## THE BULL CALLED EMILY

—Illustrated by Fontaine Fox—

## By Irvin S. Cobb

Ave. s L structure, like overgrown straddleburg, wades
through the restless currents of Broadway at a sharpened angle. The dish fluences in its ill-spent life. From its but the most highly cultivated. present defiant attitude in a cooked "Emily knew nearly everything there

ing friend Scandalous Doolan.

"Hey, bo," he requested, "pass the liniment, will you? This sea gull's got

the rheumatism.' The purport of the remark, taken in Scandalous couched this request. It picturesque. Moreover the Underworld. sions as strictly figure in the business run low as to coin, wasn't able to pay affairs of its various crafts and pursuits. Nor to me did it sound like the language of the circus-lot, for in such had set his mind to working backward or another of his earlier experiences in the act-producing line of endeavor, and that, with proper pumping, a story

might be forthcoming. As it turned out, I was right. "Where did you get that one, Scandalous?" I asked craftily. "Your own coinage, or did you borrow it from

somebody else?" He only grinned cryptically. After a because he plainly suffered from fallen Scandalous as Battling Insteps.

"Say, Battling," he said, "take away the emu; he's still the undefeated that feels like he needs exercise more'n he does nourishment. The gravy may be mussed up a trifle, but the old ringhim three rounds and didn't put a

"Couldn't I bring you somethin' else?" said the waiter. "The Weiner Schnitzel with noodles is very-

"Nix," said Scandalous; "if the cassowary licked us, what chance would we straight chicory and one of those Flor de Boiled Dinners, and then you can break the bad news to my pal here." By this I knew he meant that ha craved a cup of black coffee and one of the domestic cigars to which he was addicted, and that I could pay the

turn?" he asked. "They've got mince careful it don't explode in your hand.' And I reached for a little saucer of salted peanuts that lurked in the shadow 'Speaking of peanuts." he said,

don't seem to care deeply for such. I lost my taste for them dainties quite

ed, for I saw the light of reminiscence

"It wasn't no occasion," he said; "it was a catastrophe. Did I ever happen to tell you about the time I furnish the financial backing for Windy Jordan and his educated bull, and what happened when the blow-off came?" I shook my head and in silence heark-

'It makes quite an earful," he continued. "Business for gents in my profession was very punk here on the Main Stem that season. By reason of the dishonest police it was mighty hard for an honest grafter to make a living It certainly was depressing to trim an Ezra for his roll and then have to cut up the net proceeds with so many central-office guys that you had to go back and borrow car-fare from the sucker to get home. Besides, I was somewhat lonely and low in my peace of mind on account of my regular side-kick the Sweet Caps Kid being in the hospital. He'd made the grievous mistake of try ing to sell a half-interest in the aquar ium to a visiting Swede. Right in the middle of the negotiations something came up that made the Swede doubtful that all was not well, and he betrayed his increasing misgivings by hauling out a set of old-fashioned genuine antique brass knucks and nicking up Sweet Caps' scalp to such an extent my unfortunate companion had to spend three weeks on the flat of his back in the casualty ward, with a couple of doctors coming in every morning to replace the divots. Pending his recovery. I was sort of figuring on visiting Antioch, Gilead, Zoon and other religious towns up State with a view of selling the haymakers some Bermuda oats for their fall planting. when along came Windy Jordan and broached a proposition. This here Windy Jordan was one

of them human draughts; hence the name. At all hours there was a strong blowing out of him in the form of words. If he wasn't conversing, it was a sign he had acute sore throat But to counteract that fault he was the sole proprietor of the smartest and the largest bull on this side of the ocean. which said bull answered to the name

"Did you say a bull?" i asked.
"Sure I said a bull. Why not? Ain't you wise to what a bull is?" 'Certainly I am, but a bull named

"Listen, little one: To them that follow after the red wagon and the white top, all elephants is bulls, disregardless of genders, just the same as all regu-lar bulls is he cows to refined maiden ladies residin' in New England and points adjacent. Only, show-people ain't got any false modesty that way. In the show-business a bull is a bull whether it's a lady-bull or a gentlemanbull. So very properly this here bull, being one of the most refined and cultured members of her sex, answers to the Christian name of Emily.

