## What Happens When a Girl Goes Job Hunting in a Strange City?

By CATHARINE

Can a Girl, If Friendless and Alone, With Money Enough For One Week Only, Find a Joband Live On Her Wages?

Stay away from Denver, working girls, or the pork factory will get you, warns Miss Brody, who tells gory story of trimmed pig tails and fingers—Conversation of girl workers not suitable for daily press-"Keeping up" strenuous task.

DENVER.

must-but stay away from [Monver! If you scorn this earnest advice warn you that pork trimming will get you if you don't watch out.

They call it pork trimming at Armour's. As a matter of fact, you kidney skins, mest and ham and your fingers. One girl even stuck a knife into her stomsch by accident-lt's very simple. One thing and one thing only, you get no chance to trim

A faint and sickening fat perfume of the stockyards still lingers about nork trimmer-nails dull and brittle and knife scratched, two deep gouged cuts on the little flager of the left hand, which holds the meat, one cut bese of the right thumb-bleeding outs these are. Of course, I have I give Armour's the benefit of the were not exceptional. Most of the girls at one time or another wore

Denver, which is as hard a city sippl, as every wrecked one's childish illusions about the open handed and bearted West, had no use for me at al. Its hotels had all the help they one single factory needing not one

single giri? Quite so. Work scarce in Denver.

There were at least two dozen girls and women floating in and out of the room exclaiming the scarcity of work and walking away with a promise to "let you know" The employment manager did not even urge domestic service on me,

association of cattle and Denver stirred. I bearded the car. Thus. in far. an off moment, did the stockyards

I must say that it was not altoheavy work, strangely enough, alyards, do not advertise for nelp.

midst of the stockyhrds odor and and felt my way along an iron door I found the employment room at Swift's locked. They bired-did the stockyards—at 7 o'clock in morning. No one could tell me whether girls were needed or not But the watchman adequately sum med up for me the feminine employ

ment situation in Denver. fots of girls, 50 or 60!"

At Armour's however, the big. blond "hiring boss" looked away from me and thought, and I could see him weakening. All he would admit was that they did all the hir ing at ? o'clock in the morning, and if there was anything open at o'clock sext morning, they would "take care of me."

Off to the slockyards,

It was easy to find the stockyards car the next morning-even in that bundles under their arms: After the long, freezing ride past miles of the low, red brick bungalows that distinguish Denver, we tumbled our at the stockyards, shook ourselves and began to climb the viaduct, a long, vertiginous bridge over the cattle pens.

It was white with snow which had fallen during the night. Snow There was a low continuous groan in the shadowy world, all opinion or conver-

white show and gray-black sky. It Go West, young woman-if you was the painful groan of the awak ening cattle in the pent-I knew just how they felt. Dark, bovine shadows, they awayed mournfully back and forth, but at least a man with a wagon load of ha, was moving among them, distributing their them. Nothing ever happens to other basket. The more expert girls the mile of planks high above the the routine, and work again. pers, was what would happen if I

out a slip classifyin, me as a pork on her sars along to show me the

country. I first suspected it when bleeding bandages or showed the at Saint Louis, I looked upon the muddy and not specially wide Missis-

was almost convinced when

an earthly industrial institution.

"Oh, yes," he said, "we employ Through, we cast newspapers, fruit

moniously on the floor. Trimming pork and fingers.

Armour's, trimming pork mostlyand fingers—and also packing sausages. I had expected Polish girls, of course, in spite of the fact lonce in a while some girl would that Denver has not a large foreign | sharpen it for me on her steel. Other population! Sure enough, the Pollsh

be sure to keep and preserve Poland." If they don't they ought to Never has there been a people who seem to be so ready and so able

an experience knocking some sort of tails upright, we sliced the fat from

I didn't breathe until 1 stood be fore the blond hiring boss, who say paper meditating on the murders of sat strangely and homesickly upon Denver. He had weakened tremen | their stolid faces. Coats of toodoubly during the night, for he filled trimmer and sent a short, fat Polish which expressed the impartial bostilgirl with a very rouged coarse face and heavy door knobs of black hair

Then and there I came to the con-

Dawn of disillusion.

