Table Talk, 1945

3 to 6 people, chairs close, you sitting. 15 to 20 minutes, one story. Nobody is asked for a story; a look or a word is plenty.

Ready — The big nylons card. A folded pair of stockings. TV off, or music low. Hub in your pocket.

0 to 2 — **Sit down first**

Do — Greet each person by name. Turn the card so each one sees it. Say nothing for a moment.

2 to 5 — **Thousands in line for nylons** Life & Arts, page 4

Say — *"The nylon stocking is back from the war."* Slowly, twice, with the card held still.

5 to 12 — **One either-or at a time**

Starters — Dressed up for church or for a dance: which?

Stockings with a seam, or without?

A line around the block for stockings: stand in it, or go home?

Nylon or silk?

Then — Wait ten seconds. Say the answer back, *"A dance,"* and nothing more. If a story starts, say *"Tell me more,"* and let it run.

12 to 17 — **The stockings go round**

Hand out — The folded pair, to the person beside you. Let it pass hand to hand at its own speed.

Facts — The paper says the first nylons cost a little over a dollar a pair.

During the war nylon went into parachutes.

Over for the close.

17 to 20 The close

Say	Thank each person by name. Say when you'll be back with the paper.
Leave	The card where people can see it. Take the stockings with you. Put the music back on.

If it goes another way

No answer. That's fine. Read the line again, or hold the card and sit. Fifteen minutes is a full session.

One person answers everything. Turn the card toward someone else and wait.

A lifted hand, a look away, a turned chair. Put the card down and say nothing about it. Passing the paper, holding the picture and listening are all taking part.

A sad turn. Stay beside them. Don't ask more. Pass the stockings on.

Someone joins late. Turn the card toward them and read the line once more.

An answer that doesn't match the paper. Let it stand. **Nobody is corrected.**

The surrender and Jackie Robinson stay out of this room. Nylons only.

Afterward, in the hub. Nothing during. Once you've left the circle: who was there, by name; who answered with a word, a look or a hand; and any words worth keeping, as they said them.