than alive and took him to Detroit. He says he intends to return to the ishe attempted to stop a speeding motorist and the machine ran over him.

DOPE CHICKENS, STEAL 'EM

Fowls Are Carried Off by Hundreds When Stifled by Sulphur Fumes.

New York,-Chicken thievery has advanced as a fine art along with other modes of robbery. Thousands of chickens have been stolen in Atlantic, pin and poke with it until you have Burlington and Cape May counties of New Jersey in recent weeks, after first sulphur fumes.

Richard Hilton and Blain Wheeler. two draymen of Atlantic City, were held for the grand jury there when they were found in possession of several hundred fowls loaded on a motor truck in bags. The chickens were all stupefied and smelled of sulphur.

In the draymen's homes were found several small lamps, alleged to have been used for burning sulphur. These, the police say, were lighted in picked henhouses until all the chickens were too senseless to make a noise

WIFE, 15, JAILS HUSBAND, 16

Accused of Nonsupport, Kansas City Man Declares He Can't Find Work.

Kansas City, Mo.-Teddy Butterfield, sixteen, sat in a cell at the police station and contemplated the woes of married life. He was arrested on complaint of his fifteen-year-old wife, who charged he had failed to support her. "I haven't been able to get a job since we were married, two months ago," the boy told the police

All-Day Trombone Player Freed When Court Hears

Pittsburgh.-Leonard Berdine began playing "Home Sweet Home" on the trombone at 6 o'clock in the morning in his home, in 2915 Bank street. At dusk he was still playing "Home, Sweet Home," and the neighbors had him arrested. He didn't know how to play, said the neighbors, but Berdine played "Home Sweet Home" for Magistrate Sullivan, and the magistrate was so affected he discharged him.

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