I was beset by doubt when, on the jaundiced eye, looked neither bigger nor better than most mountains. 1 | for?' brought up on The Virginian and Owen Wister in general, got my Great Divide. Now I know it is so

of cold and casual brutality, fully expecting never to be able to eat don't know how the Chicago stock laugh." yards were in Upton Sinciair's time The Denver branch of Armour & Co is not disguising. The atmosphere has been refined long past coarse brutality into prossic "driving," merely more pronounced than any other factory I have worked in so

The motto is "You gotts keep up' -keep up with the pieces of pork. keep up with the kidneys, keep up with the talls, which drop on to the table before you from funnel ar rangements in the ceiling. If you can't keep up, out you go. But if you cut your finger, Stim, the foreman, keeps bandages in his coat pocket to hind it up with-free bandage--one of the few things that are free in the stockyards. And if you should, accidentally, happen to than \$2.50. Before I did a single After I had climbed an earth bank stick a knife in your stomach, a stroke of work, therefore, it would and some wooden bridges in the nurse will blad it up-free-and a have cost me at least \$5 to get out Ob, no, it's not a jungle—it's just

> dressing room, a long room opening stockyards air, out of the lavatory. Its wall and wooden floor had never known what it was to be white. One long oil clothed table crossed the room. On two long, backless benches on either side we sat when we are our hinch beelings, bits of sandwiches uncere-

to accommodate themselves to brutally hard work and come forth tougher and huskier, more nucom plaining-more unconceiving, rather, of any other sort of world.

Every time I work with Polish trimmed the scraps of meat from girls their special characteristics the fat, slung the fat into a truck bestrike fresh wonder. Nothing ever hind us and threw the meat into a happens to them in the sense of barrel at our fact, and standing the

ISS Brody, an Able and Experienced Reporter, Started Out With \$10 in Her Purse, With a Frock That Cost \$6, and With a Small Handbag as Her Only Luggage-She Visited Cities, With One Exception, Strange to Her-The Comedy and the Tragedy, the Lesson and the Promise to Her Experiences are Vividly and Enlighteningly Told in This Series of Articles

from Polish girls so, far, yet they were immediately and unmistakably Polish. Even their American makeup white powder, thicknesses of too-red rouge, over-black mascara about eyes

Girle rough and unfriendly. There was none of the unhesitating

friendliness of the American gir worker. A timid smile here net no answering smile of encouragement. It a candle light in the overpowering dark. Among their own social groups the girls were gay enough, ready to be brutally friendly or brutally bostile at a second's notice. "You're damn right." "Don't get hard with "You're a blank-blank-blank" or "You blank, whaddye take me

One tall blonds girl, with a bad complexion and frizzled hair, was relast night, and at which her partners Behold, I stood in the stockyards, had been so drunk that they stepped | didn't seem to care much one way the jungle, on the alert for visions all over her.

stay on his feet sure is the raspher ion about Denver. "It's the raspher meat again, making the great sacridries," she remarked disgustedly, "My I ries. No work here," and lowering fice in the interests of humanity. I man was so drunk, though, I hadds her voice, "There's an awful lot of

Over their clothes the girls put on soiled gingham aprona and over these brown butcher aprons. All varieties of caps, the worse for wear, agt on several gallons of whitewash, but it their heads. I saw no regulations about caps or aprons and nothing was suid to me. It was either an un written law or else the girls wore the caps and aprons for the protection of their own clothes and hair, into which bits of fat were very likely to

Presently I found I had no knife. Although the knife is the necessary tool for the work. Armour's did not supply it. The girls had to buy their own down in the Retail, paying cash. They also had to buy their own steels. The knives cost 50 cents, the girls told me, the steels, \$1. The browr aprons cost \$1. It was impossible to buy an apron dress for less manent padge—so that I was as like-The Polish girl took me into the ly as not to be throwing my \$5 to the

Fellowship of labor.

When it isn't a point of contention, the desire and need to work seems always to form some sort of tie between human beings. That is one of the things that make factory work bearable. I had no apron. Moily, a hard, pretty little Polish girl. lent me one. Molly's attitude toward me was the height of abstract indifference-but I needed the work and I had no apron. So Molly lept me one. Josie found me a knife, Every wise, they disregarded me.

girls, a few Hungarian girls and At 7.20 o'clock we walked it a body Germans had found their way here | down freezing black balls, clanked In their prayers of all stockholders iron doors after us, into a low, dark in industries where the work is room. There were ome windows of peculiarly hard and coarse there a dirty rough opaque glass letting must be a special clause remember in light, but the general effect wathe car for which a crowd of men ing Poland. When they get down black ceiling, black with Iron ruft on their knees at night they say: ers and weights, wooden floor black. "Please God, bless mother, father. With five other girls I stood before sister and little brother, and please a scrubbed wooden table. There was a larger wooden table at the

back of the room, around which stood another group of girls. From funnel arrangements in the low celling pieces of cold, pink pork and pigialis poured down on us. as well as large fat sides o pork. We sharpened out knives and

nurse did." Kate said, "if I knew ! she did, I'd just slap her face, I'd the line where each was ready to cut her Eizzards out." The nurse was verbally torn to pieces till Kansas, so-called because he came from Kansas.