MORE ..... d-rfbh|aho ..... d-rfbh|aho ..... d-rfbh|aho .... d-rfbh|aho .... d-rfbh|aho .... d-rfbh|aho .... d-rfbh|aho .... d-rfbh|aho ... d sets. Bull and bulline, she'd been with him from early childhood, In fact.

E WERE sitting at a corner table in a certain small restaurant hard by where Sixth where Sixth taurant hard by whe Ave.'s L structure, like over- to the old Van Orten shows back you. of kindness. I merely meant them

upon which we principally dined was ounce over a ton and a half, and he if I forget to bring her in her five called on the menu Chicken a la Ma- adopted her and educated her and pam- cent bag of peanuts per diem, per day, rengo. We knew why. Marengo, by all accounts, was a mighty tough battle, and this particular chicken, we judged, had never had any refining in the most highly cultivated.

form we figured it had pipped the was to know, and what she didn't shell with a burglar's shimmy and know she suspected very strongly, joined the Dominecker Kid's gang before it shed its pin feathers. There she was extremely grateful for small were two of us engaged in the fruit- favors and most affectionate by nature. less attack upon its sinewy tissues—the To be sure, being affectionate with a at the front of the stable talking busipresent writer and his old un-law-abid- bull about the size and general speci- ness with somebody, and all of a sudwrestled with the thews of one of the against you in a playful, kittenish kind three or four thousand pounds of herembattled fowl's knee joints. After a of a way, and cave in most of your self in at that side door and begins way struggie in which the honors stood practically even, he laid down his knite tion with a landslide to venture up while uttering fretful, complaining

elbows and put both his shoulder-blades out of socket. But she never meant no harm by it, never. It was just a little way she had. "It seems like Windy and Emily connection with the gesture which ac- were aiming to join out that season companied it, was plain enough to my with a tent-show, but the deal fell understanding; but for the nonce I through some way, and for the past could not classify the idiom in which few weeks Windy had been infesting I'm driving the first carriage containa lodging-house for members of the ing the sorrowing family of deceased. could not be Underworld jargon; it was too direct and at the same time too enth street, and Emily had been in a livery barn down in Greenwick Vil-

up Emily's back board, and the liveryman was holding her for the bill. "So, hearing some way that I'm case it probably would have been more fairly well upholstered with currency. complex. So by process of elimination he comes to me and suggests that if I decided it was of the slang code of I'll dig up what's necessary to get the burlesque and vaudeville stage, Emily out of hock, he can snare a with which, as with the other two, line of bookings in vaudeville, and Scandalous had a thorough acquaint- we'll all three go out on the two-aance. I felt sure, then, that something day together, him as a trainer and me as manager and Emily as the princialong the memory-grooves of some one pal attraction. The proceeds is to be cut up fifty-fifty as between me and

bad one. That was back in the days tract popular attention away from the when refined valdeville was running main attraction. Under the circumvery strongly to trained-animal acts stances I wouldn't blame no corpse on and leading ladies that had quit lead- earth for feeling jealous-let alone a ing but hadn't found out about it yet. popular and prominent corpse like this Nowadays them ex-queens of tragedy here one was, a party that had been He only grinned cryptically. After a bit he hailed the attendant waiter, who because he plainly suffered from fallen down so much money that if they only his day, and after that the owner of the arches had already been rechristened by get half as much as they say they're most fashionalbe retail liquor store in getting, they're getting almost twice the entire neighborhood, and who's now as much as anybody would give 'em; riding along with solid silver handles but them times, vaudeville was their up and down both sides, and style just one best bet. And next to emotional actrines who could emosh twice daily utter disregard for expense, he's put for 20 minutes on a stretch, without ting on all this dog for his last public giving way anywhere, a good trained appearance and a strange elephant animal turn had the call. It might be comes along and grabs the show right general aint lost an ounce. I fought a troupe of educated Potomac shad or away from him. an educated ape or a city-broke Gile monster or a talking horse or what it, neither. I gathers as much from

