

The Streets of Life
By HAZEL DEYO BACHELOR
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Unhappy Reminiscences

Anne Carter has an unhappy childhood. Her father has a hard nature, and when Anne is seen in tears to break the child's face of the beautiful water to suicide and the Carters move from the old gray farmhouse to a small town called Greenville, where Anne is brought up. At sixteen she Anne is away from all life and pleasure, and her best friend, Cherry Harding, is not thought fit for her to know. She is invited to attend Cherry's graduation party.

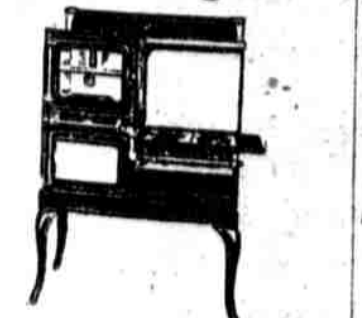
BUT of course she had to tell John Porterfield that she was not going to the party and it nearly broke her heart to do it. She lay awake that night with small clenched fists, thinking about life, visioning the party and the light clasp of John Porterfield's arms as he danced with Cherry. For they were going to dance on the broad veranda, and to Anne, dancing was the most wonderful thing in the world, although she had never danced in her life outside of her own room. Sometimes the very thought of dancing had induced her to take off her shoes and perform intricate dance steps which she invented herself before her mirror. If Jim and Martha Carter had known this they would have been horrified.

It was a warm July night and Anne tossed on her pillow. Finally she got up and knelt by the window, straining her ears toward the Hardings, which lay several squares to the north. But there was no sound of the party. Outside the crickets chirped dolefully and suddenly a wave of utter loneliness swept over Anne with the memory of that other night when she had knelt by the window waiting for them to bring home her mother. That had been some time ago, but the memory was poignant. She could see the old farmhouse and hear the frogs shrilling in the river. Then she remembered that awful moment when she had looked down at her mother's still face surrounded with its dripping hair and her father had turned and blamed her for what had happened. She crept back to bed and went on thinking vaguely about life, her vivid young mind torturing her very soul with doubt of herself. What was there about her mother that was wrong? Anne remembered her mother as something beautiful. She remembered her mother's slender hands, and that faint scent that always clung to her clothes. Her father had said a hundred times that her mother was weak and vain, and that she Anne had inherited this weakness and vanity. Was it wrong to like beautiful things? Was it wrong to hate ugly things? Was it wrong to trim over her hair so that they would be more becoming? Was it wrong to like flowers, and the smell of them? Was it wrong to dance? Her father never explained anything to her. He never told her why he thought it was wrong for her to do the things that other girls did. He simply stated a fact and required her to believe it.

Anne's mind leaped to that sunny afternoon when she had walked past the Sutter House with Cherry. She recalled Cherry's sidelong glance at the sea on the veranda, and her own burning cheeks. And then her father's anger, and her shame at being sent home like a child. Why did she hate the eyes of those men on the porch, and what did Aunt Martha mean when she made strange allusions to Lucy Pratt and what had happened to her? Lucy Pratt lived down in a poor part of town, and Anne had never known her very well. She recalled her vaguely as a weak pretty girl, who had left school at fifteen to work in the overalls factory. There had been a great deal of talk about Lucy, but Anne had never understood it. She did know, however, that whatever it was, it was something to be ashamed of, to speak of under one's breath. That night after her father had returned from downtown Anne had overheard him talking to Aunt Martha. "Anne's weak," he had said bitterly. "She's like her mother." Aunt Martha had been bending over the stove and she turned around now. "We don't want a Lucy Pratt scandal in this house," she said darkly. "And Jim Carter growled out: 'I'd kill her.'" Anne wondered what they meant. Her eyes were beginning to close and her thoughts came now in soft waves, beating on the shore line of her mind softly. She thought of John Porterfield, remembered the weariness on his strong shoulders, and the strong rasp of his jaw. He had flashing white teeth and blue eyes. How wonderful it would be to dance with him, to wear her white dress, the one she wore to church, and to look up suddenly and meet his blue eyes looking down into hers. A strange thrill went through her, to be followed immediately by the fluttering thought that her father would think it was wicked if he knew.

(Tomorrow, Anne meets the unexpected)

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The Woman's Exchange

Training Children
Dear Madam—I wish to gather some children and teach them how to conduct themselves on all occasions. Will you tell me if there is a book I may secure to help me along those lines?
Mrs. G. H. C.

There are a number of good books on etiquette, if that is the kind of thing you mean. You can get them in the book department of any of the large department stores. It would be a good plan to study up on this subject well before you attempt this undertaking, for you know how children ask questions. It is necessary to know your subject from all sides, so that you can give a convincing answer to the most unexpected query.

Photoplay Studios
Dear Madam—Will you kindly tell me where a film company is located in Philadelphia? When applying for a position in the films must you go personally or have to fill out an application?
ANXIOUS.

There are no photoplay companies—that is, studios—in this city. The nearest one is in Hetswood, which is about twenty miles from Philadelphia, between Norristown and Phoenixville. It would be better to apply in person, so that the director can see what kind of character you would be fitted for.

Biblical Character
Dear Madam—Will you please tell me what kind of costumes the "high priests" wore in the times of Naomi, Ruth, Esther (as in the Old Testament stories) and how they could easily be made? It is for a biblical pageant to be given in our school.
B. D.

Make a loose, voluminous robe of some dark material for this costume. The sleeves should be full and wide, like the sleeves of a monk's robe, and there should be a cowl or hood to go over the head. The priests of old wore long, full beards, and their hair was worn rather long, too, according to the pictures.

An Easter Lily
Dear Madam—I have an Easter lily, and would you be so kind and tell me how to take care of it after it is finished blooming, as I have never had one before and don't know how to take care of it.
Mrs. O. S.

After a lily stops blooming there is nothing to do but wait until the plant dries up and then store the bulb away in a dark place until next season. It can be planted again, and with care and coaxing will bloom again.

A WOMAN HUNG
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