The Free Press Short Story

THE BRIDGE ACROSS

BY HARRIET LUMMIS SMITH

She had not quite understood her

so ungrateful as she had seemed.

The caller came a little after eight,

telephone bell had rung at articles under the couch and threw the slatternly girl who was clearing her Easter hat was decorative and laid the table in the long, narrow boarding it on the couch, with her work basket house dining room, took the trouble to The worn rug was in need of a thorough answer it. When she had done so, she sweeping, but as that was out of the merely screamed up the stairs, "Some- question in the time at her disposal, she body on the phone for Miss Cresswell." swept the worse of the litter under the

wanted on the phone." Then the third complacently. "There! Unless-my vis- this room looks quite neat, but that done is lack of organization. thumped on Theodora's door. "Phone, didn't do her duty by me." Theo. Better hurry!"

"Now wouldn't that jar you?" Theodora asked her reflection in the mirror, but all at once the explanation came to It was characteristic of the change her. "Why I'm doing something for you saw me all made up, or if you saw which had been taking place in her the mother and I had supposed it was too this room all dusty and order, dast two years, that she frequently re- late." Only Theodora herself knew the you'd think my mother hadn't brought sorted to cheap slang, even when con- agony that thought had cost her. Night me up right. That's the way people do, versing with herself. "Why couldn't after night she had laid awake, her blame the mothers for everything." whoever wants me have rung ten min- hands clenched, recalling every impat- "And you wanted to defend yours utes ago?" She slipped on her bath- lent word she had spoken, every inconrobe and ran downstairs. After two siderate act she had committed and rather breathless.

The voice that returned her greeting had a pleasant a trim, well-dressed woman still under Is this Mrs. forty, who introduced herself as Miss Cresswell?"

Theodora was conscious of a distinct ture of Theodora's mother on the wall shock. She could not rally her ideas of her room, and she stood before i Then she studying it earnestly. "It looks very stammered a little as she asked, "W-who much like the Mrs. Cresswell I knew. did you want to speak to?"

"To Mrs. Theodora Cresswell. Isn't changed. You're like your mother. this Mrs. Cresswell."

"Oh, I see. You're the daughter. May I speak to your mother?" Theodora felt limp and weak. Twice bed her face in anticipation of this

her lips parted to answer, and twice visit. her voice failed her. With the third When Miss Herbert again seated hereffort she succeeded in saying, "My. self, she said quietly, "Tell me something mother has been deed nearly two years:" about yourself. When you were younger,

A little cry came over the wire, not your mother thought you would like to of apology, nor of sympathy, but elo- be a teacher. You gave up that idea, it quent of grief and loss. Theodora had seems. no idea who was speaking but her heart warmed to the woman who had evidentbig disappointments of her life. "I was ly loved her mother very dearly.

'Oh, I am so distressed," the voice was just getting ready to take a kindergarten saying, "I can't tell you how grieved course when father died. It was the I am. I'm afraid I've made it very bard thing I always wanted to do. There like your frankness." for you."

city over night in order to call on your live because it wasn't a very expensive mother. Will you be at home this even- place.

She had been I had from your mother had this addressing to go out with some of the other girls in the boarding house, and to answer that she had an engagement would be quite easy. There had been a sincerity in the little involuntary cry, how- only it's so different from the work I ever, that had influenced her, more than

"Then I'll be out in about an hour." Theodora hung up the receiver, and years older than you?" Once inside her own room, she turned about you." the key with an instinctive desire to "Then I'll tell you. I was an orphan, shut everybody out. "She asked if she half through college, when the Trust could speak to mother, just as though Company which had charge of my little she were alive. Oh, if I could only have fortune, went bankrupt. I was just beherself upon the littered couch, and your mother slightly. I went to her in to her that this was her first real burst into tears. No one knew her well great distress to tell her of the collapse Easter. enough to dream of the torment she had of my hopes. Of course I expected to Persian Balm quickly relieves chapendured since her mother's death, not leave college at once, and I wondered ping, windburn and all roughness caused only because of the loss, but also be- when she asked me not to take any steps by weather conditions. Keeps the comcause the girl was sure her mother had till I had seen her again. The next day plexion clear and lovely. Completely died without knowing how dearly her she came to me, and offered me a home absorbed by gentle rubbing. Never daughter loved her. With the realiza- with her, if I could manage the other leaves undesirable stickiness. Stimulates tion had come the heart-breaking expenses. She and your father had not the skin. Makes it soft, smooth thought that now it was too late ever been married long, and he did not have flawless. Preserves and enhances naturto show it. The paroxysm of weeping a large salary, but they were ready to al beauty. Soothes, refreshes and inpassed quickly, and Theodora sat up, sacrifice in order to help out a young vigorates. Makes hands soft and flaw-"I mustn't cry. That woman said she'd them. After I began to earn some so essential to true elegance. be here in an hour. Why did I tell her thing, I paid your mother for my board, I'd be home? I suppose I look like a during those two years. The greater fright now."

