

The Diary of an Engaged Girl

By Phyllis Phillips

We are going to a grand ball in a few days—that is, Jack, Aunt Cecilia and I. A Bohemian affair that some friends of Jack's are giving. I have to think up a costume in the meantime, and you can imagine how thrilling that is. Of course mother wants me to call on Jack's mother just the very afternoon when I had planned to browse around in the shops for materials for said costume. I had counted on several happy hours to myself—with a trip to the movies. But that's all over. I don't get time now-a-days to dream any little dreams any more. Marital law has been put into force ever since I became engaged.

And now I want to dash about and see the people I love, and the places that harmonize with my soul—and play with Brixy, dear old thing, to my heart's content. I quite envy Aunt Cecilia her quiet happiness. They are both so sure of themselves and their future. It's a second blooming.

Now for the old shopping tour. How I hate it.

Same evening. Well, now I am in disgrace. I made a scene at the dinner table, and have just refused to see Jack this evening. Why? Because I am dead tired. Mother dragged me here, there and everywhere all afternoon, and I just want to be alone for the next twenty-four hours.

We had tea with Mrs. Edmonds, and I made some awful breaks. It seems the worst one came at the very end, when I told Mrs. Edmonds that I was a firm believer in trial marriages.

I don't remember just what happened after that, but I do remember the look that both she and mother gave me, and the lecture I got all the way home, and even at the dinner table. 'Till my head ached, and my father stepped in on my side and told me to let me alone.

Of course when Jack called up, smooth and cool and unruffled it irritated me almost to death. I snapped back at him and told him that the sight of any man in my present mood would be too much for me to bear!

It's done now. And here I am back in my own bed-room, and alone, thank goodness. The family is going to the theater.

The way of the engaged girl is indeed hard. I am like a piece of clay in the hands of clumsy potters. Every one wants to tell me what to do, and really, if it wasn't for the sense of humor I think that I should collapse at times.

Even Nanny has assumed the right to watch over me, her elder sister. She came in here this evening before dinner and told me that if she were an engaged girl she would not act so uppity with Jack. And hinted darkly about there being lots of good fish in

the sea who were aching to be caught—just as if I were like some of those girls who have been flitting coquetishly about under Jack's nose hoping in a maidenly sort of way, that he would angle for them. There was nothing to be said, so I advised her to mind her own business, as well as to keep her hands off my jade beads, which the little imp was wearing as she spoke!

I was so tired and sick of everything that I cried after she had gone, and as I was in the midst of it in she walked again with a piece of chocolate cake in one hand, and my favorite magazine, *Sisters* (small ones especially) are funny things.

She was upset at the sight of my weakness (tears) and sympathized with my mood. Even suggested that I get un-engaged if I was being made miserable, and all that, and told me with a wise look that some strange man had called me up earlier in the afternoon, and had given his name as "Nobody."

I guessed who it was, instinctively. There's only one errand soul who would possess enough sense of humor to give that name—Brixy.

(To be continued.)

What's in a Name

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Mabel is translated to mean beloved and certainly the name has a right to its significance since it comes from the old Celtic word *meabail*, meaning "joy". The fashionable miss of today who spells her good old-fashioned name "Maybelle" does not realize that she is trying to paint the lily; no name more melodious of poetry exists today than Mabel.

Mabel appears first as Meadhall, the daughter of Eochaid Frídhleach, king of Erin, was so called and was such a beloved heroine of Irish romance that Congal Clain, according to the old story, bid the men of Connaught, her

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Heart and Beauty Problems

By Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson

Dear Mrs. Thompson: My parents are very strict and my father is cruel to me and often strikes me. They do not want me to go anywhere and I cannot have company or callers. I am supposed to sit at home by them how much my young heart craves for company. I feel best when I am at the office where people greet me with a smile.

I cry myself to sleep almost every night. I believe there is no girl who weeps as much as I do. When father sees me cry, he strikes me, although I am kind and loving to him and mother.

It breaks my heart sometimes when I see other girls going away and having good times while I am left as if behind prison bars. I do hope that some day Prince Charming will break the bars of my prison and take me to a happy life.

Do you think I ought to leave home?

A wrong attitude brings you much of your suffering. To weep, and to think that no one else weeps so much is ridiculous. You know little of the suffering in the world to feel that way. Gloom makes you all the more miserable. There is much companionship in books. You could be quite happy with your day at the office and

evening with books. I realize that books cannot take the place of life. You need friends in flesh and blood. Just now, however you are too young to leave home. Be as happy as possible for a year or two, and if at the end of that time if conditions have not changed, go elsewhere. I am afraid the world would bring you real suffering if you were to break away from home at the age of 18.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am a girl of 16 and married a boy when I was 15, but have never lived with him. I like him, but do not love him. He is 18 now. I see him once in a while and he begs me to go away and live with him. I really do not love anyone. I am going with a fellow now and he tells me he loves me, but I do not give him any answer. Should I live with my husband, or should I keep company with the other fellow?

MISS TOMMY.

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