here fodder-emporium is named Mc- That's all she wants. She takes it, and Guire, and when I tells him I'm there she leaves us and goes on back to the to settle Emily's account in full, he stable. carries on as though entirely ove: "But, as the feller says, it practicome by joyfulness-not that he's got cally ruined the entire day for them any grudge against Emily, understand berefts. I lost their patronage right but for other good and abundant suf- there-and them a nice family, too. A plain old temper when it afflicts a an idea in my system that might ficiencies. He states that so far as lot of the friends and relatives also re-Emily's personal conduct is concerned, sented it; they were telling me so all it would take if it should seize on a during her enforced sojourn in his the way back from the cemetery. midst, she's always deported herself There ain't no real harm in Emily, immune. Give her a ton of hay and might go ahead and make an announcelike a perfect lady. But she takes up and I've got powerfully attached to one sack of peanuts a day, and she's ment that following the Saturday matprostration from overexertions incurred come down all organized financially to she's addicted to nightmares. She best wishes, and so has she.' these," I said, "until you get through." gets to dreaming that a mouse nearly "So we settles up the account to date, stuck up. an inch and a half long is after her- which the same makes quite a nick all bulls is terrible afraid, you know, in the bank-roll, and then we goes back do her turn, she just goes ambling on of the bowl containing the olives and that some day a mouse is going to to the rear of the stable where Emily behind Windy and cuts up more didoes For this, you should know, was come along and eat 'em-and when is quartered, and she falls on Windy's than any trick-mule that ever lived. she has them kind of delusions, she neck, mighty nigh dislocating it, and She smokes a pipe, and she toots on cries out in her sleep and tosses he introduces me to Emily, and we a brass horn, and of box-stalls or something trivial like and she follows us along just as gen- with him and so forth and so on, for that. Then, right on top of them per the as a kitten to them freight-yards 15 minutes, winding up by waving the ty annoyances, McGuire some days over on Tenth Avenue where her fu- Amurikin flag over her head. But al. previous has made the mistake of feed- ture travelling home is waiting for her. this time she's keeping one eye on me,

by then, she just pulls up her leg hob-ble by the roots and drops in on me to find out what's the meaning of the

"'She ain't never rough nor overbearing, but it interferes with trade for me to be sitting here in my office fications of a furniture-car had its den the front half of the largest East drawbacks. She was liable to lean up Indian elephant in the world shoves close to Emily when she was in one of sounds. I've lost two or three custopeppery sauce which stood on my side her tomboy moods. I've known her to mers that way.' he says. 'They get nudge a friend with one of her front right up and go away sudden," he says, 'and they don't never come back no more, not even for their hats and um-

brellas. They send for 'em. "'That ain't the worst of it,' he says. 'Yesterday,' he says, 'I rented out my whole string of coaches and teams for a burial turnout over here on McDouwl street. Being as it's a big occasion, Naturally with a job like that on my hands, I don't think about Emily at all; my mind's all occupied up with making as a rule, concerns itself only with lage, just naturally eating her old Inaltering such words and such expresdia-rubber head off. Windy, having the cortege is just leaving the late resithe affair pass off in a tasty and pleasthe cortege is just leaving the late residence of the remainders, when around the corner comes bulging Emily, followed at a suitable distance by eight or nine thousand of the populace. She's missed me; and now, by heck, she's

found me.

recognition, wheels, herself around and then falls in alongside the front back and gets ready to accompany us, all the time poking her snout over at me and uttering plaintive remarks in East Indian to me. Gents,' he says, 'you can see for yourselves, a thing like that occurring right at the beginning of a "The notion don't sound like such a funeral procession, is calculated to dis-