through and threw a

Daver at a girl,

trimmings. The rest of us got \$18.29 week straight. Straight, indeed sweat of our brows-it was too cold to sweat-then by the blood of our fingers. Slim, the dark, slim young foreman, saw to this gently but in-

My work was o trim the pleces and the tails. Josie taught me how She worked next to me trimming and later she was sent to help me trim kidneys. For two solid hours we wurked at kidneys and never ex-However, I manage, to pick up an acquaintance with Jusie. She was a platforms and machinery that you went our against the blankness like tril, plain, weary-Willy tooking sort could hardly see an inch of the of girl, Polish, of course, and had been here two months. She was end of the room, a row of inverted from "back East" and by degrees her family had moved across coun try, at last pitching their tents here. "I was a waitress," said Josie. "I worked in a perfume factory. Did

> jever work in a perfume factory? Don't. The smell's worse than here Oh, I worked in all the factories there is, I guess. When you worked in so many it's hard to remember." thought. Dirty? Yes, perhaps. She

or the other-just another kind of "A man that can't get drunk and factory. She had one vigorous only tough joints here in Denver. It's not safe to go out in the street at night' T' tails wiggled it was very cold The smell was cold and gruesome but, ordinarily sensitive about smell I couldn" think or that for the cold I began to congeal, right hand freez freezing to the ground. At 11 o'clock

tined for a frozen image of Trimmer Trimming Tails at Arm our's for future generations to gape at. And I bled—I bled like a stuck pig from half a dozen cuts. No one seemed to thin'this unusual: interesting perhaps, "Whaddye do! Had a wrick?" but not unusual. followed the custom of the country worked on and 'led on.

Slim, the foreman, left me alone that first day in Armour's plant in Denver. But he was watching Butchery-looking men in white coats strolled in occasionally-and watch complexion like pink pork. Katel had been working here slx years She was 21 years old. I gaped Oh, she hadn't been working here steadily, she said proudly. She had worked three years, quit to gel married, stayed away a year, and had

come back three more years, It was strange how the conversation adapted itself to the nature of paper destined for the home, is un printable. Kate and Eleanor had said something about another girl which she resented. "You were drunk when you said it!" she yelled

"Don't get hard with me," retorted Kate. 'Mebbe we wus stewed when we said it. but we wasn't drunk,' At this moment the faultor passed Everybody cried out fircely, "Spitch Spitch blank-blank-blank, crucify him. It seemed that, in a merry little party had thrown water on the floor of the dressing room had upset benches and strewn paper back to the hiring boss and the innitor was suspected. He vowed be hadn't told.

was placid all through lunch, for which we had half an hour We bought coffee in a room of the usual earth colored walls and floor, very cold, with a few dirty planks at the farther end serving as tables for the men. The food was not particularly "I bet he didn't. I bet that bl-bl bt necessary talk. What camaraderie

get hard and cut the other's heart

breakfast. I had bad none, and with them except an unshakable routine trimmed the meat from the large after they had get to the depths of None of them had worked anywhere breakfastless morbidity, all I could of work, the first work they are put sides of pork on a piecework basis, unprintability, they resorted to their else, in some way a conversation was think of to amuse myself, walking to, marriage, which is also a part of 58 cents for a hundred pounds of native tongue and said it in Polish. born, none of them speaking to me At cleven, I was sent upstairs in directly, but through Josie. Rose and "laid off," Josie told me. "They said table. officially, we thawed out for a few Where back East? Either ignorance Josie. But I knew what it was Rose minutes in the restroom and ate part for caution closed Rose's mouth-not

> trimming kidneys, and began to find did she brighten at the mention of out what it meant to "keep up." This room was also dark, very from New Jersey in their car. oumhered by black from rods, rails, ver?" the first girl from the sausage belts and whatnot that it looked department asked Josia, referring to made of Iron. The floor was of red ma.

stone, damp and slippery, with pools "She says it's the raspberries." which send perpetual streams of water over vats, had leaked. Une part was so filled with trucks, vats. stone floor. On a platform at that pipes sent out long, individual alim streams of water, all quivering gracefully in unison into the vat.

