

The Diary of an Engaged Girl

By Phyllis Phillips

At breakfast this morning mother told me that dad had offered to let us have three months in Europe—that is if my wedding day was not scheduled until some time in the fall. You see Jack and I have postponed the great day because he has been ordered west on a three months' tour of inspection for his firm.

I almost fainted with delight at the news, for I have begged dad for years to let me see Paris, London, and all those wonderful cities that I have read about. But he never seemed in the least bit enthusiastic about my idea. And now!

Of course, dear old Jack will be happy at my good luck and we can just as well be married in September—the new date planned by us both. I should die if I had to give up this trip.

Aunt Cecilia is also to go, but somehow or other she didn't seem a bit enthusiastic about the proposition, much to my amazement. She sort of looked far-awayish and the expression that was in her eyes when she told me her story last night came into them again. She has lovely starry eyes, the dear.

When I asked her if she wasn't wild to go she said that it would be a great treat for me, but she wasn't sure that she had the right to let daddy undertake her expenses too—and all that sort of thing. I believe that she is thinking of plans of her own. She never says very much, Aunt Cecilia.

I shall tell Jack at tea today and then I can go ahead and plan for the conquest of Paris to my heart's content. Mother insisted that I allow Jack to decide about the whole matter and that made me feel queer. Mother is such a stickler for the rights of fiancés. Too much so. She'd never allow me an inch of liberty if she had her way, I'm sure. Mothers are most peculiar people, I think. They seem to forget, sometimes, that they were ever young and filled with longings—just those longings that mean so little and yet so much!

She was peevish when I tossed my head and told her that Jack had just told me of his proposed trip and that I did not see that the decision lay with Jack any more than with myself. She said that to her way of thinking the girls of today were far too independent for their own good.

That struck me funny. Of course we had an argument right then and there. We've had lots of them lately. It must be that we are both more nervous than usual and I'm sure I am more touchy since I became engaged to Jack.

She was very angry when dad looked over at her and reminded her that, after all, I was only half a grown-up as yet and he couldn't see why girls had to be rushed from their baby days

into problematic ones. He patted my hand as he said it, too.

Mother called him a stupid and reminded him that she had been his wife a year at my age. Poor mother, no wonder she's forgotten the little longings of her girlhood days. Why, she's been married forever.

When she left the table she told me that "one fool in the family was enough," and I saw poor, dear Aunt Cecilia go scarlet, for the hit was meant for her as well as me.

Oh, mother, mother, how can you help to tear the veil of illusion from my eyes?

(To be continued.)

Heart Problems

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am a stranger in town. Recently I met by accident an ex-soldier whom I thought I had seen somewhere before. I inquired about him of my employer and found I had seen him a few times in another little town, but had never learned his name. He and I are employed at the same place.

He seems very much interested in me and my work, and, I will admit, I am beginning to become very much interested in him. He is very jolly and often talks, but I am at a loss of how to talk to him.

It seems to me I have made an error, as I constantly recall how I made his acquaintance. Please tell me what I should do to overcome this.

THANKING YOU.

Of course it is impossible for me to plan your conversations with the young man. Talk about anything that seems to fit the occasion and will interest him. The fact that he talks to you should make it easy for you to follow his lead.

You have not mentioned in what way you made your acquaintance. It matters little, however, since the mistake is already made. Try to forget about it and act in such a way that from now on he will have respect and admiration for you. Never bring up the subject of your unconventional meeting.

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