"'Emily gives a loud, glad snort of

"'The bereaved family don't care for not. In our case 'twas Emily, the bull. the remarks they're making out of "First thing, we goes down to the the windows of the coach. But Emily livery-stable where Emily is spending just won't take a hint. She sticks the Indian summer and consuming along until I stops the procession and half her weight in dry provender ev- goes in a Italian fruitstore on the next ery 24 hours. The proprietor of this block and buys her a bag of peanuts.

ing Emily peanuts, which peanuts, as It's a box-car, with one end rigged up where I'm standing in the wings with he then finds out, is her favorite tid- with bunks as a boudoir for me and a sack of peanuts in my pocket wait-

"There's some scenery in her way, and some furniture and props, but she don't trouble to go round em.

a private state-room for Emily. we're just the same as one big happy marks to me in her native language. family, as we goes a jauntily touring It aint long until I can make out evfrom place to place.

means week stands and no hard derstand it when spoke by a native. jumps. Emily's a hit, a knock-out and a riot wherever she appears. She goes along just beautiful. Then we knows it too, but success don't go to strikes a town out in Illinois where her head, and she don't never get no business aint what it used to be, if inattacks of this here complaint which deed it ever was. Along about the midthey calls temper'ment. I always fig- dle of the week the young feller that's gered out that temper'ment, when a doing the press-work for the house grand wopra singster has it, is just comes to me and asks me if I ain't got bricklayer. I don't know what form make a good press-stunt. bull, but Emily appears to be absolutely and I suggests to him that maybe ne

around and maybe knocks down a cou- shakes hands together-I mean trunks while Windy pretends to eat, and ple of steel beams or busts in a row -and then Windy unshackkles her. stands on her head, and plays baseball Windy, and the rest of it fitted out as ing for her to come off. Every time

she works over toward my side of the little one, it's some considerable rush. "From that time on, for quite a spell, stage, she makes little hoydenish re- Here they come up that runway-tiny erything she says. I've been pedding parents, guardians or nurses, and tiny lace. In fact, I should say the sur "We're playin' the Big Time, which the bull too long not to be able to un-

"There's an inspiration comes to me

an awful lot of room, and one of the her, but taking one thing with anoth just as placid as a great gross of guinea inee, Emily the Pluperfect, Ponderous, in packing hay to her, and it seems take her out of pawn. You have my stage-hands and even sometimes with Simla County, India, will hold a recenthe actors, thus proving that she aint tion on the stage to meet her little friends, each and every one of whom peanuts.

"'That listens all right." "'Providing she likes 'em?' I says 'Son,' I says, 'if that bull ever has to take the cure for the drug-habit, it'll be on account of peanuts. If you don't think the likes peanuts, a sim will win you a trip to the Holy Lands,' I says. 'Why, I says, 'Emily's middle name is Peanuts. Offhand,' I says, 'I don't know precisely how many peanuts there are,' I says, 'because if I ever heard the exact figures, I've forgot 'em, but I'd like to lay you a little eight to five that Emily can chamber all the peanuts in the world and then set down right where she happens to be, to wait for next year's crop to come onto the market. That's how much she cares for peanuts,' I says.

about Emily's peanut reception. next day, which is Friday, the announcement is in both the papers. Satto the show-shop for the matinee, one amongst bulls. glance around the corner from stage entrance proves to me that our ing out to be a success. The street in 'em out; and there's a long line, mainiv coach Emily along a little. house through the peephole in the curtain, and the place is already jam full. world's record for peanuts.' If there's one kid out there, there's a a Georgia goober-king's plantation.

