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Are You Listening, God?

ENID HUMPHREYS

WE WERE a typical feminine audience of the Depression Era. We talked in shrill voices, stirred nervously in our seats, and moved our hands incessantly while we waited for the lecturer of the afternoon to be introduced. We took boredom for granted. "Why did I come?" I asked myself. "I don't believe that I can endure just sitting here two hours watching a woman play around with cold messy clay. She certainly will not be the answer to my prayers because God has not listened to them for months."

The sculptress arose then, and accepted our doubtful applause graciously. She explained that she would lecture as she modeled a clay bust of our president. I cannot pretend to recall what our lecturer said; it was the movements of her hands which fascinated me. A soothing sensation began to flow through my body as I watched the contours of Elaine's face forming beneath those skilled hands. Soon I began to feel the audience relaxing with me. A calm atmosphere had descended on that room in less than ten minutes' time. Restfulness was there. What had happened to us? We all felt it; we talked about it for days afterwards. There were those of us who believed that the sculptress' voice had been able to achieve the soothing effect, while others thought that it was the movements of her hands. I belonged in the latter group, and so strong was my conviction that I determined to see for myself.

I have not an ounce of artistic ability, but I got myself some clay that winter and went to work. My results were monstrosities, but just the feel of the clay in my hands was pleasant. Every time I found myself getting bitter at the world and its uncertain times, out came

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