share of my debt has never been paid. She crossed the room, and stared at however." herself in the mirror. She had not ex- Theodora's eyes had moistened. "That aggerated the defects of her personal was just like mother." appearance. Her eyes, reddened by tears | "It was. I suppose you wonder that looked strange and unnatural under the when I was so indebted to her, two years artificial whiteness of her forehead. Not should pass before I knew of her death. long before she had complacently, re- You must remember that I haven't seen garded her roughed cheeks and start- her since before you were born. lingly red lips, but now as she thought first we used to write to each other of facing the stranger who had known several times a year, but of late we've her mother, she was suddenly panic- only sent each other a Christmas card, stricken. She rushed to the wash stand with a line or two written across it. curtained off from the rest of the room Don't think, though, that this made any lay description may square itself with and scrubbed her face till it smarted. difference in our friendship." Then, as she slipped into the little There was silence for a moment. certainly suggestive. frock that she generally wore in the Theodora took up the artificial flowers evening, she looked discontentedly about intended for her hat, fumbled with them belong. Officers of churches spend at her quarters. "What a looking place! and laid them down. She'll think mother didn't bring me up "What a pretty color," said Miss Her-

The room deserved the worst Theo- ... L.can get a hat lots cheaper if I trim dora could say about it. The slatternly it myself. I'm trying to get ready for but show no sign of vital interest. Some waitress who also acted as chamber- Easter." maid, did little more on a morning than shove the couch back into the corner, and smooth the rumpled bed clothes. A pair of shoes stood in the middle of the room, and over by the door were are only a symbol of a new beginning. ences you life more than what you know troublesome nights - by the pleasant some subbers. The dress worn to the It's the new life that Easter stands for." or hold in worldly goods. But to have home use of Dr. Southworth's "URAstore that day was over one chair, and She waited, but as the girl did not an- religion you must give your-life to it. TABS," which any good druggist can on the other was piled the laundry. The swer," she went on. "Would you like, The man who is only attached to his room was seldom in order, but at present even now, to take that kindergarden Lord and does not really belong to Him back on first box purchased, if not well it was worse than usual, because the inhabitant was getting ready for Easter. " "What's the use of talking about it?" poses himself to contempt. Her hat, half trimmed, was in a mil- The girl's face became white. "I can't." Sometimes a mighty, movement sweeps liner's box, that occupied a prominent "I'm not so sure. I'm doing very the country, enlisting the enthusiasm Southworth's "Uratabs" in a few days

her face, Thedora attacked the disorder- apartment where you could stay. This disclosing a numb and

"Wait! Wait!" - Her voice was choked and tremulous as she hurrled on. "You don't know what you're saying. You don't know me."

"I know you are your mother's daugh-

"Yes, but I wasn't always a good daughter, was selfish, always thinking about what I wanted, and sometimes spoke so impatiently when we didn't agree. I'd give anything if I could live over the last year or two that mother was here; so I could do things for her and show her that I cared. I thought I'd have years and years, you know." "I wonder," mused Miss Herbert re-

the dust under the couch."

Miss Herbert listened carefully. "Why feeling of satisfaction up to this time, did you do all that?"

"Because-because-well. I thought

against my possible misjudgment. Then don't you see that it isn't too late for you to do something for your mothers The fire died out of Theodora's eyes.

"And that's only a beginning. Nothing you could have given your mother Herbert. At once she noticed the picwould have meant so much to her as that which you can give her now. More than anything else, she wanted you to be a fine, brave woman as she herself was. serving God, and helping others." older, of course, but after all, very little

"I thought of that."

The girl sat very still. When she was small, her ambition had been to grow up like her mother. Now as she realized how rapidly she had deteriorated in the last two years, the idea seemed almost grotesquely impossible.

"There's a bridge between the worlds. Theodora, a bridge that love helpfulness alone can span. You still do something for your mother. she can still do something for you. is your mother, not I who is giving you this chance." -

Theodora felt her lips trembling. That The other stared incredulously. casual question had touched one of the mean-you mean you're ready to do itafter what I've told you?"

