

Sec. 562 P.L.&R.



*Betty Wins a
Malted*



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"I went down to Bush and Buhl's last night — you know that new store on Lewis Street?" asked Jane of her best friend Betty as the two of them swung leisurely down the high school steps.

"What happened," inquired Betty innocently, "did they take one look at your bobby socks and tell you that the Child Labor Act hasn't been repealed?"

"Wait till you hear," Jane's eyes danced. "The personnel man said he'd give me a job pronto. They're really desperate for help in that place. Looks as though I'm going to get that fur coat after all. Why don't you try it?"

"It certainly would be stupendous to earn some real money," agreed Betty slowly. "My monthly allowance is hardly enough to keep me in hair ribbons — but —".

"Now, what is it?" interrupted Jane crossly. "You're not going to start talking about college again, are you?"

Betty stopped her languid walk and faced Jane squarely. "Listen, pet, I've got news for you. My Uncle Jim was really talking straight to me last night about college versus working. You know, he has been hiring girls for a long time in his insurance company.

"He said that I should go to college if it's at all possible. In his business, he's watched loads of girls who have started out like a ball of fire, even though they have never been to college, and he has later compared them with college girls. Well, he says that after two or three years, he can almost always tell which have had a college education, because they zip ahead while the girls with only high school diplomas usually advance very slowly. He said, 'Why not study shorthand and typing and at the same time get some college subjects?'"

"But I want to start earning money right away," wailed Jane.

“Uncle Jim told me about a girl they had hired six months ago,” Betty went on calmly. “She seemed to be real box-office — face good enough for a pin-up girl in any barracks. She was just out of high school and passed all the office tests like nothing human. But, when it came to sticking to the job and handling problems intelligently, she was a fizzle.”

“I learned to use my head while I was still in the 4th grade,” retorted Jane. “What I want is to make some money!”

Betty looked at her friend several seconds, trying to think of another way to persuade Jane to go to college with her.

“Well, I have a yen for a fur coat, too, but if I can get my brain trained, I’ll be able to get that coat a good deal faster than if I quit school now and go to work.”

“You don’t make sense,” complained Jane. “You’ll be wasting the best years of your life in some old cage. Why, you’d be an old lady by the time you got your degree.”

“Not if I go to Bryant — and I expect to,” said Betty. “Father is all for it and he says that he can afford to send me there because I can get a B.S. in 2 years and at the same time learn how to be a super-duper secretary. And think of the money Dad will save.”

“B.S. in two years? Now really, Betty! I’d be willing to bet you a chocolate malted that it can’t be done.”

Betty smiled. “I’ve never won a malted more easily. In fact, I even have the proof right here with me.” She drew out a booklet from her chemistry book. “Listen — ‘The college year is 48 weeks in length and degrees can be earned in two years. This means that young men and women save two years over the traditional college course and thus enter business two years sooner, saving two years’ college expense.’ ”

“Do you mean it?” exclaimed Jane, visibly impressed.

“Come on,” urged Betty as the two girls turned in at the corner drug store, “Let’s plan a campaign for persuading your family. We could be roommates.”

“I don’t believe my family needs much persuading,” laughed Jane. “They’re all for further training. Besides, any arguments they might put up would soon be squelched either by you or by that booklet. But seriously, that two-year proposition sounds swell. Yes, Betty, I’m sold — and just to prove it, I’ll throw in a package of peanut butter crackers with that malted I owe you!”





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