and she's weaving to and fro on her legs and watering at the mouth until she just naturally can't control her own riparian rights. She's done smelt that smell too. "'Honey gal,' I says to her, "it shore

looks to me like you're due to get your fullupances of the succulential ground-pea of the Sunny Southland this

day.'
"She's so grateful she tries to kiss me, but I ducks. All through her turn she dribbles from the chin like a defective fire-hydrant, and I can tell that she aint got her mind on her business. She's too busy thinking about peanuts. When she's got through and taken her bows, the manager leaves the curtain up and Emily steps back behind a rope that a couple of the hanls stretches acrosst the stage, with me standing on one side of her and Windy on the other and then a couple more hands shoves a wooden runway acrosst the orchestra rail down into one of the side aisles and then the house-manager invites Emily's young friends to march up the runway and acrosst over from left to right, handing out their free-

will offerings to her as they pass. "During this pleasant scene, as the manager explains, Emily's dauntless owner, the world-famous Professor Zondavesta Jordan, meaning Windy, will lecture on the size, dimensions, habits and quaint peculiarities of this wondrous creature. That last part suits Windy right down to the ground, him being, as I told you before, the kind of party who's never so happy as when he's started his mouth and gone away

and left it running.
"For maybe a half a minute after the house-manager finishes his little spiel, the kids sort of hang back. Then the rush starts; and take it from me,

tots in blue, and tiny tots in red, and tiny tots in white; tiny tots with their tots without none; tiny tots that are beginning to outgrow the tiny tottering stage, and other varieties of tiny tots cent size or ten-cent size, but mostly five-cent size. As Emily sees 'em com- all them peanut-roasters standing in ing, she smiles until she looks in the face like one of these here old-fashioned red-brick Colonial fireplaces, with an overgrown black Christmas stocking hanging down from the center of the

"Up comes the first and foremost of to me by her actions that Emily the tiny tots. The Santy Claus stock- gards the sight as a part of a general ing reaches out and annexes the freewill offering. There's a faint crunching when she already has more peants hands is now on the verge of nervous er, I ain't regrettin' none that you've pigs. Behind the scenes she never Pachydermical Performer, direct from sound; that there sack of peanuts has makes no trouble, but chums with the the court of the reigning Roger of went to the bourne from out which no sonal use. She reaches out for peanut, up until that time, has ever first peanut-machine in the row, cur been known to return; and Emily is her trunk around it and slams smiling benevolently and reaching out against a brick wall so hard that "When the time comes for Emily to will be expected to bring her a bag of for the next sack. And behind the immediately begins to look something second kid is the third kid, and behind like a flivver car which has been in says the the third kid, still more kids, and as lad, 'but providing she likes peanuts. far as the human eye can reach, there ain't nothing on the horizon of that ment from a careless owner. With the show-shop but just kids-kids and pea-

> "It certainly was a beauteous spectacle to behold so many of the dear little ones advancing up that runway drums all over that part of the fair with peanuts. To myself, I says: '1 guess I'm a bad little suggester, eh, city. what? Here's Emily getting all this free provender and Windy talking his fool head off and the house getting all this advertising and none of us out

a cent for any part of it.' In about ten minutes, though, I'm struck by the fact that Emily's original outburst of enthusiasm appears slightly on the wane. It seems to me she ain't reaching out for the free-will offerings "Well, that convinces him, and he with quite so much eagersomeness as hurries off to write his little piece she was displaying a spell bacfl. Also The I takes notice that the wrinkles in her tum-tum are filling out so that to the end that's furthest away from she's beginning to lose some of that urday after lunch when I strolls round deflated or punctured look so common

"Still, I don't have no apprehensions, but thinks to myself that any bull little social function is certainly start- which can eat half a ton of hay for breakfast certainly is competent to front is lined on both sides with dages take in a couple of wagon-loads of peawith peanut-stands, selling peanuts to nuts for five-o'clock tea. Even at that the population as fast as they can pass I figgers that it wont do any harm to "'Go to it, baby mine,' I says to her. and takes a flash at the front of the 'You ain't hardly started. Here's a chance,' I says, 'to establish a new

thousand, and every tiny tot has got for a minute or so, but something seems a sack of peanuts clutched in his or to keep on warning me that her heart her chubby fist, as the case may be ain't in the work to the extent it has And say, listen: there's a smell in the been. Windy don't see nothing but of air like a prairie fire running through the way, he being congenially engaged in shooting off his face, but I'm more "I goes to where Emily is hitched, or less concerned by certain mighty

significant facts. For one thing, Emily ain't eatin' sacks and all any more she's emptying the peanuts out and throwing the paper bags aside. Like wise her work ain't clean and smooth like it was, Her underlip is swinging down, and she's beginning to drog loose goobers off the lower end of it and her low but intelligent forehead is all furrowed up as if with deep thought.

