

# Upside Down

By RAY FISLER

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"Sorry, young man," said the portly Mr. Horace Seymour, rising to indicate that the ten-minute interview was at an end; "but your quest is futile. I cannot allow my daughter to marry a man with no more alluring future than the one that confronts you."

But Weldon Miller did not move toward the door of the banker's office. Disappointment showed on his clear-cut countenance, but through it gleamed a hint of a smile, a somewhat determined smile. He crossed his feet listlessly and asked:

"There's no hope, Mr. Seymour? You know I love Ruth sincerely, and it's not because of your financial standing, either; it's just her I want, not your money."

Mr. Seymour peered at his march across the room.

"I'm really inclined to believe you are sincere," he said. "However, that is not the question. It is not so much that you are not wealthy, but that you evidently have not the necessary means to support a young man, and he must have the goods to show that he is successful. But you are a mail-carrier, and while it is an honest occupation and a very necessary one in the running of the world, it is so prosaic, so devoid of thrills, so lacking in opportunity for achievement that I don't think you see much hope for you. You should tell me that Ruth loves you. I believe she does, or thinks she does, but she will forget you. I'm sorry I let the matter go so far. I didn't realize that her activities in entertaining service men would lead to any such serious affair."

"In concrete terms, Mr. Seymour," said Weldon, "just what would you require of me to make me eligible as a son-in-law? I'm determined to meet your requirements. Just tell me how to go about it and I'll leave you."

"This was a fair proposition," the banker conceded.

"Sit down," he said abruptly, and dropped into his own swivel chair. "I'm wasting time, but I want to be square. Here's the crux of the thing. You're not on your feet, figuratively speaking. You're upside down. Nine young men out of ten are upside down; they're like turtles flopped on their backs, unable to make progress. Sometimes a fellow will get on his feet overnight and then he can speed to the heights of success. You're honest and you wouldn't be carrying mail for a living. You're too honest to succeed. My advice may sound hard, but it's the only recipe for success. Go after the coin and get it, no matter how, as long as you don't run about of the law. Use your brains; put it over the other fellow; grab his coin and you'll win everybody's admiration, especially your victim's. Use a hard but applicable term. You'll find such a course profitable and also thrilling; not hum-drum like carrying mail."

"You talk for a plain business proposition. Well, here it is. It sounds possible, and for you it probably is. If you can come to me inside of two weeks with a ten-thousand-dollar bank account you can have Ruth and there'll be no questions asked. It will prove your resourcefulness. Good day."

Weldon Miller went to his boarding house and spent the rest of the day shut in his room, smoking and thinking. Early in the evening he appeared to come to a decision, for he slipped on his coat and hat and took a street car to the Second National bank. His card brought quick attention, for a few moments he was shaking hands with the president of the institution, who appeared to have seen no more than thirty years.

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Shoulder chops ..... 30c  
Side pork ..... 30c  
Veal chops ..... 30c  
Shoulder chops ..... 30c  
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