

SECRETS YOUR BRIDGE FRIENDS
NEVER TELL YOU



by Cathy Hunsberger

Illustrations by Bill Buttle

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The Silent Majority Speaks

Cathy Hunsberger

Illustrated by Bill Buttle

ENDORSEMENTS

Cathy combines humor and insight as she shines light on a part of our bridge world that is seldom talked about. "Secrets" is informative and fun. **Marty Bergen**, Ten-Time National Champion, Author of "Points Schmoints!" and more.

Cathy Hunsberger mixes her positive life philosophy with a delightfully humorous explanation of bridge intricacies and challenges. A fine feast. **Claudia McDonald**, ACBL Accredited Teacher, Journalist, ret.

Cathy has been a bridge player for over 40 years. I have had the privilege of partnering with her in hundreds of games and tournaments at every level. In these pages, with humor and insight, she reveals the psychological aspect of this great and marvelous game of all games. Read and laugh. **Joyce Neville**, SLM and CEO, TAD Enterprises

This book is not just for bridge lovers. I don't play bridge but I found it amusing, entertaining, and full of the wisdom of life. My mother was crazy about bridge (her criteria for an assisted living facility was the quality of its bridge games). I have always been curious about the inner workings of the bridge circle, and enjoyed getting an insider's view of the fascination that takes hold. **Carol Chapman**, Author of "When We Were Gods"

DEDICATION

This collection of thoughts and observations is dedicated to my bridge partner of many years, Joyce Neville, who suffered with me through many revisions, and missed games, during its progress.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My poor family did not even whimper when I locked myself away day after day in my home "office". They did knock hesitantly from time to time when it was the dinner hour...I love them.

My proofreaders and editors were constant and ever-ready. Carol Chapman, Claudia McDonald, and Joyce Neville gave me vital input and kept me straight for many months.

My mentor and illustrator Bill Buttle encouraged, advised, nagged, and threatened throughout. This project would not have gotten off the ground without him. He showed himself to be an unselfish professional with the courage to help an unknown get a start.

My bridge friends in Unit 110 contributed many strange and humorous stories from their life's experiences. Among these were Chuck Sadowski, David Duhon, and Trish Richeson. Many others, reading articles I contributed to our Unit newsletter, urged me to get them into a book, and first planted that seed in my mind. Thank you all.

Brent Manley, Editor of the Bridge Bulletin, was the first to accept one of my articles for publication. He gave me the confidence to keep going, and while I know I was just one of many, I thank him for giving me a chance.

INTRODUCTION

It's All About You!

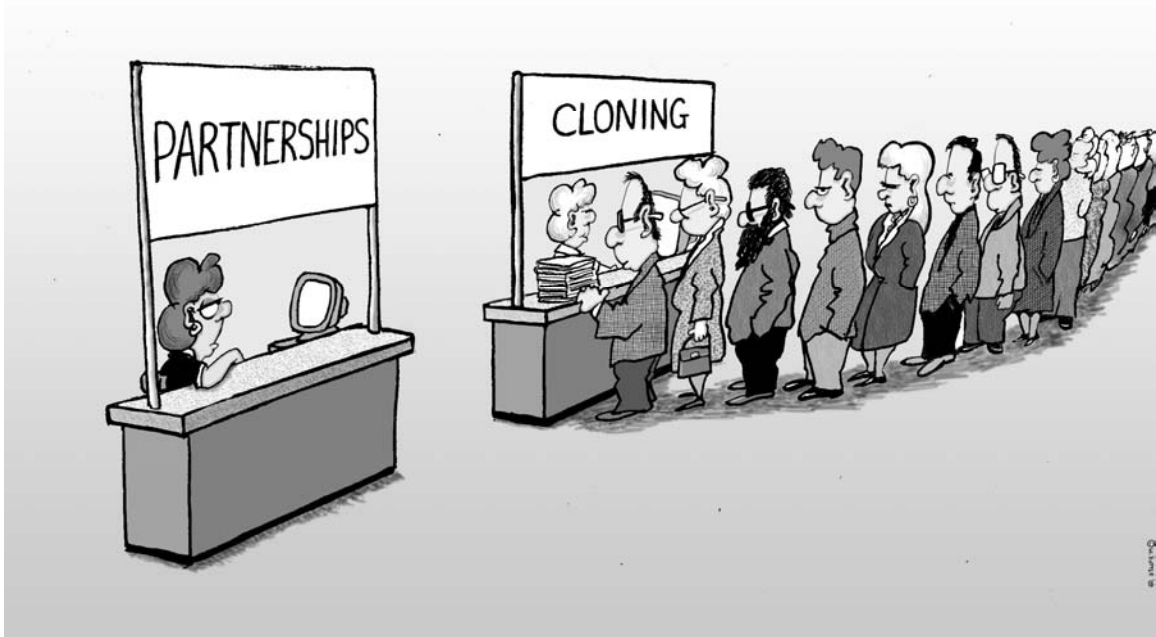
When we first enter the bridge world we are offered an abundance of lessons on every possible technique. We learn to bid, to play the hand, to defend. We are taught rules and learn statistical odds. We are advised that a steady partner will help us advance. We go to tournaments in search of red, silver and gold masterpoints. We enter a world of magic and wonder and excitement.