"Observing all of which, I says to myself, I says: 'If ever Emily should start to cramp, the world's cramping record is also in a fair way to the busted this afternoon. I certainly do hope, I says, 'that Emily don't go and get overextended.'

'You see, I'm trusting for the best because I realizes that it wouldn't do to call off the reception right in the middle of it on account of the disap pointment amongst the tiny tots that ain' passed in review yet and the gen eral ill-feeling that's sure to follow

"I should say about two hundred tiny tots have gone by, with maybe five hundred more still in line waiting their turn, when there halts in front of Emily a fancy-dressed tiny tot which he must've been the favorite tiny to of the richest man in town, because he's holding in his hands a bag of peanuts fully a foot deep. It couldn't of cost a cent less'n half a dollar, that bag. Emily reaches for the contribution, fondles it for a second or two and starts to upsend it down her throat and then with a low, sad, hopeless cry she drops it on the stage and sort of shrugs her front legs forward and stands there with her head bent and her ears twitching same as if she's list. ening for something that's still a long ways off but coming closer fast. And at that precise instant I sees the first cramp start from behind her righthand shoulderblade and begin to work south. Say, it was just like being present at the birth of an earthquake. "Moving slow and deliberate. Emily

turns around in her tracks, shivering all over, and then I sees the cramp ripple along until it reaches her cargo hold and strikes inward. It lifts all four of her feet clean off the floor and when she comes down again, she comes down traveling. There's some scenery in her way, and some furniture and props and one thing and another, but she don't trouble to go round 'em. She goes through 'em, as being a more simple and direct way. and a minute later she steps out through the stage entrance into the crowded marts of trade with half of a cottage flat hung around her neck. Me and Windy is trailing along, urging her to be ca'm but keeping at a reasonah safe distance while doing so. Behin us as we comes forth we can hear the voices of many tiny tots upraised in skeered cries. 'Being a Saturday afternoon, the bus

iness section is fairly well crowde with people, and I suppose it's only natural that the unexpected appearance upon the main street of the larges bull in captivity, wearing part of a set of scenery for a collar and making engine in distress, should cause some surprised comment amongst the popu prised comment might of been heard for fully a mile away.

"Emily hesitates as she reaches the

sidewalk, as though she aint decide yet in her own mind just where she double row alongside the curbings both sides of the street. The Italia and Greek gents who owns 'em are n ready departing hence in a hurried manner, but they've left their outfit behind, and right away it's made plat conspiracy to feed her some peanu than what she really requires for pe severe collision and something like tin accordion that's had hard treat for a beginning. Emily starts in to g real rough with them roasters. about three minutes it's raining charcoal and hot peanuts and wooder wheels and metal cranks and sheet-iron

"Having put the enemy's batter out of commission, Emily now swing around and heads back in the opposi plenty of room. I heard afterwar that some citizens went miles out their way in order to give her room Emily's snout is aimed straight up as though she's craving air, and her to is standing straight out behind, sil seconds a painful quiver runs through it from the end that's nearest End her. Windy is hoofing it along about 50 feet back of her, uttering soothing remarks and entreating her to listen b reason, and I'm trailing Windy; b for once Emily don't hearken none t her master's voice.

"Out of the trail of my eye I see right in the middle of the fain change her mind about it and do back flip into a plumber's shop, purtiest you ever seen. I see a pol man dodge out from behind a lamp post as Emily approaches, and read for his gun. I yells to him not shoot, but it's unnecessary advice. I cause he's only chucking his hardwin away so's to lighten him up for a celple of hundred yards of straightaway sprinting. I see Emily make a sid who's in the act of climbing a telegraph