"All the more ready, if anything. STORY 2 GALLLEY 3

Theodora crossed the room with long step, dropped on her knees by Herbert's chair, and with her head in the lap of this new-found friend, she wept. It seemed to her that with those tears, all the bitterness and recklessness were drained from her heart. Miss Herbert made no attempt to check her, but "Of course, all my plans where changsat quietly stroking her hair.

That Easter Theodora went to church store. I-suppose I'm lucky to have it. in a strange city, and the music thrilled her as no music had ever done before The words from the minister's text meant more to her than all the sermons she had ever heard. "Newness of life!" me when I was a young woman, a few The words seemed to express exactly the change in herself. She was Theodora Cresswell, and yet such a different a caller, and could not accompany them. by, but I can't remember what she said girl from the one of a few weeks before. She had new purposes; new aims, and new happiness, too. She wondered if over the bridge of which Miss Herbert had spoken where love and helpfulness crossed and recrossed had come that said. 'Yes, I'll call her.' " She threw ginning my Junior year, and I knew joy that flooded her heart. It seemed

drawing her hand across her wet eyes. woman without the slighest claim on lessly white, Imparts that subtle charm

ATTACHED BUT NOT BELONGING By Arthur W. Rinhow

"Did it leave her lame?" I asked the

"Just her right arm," she replied. "It by the doctor. "I'm a veterinary surstill seems to have life, but it feels as geen."

though it did not belong to her." -An arm attached to the body and yet feeling as though it did not belong to ass for attempting to cross the track the body. I do not know how well this ahead of that train." medical science, but it is striking and

So many are attached and still do not least a few nights of worry every year Relieved Overnight in revising the list of members. They find the names of men and women who are nominally affiliated with the church members are as dead as artificial limbs "That means a great deal, doesn't it?" And this is true of many other organiz-

Theodora stared, "Why, I'm not going ations. Your religion is your most precious "I didn't mean that. The new clothes possession, for what you believe, influpays court to a dead religion and ex- pleased with results.

well now. There's a normal school in of thousands who remain ardent support- time-and you are invited to do so with something of the same panic the city where I live with an excellent ers until the cause calls for sacrifice without slightest risk of cost unless that had animated her when she washed kindergarten course, and I have a little Then the pretty sleeve is stripped off. Uratabs" to-day and look for improve-She shoved a number of is my chance to do something for your Sacrifice is the sign of life.

THE EVENING MEAL By Barbara B. Brooks

doing of by-way shops, in offices not come on the some day of the month; where the business of nations is trans- but on the first Sunday after the first acted in the homely plowing of rich full moon after March twenty-first soil by those who stay their work and Since the hare was the sign of the moon, make their way across fields 'at the it came to be associated with the Easter sound of the supper bell. Everyone is feast. In many parts of Europe children

work for someone. It usually is the frare would come the night before Easter The girl did not stop to ask her mean- housewife. If she does not particularly and hide colored eggs for them. This ing. "I say you don't know me. Why, enjoy culinary duties, she may feel there was a curious twisting of the idea of the before you came here to-night, I washed is never a lull in her work and especially have being the sign of the moon which A second floor girl took up the cry. couch with a clothes brush. After a off the rouge and powder I'd put on to during the supper hour. Perhaps the governed the date of Easter.

> her children, is a poor conversationalist Eleanor Hammond. for the man who has been in business wrangles all during the day. He needs good food and comforting words. 'This means home co-operation and necessar-

When late afternoon hours are to be spent away from the home, there should be some previous preparation for the evening meal. Or meals should be planned so that they can be prepared quickly. A Quickly Prepared Dinner

Tomato Juice Cocktail Baked White Fish (Spencer Method) Stuffed Baked Potatoes Mixed Green Salad

Whole Wheat Bread Baked Apples Filled with Raisins

Caffeine-Free Coffee The above meal is not only easy to prepare but it is easy to digest. It will not disturb sleep during the night. This meal may aslo be eaten by children some restrictions for especially young children.

In preparing this meal the housewife should first devote her time to the potatoes and apples, making them ready for the oven. Next the fish can be prepared. It must not be put into the oven until fifteen to twenty mitutes before serving time however. The table should then be set and serving dishes laid out some to be warmed and some to be chil-

If all the vegetables are crisp and minute or even at the table. The cream pitcher-may be filled and placed in the refrigerator; the lemon-sliced and the butter cut.

The apples will be done before the potatoes. Remove them and place on the top of the oven or in the warming oven. Baked apples should be served either very hot or very cold, not lukewarm. As there is not sufficient time to chill them for this meal, they should be kept hot.

