

The Bee's Short Story

THE SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEW

By JANET SANFORD.

There was a merry sound of twitterings and chirpings in the bird store as Alec entered, and his own face seemed to reflect the cheerfulness of his surroundings.

He slipped past the thin, stooping figure of the store's proprietor, who was waiting on a pair of prospective customers in the front of the place, and swayed toward the young girl weighing bird seed for a small child whose chin scarcely reached to the counter.

"It's come, Rue," Alec Stanley whispered gleefully. "I had to stop on my way home to tell you. I got no promotion today."

"Good," Rue's soft red lips were pursed up to frame the words almost silently. Her brown eyes were sparkling. "Oh, Alec, I'm so glad—for your sake. You've tried so hard."

The young man leaned upon the counter. "For my sake. What's the matter with your sake?"

Her brown eyes glanced warningly across his shoulder. And then the stooped shouldered man shuffled dejectedly toward the rear of the store. His gaze scarcely lifted when young Stanley stopped him with a greeting and briefly told the good news.

"So? Everybody's having good luck but me? Business is poor," mumbled the bird store's proprietor as he shook his capped head and shuffled on into the rear room.

"It's too bad you have to stay here cooped up with a grouchy old man. Wasting your youth and your fine health and spirits"—Alec puffed out his cheeks indignantly. "And here I am ready now to take you away and give you a nice little home. Oh, Rue?"

"I know, Alec," Rue gently patted the tense brown hand laid upon her arm; then she shook her head reprovingly. "Uncle Peter is old and feeble and unhappy. And he has no one but me to look after him. He was mother's favorite brother. And I can remember him when he was so different—before his wife died, and his daughter ran away. You know all his sad story, Alec."

Already young Stanley was beginning to twist uncomfortably. "Oh, yes, I've got a heart, too, Rue. But what right has your cousin Daisy gallivanting around the country with some third rate show while you're taking care of her father?"

"We haven't heard of her for years. And Uncle Peter is proud," said Rue. "You know how pretty she was, Alec. You've seen her pictures. I hope no harm has come to her."

"Trust a girl like that to look out for Number one." Alec pulled himself together and smiled at Rue. "All right, little one. But don't keep me waiting till I get old and grouchy like Uncle Peter."

Renewed joy in his business promotion came with the morrow when Alec Stanley took up his advanced duties for the daily newspaper on which he was engaged.

And one morning late in the season, Alec went over the papers on his desk with a thrill of elation. His

reportorial assignments covered a western senator who was visiting the city, a rising woman lawyer who had won a favorable verdict in a sensational case, and a young woman of the dramatic profession who was suddenly lifted out of obscurity by her engagement to a reputed millionaire from the Pacific coast.

This last person gave young Stanley considerable difficulty, but a meeting was finally secured.

Dazzling blond and an exotic picture in a Mandarin coat of rose and gold, with a toy dog tucked under one arm, capricious Marguerite Venn alternately smiled and pouted at Alec Stanley as he diplomatically conducted the interview.

"You'll make the most of my humble little career, won't you?" she coaxed. "And take any of these photographs you like. This one is Mr. Archibold's favorite," she added with a girlish smiler.

Alec looked on the pictures to the pretty, blase face of Marguerite Venn. There was a puzzling familiarity about this shallow blond beauty. He searched his memory; then his look cleared and sharpened, he swung forward abruptly. His eyes held her steadily. He spoke in low, stern tones.

"And what shall I say of your

father, Miss Venn? The broken old man who still looks for his daughter's return?"

The young woman swiftly paled beneath her make-up. Her big blue eyes flared wildly.

"You are Daisy Venable, aren't you?" relentlessly pursued the reporter. "Ah, I knew it! Your cousin Rue told me about you."

"But—who are you?" stammered the other.

"I am the man who wants to marry Rue. But she is taking care of your father. Do you know his heart is breaking for you? He is trying to earn his living in his little bird store. But without Rue—"

"Wait, I can't understand." The young actress was as rosy now as she had been pale before. "Really, Mr. Stanley, I thought my father was well and comfortable."

"He loved you," said Alec simply. And he was glad to see tears in the big blue eyes as he talked on. At last the actress flung out her hands with a cry of protest.

"I'm not as wicked as you seem to think I am, Mr. Stanley," faltered Rue's truant cousin. "I intended to come back when I made good. It's awful the way time goes, isn't it?"

Later than day, Rue saw her fiancé alight from a smart coupe in front of the store and assist a

brilliant blond woman to the door. Then he withdrew to the curb.

"Daisy!" cried Rue, incredulity and astonishment mingled in the greeting. And the other swept forward impulsively, enveloping her cousin in a perfumed embrace.

"That young man of yours found me and brought me here. He is a terrible young man! I should not want to marry him." The visitor laughed gaily. "I am going to marry a very rich man. You will read about it in the papers. But where is father?"

At a gesture from Rue, she passed on to the dingy rear room. A few minutes later she called Alec Stanley from the curb.

"In that story of yours say that Marguerite Venn found her father in a very romantic way. Put in a few heart throbs, will you? And say he is going to live in her new home, the grand Archibold home, in California."

Even as he listened, Alec's eyes were searching for Rue, standing back in the shadows with her Uncle Peter. And the bird store's proprietor looked straighter and stronger and happier than the young man had ever seen him. And Rue, too, was beaming with happiness.

"It's a good story," pronounced Alec Stanley. "A corking good story!"

Platte County Court House
Dedicated at Columbus
Columbus, Neb., Dec. 1.—(Special)—The new Platte county court-house here was dedicated by the Masonic grand lodge, Grand Master Brandenberg of Omaha and Grand Custodian Robert E. French of Kearney had charge of the services. On account of bad weather and roads the rural attendance was small. A. M. Morrissey, chief justice of the Nebraska supreme court, was the principal speaker. County Attorney Otto F. Walter delivered an historical address. The Columbus city band furnished the music.

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Library Tables

In Fumed Oak

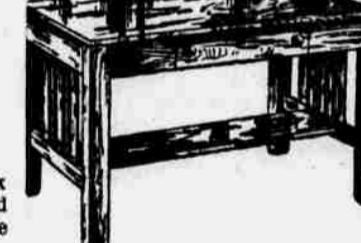


Table as illustrated is 28x48 inches, full quarter-sawn oak, an ideal piece for the library or living room.

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20x48 French Velour.....	10.00	5.95
24x45 French Velour.....	8.75	4.95
24x48 Tapestry.....	8.75	4.95
18x72 Damask.....	7.75	4.45
12x48 Tapestry.....	5.50	2.95
12x72 Tapestry.....	6.75	3.95

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75c Blackberry Grape Jam..... 2 1/2-lb. cans for 76c	50c Abonita or Amorita Almond Benzoin and Cucumber Cream Lotion..... 2 for 51c
50c Violet Dulce Face Powder..... 2 for 51c	60c Harmony Cocoa Butter Cold Cream and Skin Food..... 2 for 61c
35c Sherman's Witch Hazel and Arnica Salve..... 2 for 36c	65c bottle of 100 Aspirin Tablets..... 2 for 68c
35c Rexall Cherry Bark Cough Syrup..... 2 for 36c	40c Imported Tooth Brushes in all approved shapes, 2 for 41c
60c Armour's Cold Cream..... 2 for 61c	20c and 25c Wool or Velour Powder Puffs, 2 for the price of one plus 1c.

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