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# Esther "Pop" Quiz #0555: "On Lead Against 4S Interpreting Partner's Defensive 'Signal' and Sending a Defensive 'Signal' of Your Own"

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen**[1]

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The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" presents ideas presented by Michael Berkowitz in his excellent article, "Lessons Learned: One Meaning", published in the October, 2026 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (p. 50).

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[1] As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

*Dealer:* ***WEST***
*Vul:* ***NONE***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | *NORTH* (***17***)<br>***S:*** *K Q J 7*<br>***H:*** *7 4*<br>***D:*** *K Q J*<br>***C:*** *K Q T 3* | |
| *WEST* (***12***)<br>***S:*** *6 4*<br>***H:*** *A K J 8 5 3 2*<br>***D:*** *A 9 5 4*<br>***C:*** *--* | | *EAST* (***2***)<br>***S:*** *5 3*<br>***H:*** *Q*<br>***D:*** *T 8 7 6*<br>***C:*** *9 7 6 5 4 2* |
| | *SOUTH* (***9***)<br>***S:*** *A T 9 8 2*<br>***H:*** *T 9 6*<br>***D:*** *3 2*<br>***C:*** *A J 8* | |

***Bidding***

| *WEST* | *NORTH* | *EAST* | *SOUTH* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *1**H*** | ***DBL*** | *PASS* | *2**S*** |
| *4**H*** | *4**S*** | *PASS* | *PASS* |
| *PASS* | | | |

*On Trick* ***#1*** *WEST led his Heart Ace thus "promising" the "touching" Heart King and asking Partner EAST to "signal" whether EAST can "win" the* ***3rd*** *Round of Hearts either by ruffing or with the Heart Queen if the NORTH Dummy holds* ***3+*** *Heart cards.*

1. *On Trick* ***#1*** *EAST plays his Heart Queen. What does this tell WEST?*

2. *On Trick* ***#2*** *what card should WEST then lead?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers,** CLICK:
**https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0555_a1.pdf**