Work before dripping table.

platform before a table which be garian girl, also a newcomer-she fore long dripped with the gore of had been there only five monthskidneys and my fingers. Back of me from a platform came the sound "Tired tonight?" I asked Peggy. of funning water. Over a vat two | "Every night," said Peggy. She was The work was alt right, she men were skinning some organ of an seventeen and this was her first job animal—possibly the stomach. Un der running water, they attached it to a peg, sharpened their knives, slit fell late the vat, brushed the skip men were passing long white tubes -rullete or windpipes, I supposethem over the side of the table. A low open door sent a cloud of gray steam up the misle, occasion ing around the knife; left freezing opened. Black men passed through the steam, men passed before my I had about decided that I was designated sides of pork and cakes of ice hers. Then, as etiquette demanded. Pork A big vat of fat stood below me and through another low funnel ardown every once in a while and oozed into the vat. Machinery mutmured hoarsely, the trucks rattled and at the other end of the room Molly and some more of the girls were standing before wooden tables and trimming the fat from fresh

I worked alone at kidney trimming. and, fat though they were and slippery as eels. I was contented enough I worked easily and placidly, thinkput me on this and I kept up. 81im too warned me particularly. "You gotta keep up, little girl. These are

Molly helped me for a while had been born and reared in a to live with her married sister here three months ago. I hardly dared to ask her how she liked the work. I had asked Kate and received a wide stare of blank amazement and horror. Kate giggled when she answered without any expression that she liked it. But Molly was different -Molly said "yes," positively "Dirty? I don't think it's dirty Some girls don't like it-they come here and quit-but I like it."

Sandwiches cost a dime. In spite of all warnings, I persisted in being placid about the kidneys.

inexpensive, sandwiches, ten cents. and then we are it in the rest room, which opened out of the lavatory. We ate separately and without unthere was came dangerously close to

Josle, huddled over the radiator, one, too," and Rose, a new girl, very young and or sallow and dirty looking, faced a row of six girls from the sausage packing | retains to the

The rest was unprintable. And with a record of years of work here. of our lunches. Then I was put to [until I had named a couple of states New Jersey. Yas, they had come

"What does she say about Den-

of water where the inverted pipes, grimaced Josie. "There's no work down the tails. At all of us: "Come

The girl from the sausage depart ment grimaced tee. in agreement. I went back to the kidneys, still placid and untroubled, even when Josle was sent to belp me-another warning from Slim. I was untrou blad when at 4 o'clock I staggered into a agushine which I had forgotten existed, very atiff and with bands that felt as if they were bent forever Molly and Persy, a tipy, dainty, Hunand I walked the viaduct together

Molly mosts "her steady." After I had lent Molly a pentry, she agreed to ride back on the street car with me. We had crossed the and flung it back from them into an i viaduct half way, when she announcother truck. Back of them, other ed. "I guess I'm going to meet some one I know." Two boye, one dark and one blonde, were leanging against through their hands and hanging the wooden rail. We walked on shead, pretending we did not know of their existence, until we had almost passed them.

"Where you going!" sang out the

Molly responded accordingly. He we walked on ahead. Molly capecially with her eyes straight before her, though where the talls of them might have been I cannot say, and carried on a conversation over our "You goin' to be home tomorrow

right, Molly?" said the blonde boy, Molly drew back, not coyly, but with some show of feeling. morrow aight. I don't know. You see Jim said he'd come around to

take Sis and me to a show." wax and not at all of the miniature side. The dark boy straggled behind impressed by it. Certainly not the mountain of kidneys that flapped be In this way, Molly, keeping her eyes fore me till Molly rushed up "You shead in spite of the talk, we reach gotta keep up," said Molly. "They ed the car. Molly was an economi cally independent woman. Her eight cents carfare she carried in her hand and was about to fling it in the box. whils I. mure cautious, waited 'n see what would happen. Bill, the blonde boy, prevented her,

"You gonne pay my fare?" said Molly with genuine surprise. Not only did Bill pay her fare, but he paid mine and that of his friend While he was paying it we walked ahead and took seats together in the car, i suggested that nerhap, Molly might like to sit with Hill.

"Oh, no," said Molly, "I wouldn't want them to alt with me. You stay Bill and his friend sat in front of

"Why weren't you workin' toda; Bill?" asked Molly, "Too lasy." But the tone was the least bit dreary. "Did you quit, Bill?"

us and talked over their shoulders

"Yes," still lower from Bill, "I go: isid off." he added, bastily; "the ma chinery broke down-honest-they won't begin again for a long time now. Go to a show with me tonight Molly ?"

"All right," said Molly, briskly. We passed a large white stucco bungalow at this point, and some expression came into holly's hard little face. "Oli, look at that house, I'm going to live in that house-just that

"Then I'm going to live in one just like it," said the salient Bill. His

Molly mentioned the stockyards show when lots of Luple would came through to see us work "Rin we come. Molly?" eagerly from Bill. "We'll tip the guide a dol

iar to let us stay and we'll hang around and watch you work. Kin

"Oh, well, I don't care," said

Here Bill's friend got off. He didn't may good bye, just waiked off. After a bit Hill got off He said to koud bye either, merely shuffled off the car, but Molly looked through the window and made a faint motion with her hand. Then she turned to pick the fat said to me pliyin

"That blend teller," said Mollie, horror for years to come. My ba "he's the gay I run with. He's my steady!"