Along the way, we begin to have doubts, we become unsure of ourselves. The experts and pros seem like giants towering over us. The director seems intent on monitoring our every move. We hear conflicting advice from all sides.

Am I going crazy, you may wonder? Is something wrong with me? Does everyone go through these unsettling experiences, or am I the only one? Will I ever make Life Master?

These are questions we don't hear much about, that are whispered in the corridors and never acknowledged. Rest assured, they are universal. In this small book we lay bare the journey of an individual as he starts his bumpy ride into the bridge world. He passes from fresh-faced beginner, graduates to intermediate level, and finds advanced status within his reach. You will perhaps recognize part of your own journey. Most importantly, you will find you have never been alone.

Rest assured, all experts started as beginners. They just don't remember that far back.



About the Author



Cathy has lived in Oregon, California, and now makes her home in Virginia, where she lives with her husband Russ and son Stephen. She has been published at the 2009 Wash. DC Nationals, in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin, and is an active contributor to Unit 110's Bridge Times.

For questions or comments please email the author at bridgeunlimited@yahoo.com, or visit her on the Web at bridgeunlimited.net.

SECRETS YOUR BRIDGE FRIENDS NEVER TELL YOU

You thought bridge was going to be eternally glorious, didn't you? Suddenly, out of the blue, you're going crazy! Confusion reigns supreme. Every partner is an expert with a barrage of new conventions. You are beset on every side with questions you fear to ask.

Secrets Your Bridge Friends Never Tell You explores the bumpy, and exciting, journey a bridge player takes on the road from beginner, to intermediate, to the unlimited glory that awaits somewhere down the line. Undoubtedly, you will recognize part of your own journey. You will discover you were never alone as you suffered the constant ups and downs that proliferate in pursuit of this great game.

With a humorous slant that delights, *Secrets* offers insights into such questions as: How do you find a partner? How do you keep a partner? Should you play with your spouse? Should you hire a pro? What happens when you get bridge burn-out? Find the answers here.

Cathy combines humor and insight as she shines light on a part of our bridge world that is seldom talked about. Secrets is informative and fun.

Marty Bergen, ten-time National Champion, author of *Points Schmoints!*



Cathy Hunsberger, author (Virginia) has lived in Oregon, California and now makes her home in Virginia where she lives with her husband Russ and son Stephen. She has been published at the 2009 Washington DC Nationals, in the ACBL *Bridge Bulletin* and is an active contributor to Unit 110's *Bridge Times*. Visit Cathy on the web at www.bridgeunlimited.net.



Bill Buttle, illustrator (Ontario, Canada) began drawing after retiring from dentistry in 1988. His work was accepted for syndication and appeared in weekly newspapers across Canada. Since 2000, Bill has concentrated on caricature. His regular monthly feature "Out of Hand" appears in the ACBL's *Bridge Bulletin*. Bill is an avid bridge player and has been married to his bridge partner, Linda, for forty-three years.

