

## The Diary of an Engaged Girl

By Phyllis Phillips

As Aunt Cecilia made this startling announcement I got up and threw my arms around her and kissed her breath away, almost—I felt so sorry for her. She patted my hand gratefully and told me that the reason she had told me the story was to make me think carefully before I made a mess of my life, perhaps, as she had done. To her way of thinking there is nothing that can compensate one for the loss of love.

You see Aunt Cecilia was true to her lost lover for she never married nor was she even interested in another man after he disappeared. His name, by the way, is Jeffrey Davenport, and he is now one of the most brilliant engineers that we have in America.

Aunt Cecilia looked positively beautiful as she talked about her Jeffrey and I realized that she is still a young woman—and—and—well, quite young enough to long for him as much as ever, if you know what I mean! To think of what she has missed through her foolishness, that is the tragic part to me. Jeffrey has been all over the world building bridges and things for the government, in China, India, Africa and goodness knows where. Why, that woman could have been seeing those wonderful countries with every wish gratified, for the last twelve years, instead of being the "unhappy" member of our family. And such a dull existence as hers has been. Mother and us to constantly remind her of what she gave up—for of course the dear girl would have had a large family, as she is very maternal—and mother's superior attitude at times, which I now understand perfectly.

How she must have hated her life at times—the sordid details of house-keeping, which mother thrust upon her, and the many lectures about girls who martyrize themselves for ideals, etc. When her poor heart was aching for Jeffrey, for love, and a home of her own where no one could dictate to her. She was made to be adored.

I told Aunt Cecilia that when Jack and I were married she was to come and live with us and she would never be bothered in any way. But she squeezed my hand and shook her head sadly and said it was sweet of me to want her and went on to explain that young couples should be left to themselves the first few years. I don't get her point of view at all, but there's no use to argue.

After a long silence on her part she told me that she had heard that Jeffrey is on his way back to America after his long absence. The very thought made her tremble. Well, after all, dear Aunt Cecilia is only thirty-three. I have just finished reading Balzac's "A Woman of Thirty," and understand older women perfectly now!

I saw some of the paintings done by her when she was in love with and engaged to Jeffrey and then some that she had attempted after the quarrel. It was dismal to notice how her technique had suffered through it all. I was quite sobered for a minute. Jack would be just the same as Jeffrey if I crossed him, I feel sure. Before I left the room, Aunt Cecilia showed me his picture. She kissed it and there were tears in her eyes as she thought of her lost hopes.

I've made her promise to come to tea tomorrow with Jack and me and to fuss up real pretty in honor of the occasion. She is so young and unhappy, dear old girl.

It makes me smile ironically when I think of mother forever referring to Aunt Cecilia as "an old maid." Mothers make such final statements, somehow.

### Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am not exactly asking help or advice. I would like to ask your opinion of the world as it is today. By world, I mean people. Where are the men and women whom we were taught in childhood to hold up as examples, who are square and true blue and faithful? Why is friendship held so valueless and lightly by people nowadays? I am 28 and so my observations are not made from the days of very long ago.

I have always held that to have friends we must first prove ourselves friendly. I love company and fun, hence I have always wanted real friends and have tried to do all in my power to please and bring happiness

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to any one whenever I could. I have given the best of myself over and over again. I have gone more than half way, many times, to make friends. I am always cheerful when among people, as I think maybe they also have troubles of their own. I have been willing to overlook many little thoughtless acts of unkindness from people whom I have shown only kindness and good will.

Am I asking too much of people? It strikes me that the loyal brand of friendship is going out of date. I have been deceived so many times and betrayed by people on whom I would have staked my soul that I have lost faith. I have made up my mind, henceforth to think of my own pleasures first regardless of anyone else. I am only human and it is not human to turn the other cheek everlastingly.

Fortuna. The world has changed so rapidly in the past 25 years that the function of friendship seems to have changed too. People are pulled in all directions and too busy to give as much time to their friends as formerly. Their regard for each other may be just as deep, but the expression less frequent.

You have chosen your friends unwisely since they have proved so faithless to you. Do not hang on to people too tightly. Their numerous activities make a binding friendship a strain and they want to break the close tie. If you go your way and let your

friends go theirs they will enjoy a relationship with you.

Learn to depend upon yourself. Work hard, attend lectures and read. This will keep you interested and make you more interesting. You will find yourself too busy to want to spend much time with any one person.

There is a strong element of respect in friendship. If you let people walk over you they will not care as much for you and will turn their admiration in another direction.

It is pitiful that you have lost your faith in life. Your plan to think of your own happiness first seems to me to be a wise decision. Since you have gone so far in the other direction, a little selfishness will give you balance. There are just as many honorable and loyal people in the world.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am a girl of 16. I go to Sunday school and church and am a school girl. I have a host of friends, both boys and girls. Most of my girl friends go with fellows. I do not care to go, as I think I am almost too young.

All of the fellows seem crazy about me, but when they ask for dates I refuse. Not often do they ask for more than two or three chances. Do you think I am doing wrong by not going? Do you think these fellows will care for me when I am older? Some I think very much of and they are highly respected young men. They all appear to care for me.

PEGGY. At your age you should not go with

boys to any great extent. I think, however, that it would be all right for you to attend church and school parties. Ask the advice of your parents in this matter. If they do not want you to go with boys, wait a year or two. There is no reason why you should not be as popular then as now.

### What's in a Name

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#### EUNICE

Eunice, like Evangeline, is one of the "glad" names in the lexicon and cognomens. Like Evangeline also, it comes from the Greek word meaning well, or happy. Eunice is translated to mean "happy victory."

Because of its significance, the Greek word from which Eunice was derived, was taken over in early times by the Christians, who adored names of happy augury. The names coming from this favorite word are almost beyond enumeration, but curiously, only a few of them have survived to modern times.

Eunice is one of these latter names.

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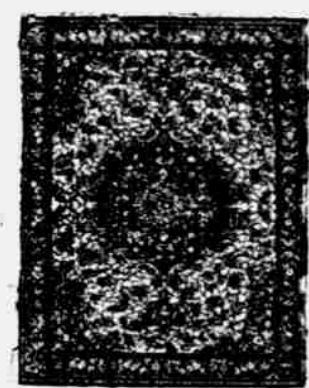
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