Next day was pay day, and permoney being hand d out to us that releb nev. dads erom mild ebem mined to "you gotte keep up." Rose, the girl from New ersey, had been had told me hersel that she war alow-aha hadn't kept up. For some reason, faire pride undoubtedly. determined that Slim should not fire me," I would "keep ur."

Pay averages \$17 to \$18. glim felt that way about it too.

He was at me every minute, showing me how to hold the knife and hold on now, Peggy, step on it; you haven't done anything yet." Peggy tightened her lips and gripped her knife. After three hours, when the trimmings were weighed, Peggy had turned out 261 pounds, more than the two other girls. The fastest hands these could turn out 700 pounds s day, at 58 cents per 100 pounds, or make about \$4 a day. When they got their pay envelopes the girls compared wages. Most of them worked piece work and the average wage was from \$17 to \$18 The highest wage was \$21-odd dollars. Many of the girls had made \$15 and compartively few were down to the minimum of \$13.20.

Asain he was sent up to trim kidpeys and again Slim warned me: "You gotto keep up." And this time, with Rose's fate in front of me, with fear and determination. I began to "keep up."

I have always disliked kidneys. Maybe the kidneys knew it. What had to do was pick up the wet kidney, set it down with firmness. slice off the fat, take off the caul like skin and fling it into a truck beside me.

I saw, thought, heard nothing but kidneys. And every time the mountain in front of me began to waver. and every time I began to feel like l shipwrecked mariner in sight of hand, the pipe would give the warning crackle, which meant more kidneys coming and they would flap down, warm and dripping, and the mountain in front of me would hold up its head once more.

Kidney trimming last thought.

What I did to the kidneys course didn't worry me. I was go ing to "keep up." Do you think kid- to carry with me. And my room ney trimming doesn't require the utmost concentration of mind? I begged me to remain. had to actually pick up my mind and throw it away. Every time a vestige The blonds boy here picked up of a thought entered my head i then the warning rattle. I became

a kidney maniac. I became he ioni when I heard that rattle didn't feel my feet-they were m ing to the ground-or my ha they were so still I could no lot feel the stiffness. Yet I be keaping up.

One of the men in white coals inspector, I suppose, came up to 1 "How long have you been work here?" he asked. I suppose I m have remembered something couldn't hear myself. Without ing anything, he managed to cor something of the inward shake or bead with which he surveyed me

"I'll bet you see kidneys tonig one of the men who came back See kidneys tonight! My dream bled; they bled over the kides Kidneys and I, we bled gently gether. I prayed for guidance. keep up. Did the other girls airkeep up -- even when they were no Yes, said my friend of the Generally, at the end of the ( there were no kidneys left or

and nerved myself for Bitm's a missal. There was a huge, as t mense quantity of kidneys left in t vat. And still, mechanically my zers kept up. All the girls on from their various tasks to help a eert by Slim, I suppose. Slim, hi self came over. He said nothing sneaked by him on my way to t

dressing room. Wounded girl sticks to work It was just my luck. A girl w had started that morning had am the knife into her stomach beta lunch. She poluted out the fact the she was bleeding, but every or thought she was joking. So, conti ering, too, I suppose, that it we on bleeding and working, And was not until nearly 4 o'clock o quitting time, that the wound w

She was lying stolidly on the dree ng room\_table. She took it wi amazing fortifude. Her wound dre ed she walked out and late a wa ing car and enjoyed a free ride hom But in the general excitement, Bil must have forgotten to fire me. no other way can all explain it hadn't kept up. I felt it on my co science as I speaked out and walk away from there very rapidly

Many things 1 feft, I felt, for stance, why the movies had be given the most enthusiastic discu slop among us, why the most volt tuous and vivid stars with the me amazing clothes were the admir ones. I wanted to look at all w and extravagant things, interio that had cost a million dolla palms, champagne parties, consertories. Fie for self-improvement! couldn't read a note in a newspap

let alone a page in a book. I never went back to Armout's.

hope I never have to. The farther west I go, the cas It becomes to live at the Y. W. re dences-and, strangely enough, t most expensive. 1 paid \$9 10-t ten cents for the use of the laund -in Denver to share a room with a other girl. This, however, gave three meals a day, a special arrang ment for early breakfast, and lunmate seized upon me with joy a

From Denver Miss Brody went

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