When the potatoes are almost done heat some milk and butter for mashing potatoes. Remove potatoes from oven increase the heat and put in the fish The same temperature oven may be used to brown the potatoes after they have been stuffed. - While the fish is cooking the last minute touches can be put on

Of course this is only one meal and there are hundreds of occasions but with forethought all women can know the supper hour to be the best of the

FISH -SPENCER METHOD Cut fish into serving pieces. Dip in salted milk, using 1 tablespoon of salt for each cup of milk. Evaporated milk may be used. Dip into finely ground or rolled corn flakes. Arrange on well oiled baking sheet and sprinkle liberally

Bake in a very hot oven (500 'degrees, F.) for about ten minutes.

SENSE KNOCKED INTO HIM

The man was in the hospital after-his first serious attempt to knock a train off the tracks.

"I fear I can be of very little assistance to you," he was comfortably assured

"Ah." exclaimed the victim. "you're

Bladder Weakness

Writer Tells of Great Remedy That Gives Quick, Certain Relief-Invites All to Try It

EASTER RABBITS

We know that eggs are used at Easter supper hour a magnet drawing time to symbolize the way in which Jesus came alive from the sealed tomb. as the chicken comes out alive from the lifeless looking egg. The reason All women know this hour of day is that rabbits are associated with Easter however is not so plain. Our pagan -Grace Noll Crowell ancestors believed that the hare befull in the wheels of industry, in the always been a movable feast. It does jused to be told that if they were good Food always has and always will mean and obedient during the year, a white

Say, tell Theodora Cresswell that she's hasty dusting she looked about her more go out with the girls. You may think reason for a woman's work never being Rabbits and hares are so much alike floor girl, whose room was at the head iter is very sharp-eyed, she won't have isn't real. I tucked things out of sight and thor- where there are no hares, the people of the stairs, ran across the hall, and any excuse for thinking that mother when I knew you were coming. I swept oughly enjoyable supper hour, work must talked about an Easter rabbit. Now we be organized so that there will be few are so used to seeing them on picture difficulties in the food and in the serv- cards and in candy, cotton, and papiering. A worried, nervous wife who mache, that we seldom stop to think gives alibis for a wilted salad and a that we have these bunnies because the scorched roast or who is always nagging hare was the pagan sign of the moon .-

of hearing the laughing jackass, kookaburra. But a laugh from the bird saved a man from a snake not long ago

He was cutting the long grass in Rookwood Cemetery, near Haberfield, when he heard a laugh and looked up. As he did so the kookaburra flew straight toward him, so swiftly that lie jumped to one side. Not till then did he notice the black snake within a foot

The bird seized the snake, flew with it to a height, and dropped it. Again and again it carried it up high and let it fall to the ground, till at last the

Then the kookaburra started its mea for snake is just the sort of thing a kookaburra fancies.

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embody such features as FREE WHEELING RIDE REGULATOR SYNCRO-MESH TRANSMISSION and SILENT SECOND GEAR

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Free Press Ads Will Sell Your Goods Let Us Convince You

Are You Among Those Who Say---"I never read Advertisements'

O SAY "I never read advertisements" would be much like saying "I never use soap, or "I never read newspapers," or "No one canteach me anything," or "I know everything."

Many good-but not very wise-persons seem to think that all advertisements are just the vainglorious braggings of those who publish them-designed to part fools and their money. The truth is that most advertisements are incitements to their readers to do or be or buy or use something for their immediate or prospective advantage. Advertisers, to be successful and to live long, have to offer something of value or of desire-something really wanted or needed by the public. Advertisers, to live long, must not cheat the expectations or confidence of those who buy what they offer or propose.

Here are some questions to be answered by those who say "I never read advertisements"-

- What alarm clock would you buy if you needed one?
- What camera would you buy, for your own use, or to give to a son or daughter?
- 3. What motor car possesses your favor?
- 4. What face cream or shaving soap or cream, or tooth paste did you use to-day?
- 5. What laundry soap (or flakes) is in your kitchen right now?
- 6. Does the breakfast bacon which you like best have a brand
- The watch on your wrist—what name does it bear?
- 8. Your shoes—who made them?
- 9. Your life insurance policy-what company issued it?
- 10: The ginger ale which you serve to guests-what brand is it?
- 11. The tea which you buy regularly-what brand is it?
- 12. The soap and baked beans and the tomato catsup now on your pantry shelves—what brands are they?

You see, whether or not you consciously or habitually read

advertisements, you buy, by preference, what advertisements have recommended to your confidence and what experience has proven to. be satisfactory.

are those which are not advertised, and which try to ride into public favor on the backs of well-advertised products.

The things which we don't buy, and which have a sickish life,

IT IS TO ONE'S DISCREDIT TO SAY, "I NEVER READ ADVERTISEMENTS"

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