

## PART VII

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### FORFEITS

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By many people of the present day this fitting termination to an evening of round games is considered childish and absurd. So it may be if the penalties are confined to "kissing the one you love best" or "singing in one corner, crying in another, and dancing in another." But there are forfeits that are not only amusing, but worthy the approval of the most conventional.

The old way of redeeming forfeits may be adhered to—each article being held over the head of a judge, and the sex of its possessor alone being given, sentence declared irrespective of individuals.

But a better method is to require each person present to write out a penalty upon paper. These being collected, are drawn one at a time by the sentenced players as required, the forfeits for ladies and gentlemen being distinguished by being written upon different colored papers.



In either case, by the exercise of a little ingenuity, the forfeits may be made unique and interesting, the occasion often suggesting original penalties to a naturally quick mind.

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#### MAKING A CARD DANCE ON THE WALL

Give the culprit a blank card, telling him that if he will obey directions and place it in the proper position, you will make it execute a dance upon the wall. Then bid him place it upon a certain spot—a little farther to the right—not quite so far—a little higher—higher yet—now, a trifle to the left—a little lower and to the right; and perhaps by this time he will begin to realize that he is the victim of a joke, and that it is he himself who is making the card “dance upon the wall.”

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#### THE BROOM AND HANDKERCHIEF FEAT

Place two chairs of equal height facing each other, and across their seats, which must be two or three feet apart, rest a broom.

On each corner of both chair-backs loosely suspend a handkerchief, and seating the victim upon the

handle of the broom, with his feet crossed and held above the floor, give him a cane and bid him knock off the four handkerchiefs without touching his feet or hands to anything for support.

If in great danger of falling the cane may be rested upon the floor for an instant to regain equilibrium.

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#### TOUCHING A MARK

Blindfold the culprit, and lead him toward a spot on the wall (previously designated), and tell him to endeavor to place his finger upon it. As he stretches out his finger to do so, quickly step in front of him and catch his finger between your teeth.

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#### WALKING SPANISH

The person under sentence is stationed either at one end of a long room, or in a room with double doors, facing the doors. In either case care should be taken to remove all the furniture from his vicinity.

A cane being given him he is instructed to rest it upon the floor, put both hands on top of it, and bending over, rest his forehead upon his hands.



In this position he must turn around three times, and then, standing erect, walk straight ahead without pausing to collect himself.

His endeavors to "keep straight" will rival that of the most hopeless inebriate.

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#### A DRY REPAST

Spread a sheet upon the floor and place two chairs upon it. Seat the culprits in the chairs within reach of each other and blindfold them.

Give each a saucer of cracker or bread-crumbs and a spoon, then request them to feed each other. The frantic efforts of each victim to reach his fellow sufferer's mouth is truly absurd—the crumbs finding lodgment in the hair, ears, and neck much oftener than the mouth.

Sometimes bibs are fastened around the necks of the victims for protection.

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#### A BIG SNEEZE

This is a triple forfeit, and requires that the three culprits stand in a line while the judge gives to one the syllable "hish," to the second "hash" and to the third "hosh."

Then at a given signal the syllables must be uttered together in most stentorian tones. The result is a good imitation of a genuine sneeze.

The effect is heightened if all the people in the room are called upon to share the penalty, and, divided into three groups, each group giving one of the syllables to be uttered.

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A line of poetry being given, find another to rhyme with it.

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#### BLOWING OUT A CANDLE

Light a candle and place it upon a table. Blindfold the culprit, station him with his back to the candle, directly before it, and tell him to take three steps forward, turn around three times and walk back three steps in the direction of the candle, which he must then endeavor to blow out.

Perhaps he will—but again, perhaps he will endeavor to extinguish something or somebody in an entirely different part of the room.

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Repeat five times rapidly: Villy Vite and his wife  
vent to Vest Vinsor and Vest Vickham on Wednesday



## WILLIAM TELL

The person to be punished has his hands tied tightly together at the wrists with a handkerchief. Somebody who has been previously initiated, and who should be taller than the culprit, represents Tell's son, with a knotted handkerchief upon his head to do service as an apple. Tell is then requested to advance, and, with his pinioned hands, to knock the apple from the head of his son.

As he elevates his arms for this purpose the son quickly thrusts his head between them, and, standing erect, appears to be embraced by Tell, from which embrace the astonished father is unable to release himself until the company having sufficiently enjoyed his situation, his hands are untied.

## THE RACE

Give to one of the two candidates three ordinary sized crackers, and to the other a glass of water and a spoon. Then at a given signal they begin, one to eat the crackers and the other to drink the water by dipping it up with the spoon.

The cracker-eater can have no water to assist him

in swallowing his dry morsels, nor can his rival touch the glass of water with his lips. Whichever finishes his allotted task first wins the race.

## TO PICK UP A CARD WITHOUT TOUCHING IT

Bend an ordinary visiting card so that when resting upon the floor half of it will be in a perpendicular position.

Bid the victim to kneel, and placing his elbow against his knees, stretch out his arm at full length upon the floor. Where his finger tips rest, place the card with the upright part next to him, and then with both hands behind his back he must pick up the card with his teeth.

## PRINCESS HUGGER-MUGGER

The two players are stationed on opposite sides of the room, facing each other, and each holding a lighted candle. They advance slowly, with eyes firmly fixed upon each other's face, until they meet in the centre of the room, when the following dialogue occurs:



1st Player. "The Princess Hugger-Mugger is dead. Dead, defunct, and gone."

2d P. "Is she? When did she die?"

Then they slowly retreat backwards to their original position. Each must try, by grimaces and whatever artifice he chooses, to draw a smile from the other, and the performance is repeated until both can go through it with perfect solemnity.

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### THREADING A NEEDLE

Place a champagne or large olive bottle on its side. Seat the culprit upon this, with the heel of his right foot resting upon the ground and the heel of the left upon the toe of the right. Then give him a moderately large needle and a piece of thread, and laugh at his effort to pass the thread through the eye of the needle, without changing his position or falling off his insecure seat.

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### VOWELS

Require that the person under sentence shall answer five questions given him by different members of the party without using words containing certain vowels designated by the questioners.

### EXAMPLE

A. "Why did you come here to-night? Answer without A."

B. "For fun."

C. "When are you going home? Answer without E."

B. "Not until I wish," etc.

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### PICKING UP A COIN

Place the player with his back to the wall and his heels close together touching the base-board. Then bid him pick up a coin laid on the floor before him without moving his heels, offering the coin as a reward if he succeeds.

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Keep a serious face for five minutes.

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These are but a few of the many forfeits that can be devised with trifling ingenuity. If the mental calibre of the company warrants it, call for contemporaneous speeches or poems, conundrums on given subjects—anything that the mind of the judge can conceive, only never regard forfeits as obsolete and ready to be laid upon the shelf for lack of fresh material.



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