

MARY HAWORTH

Doesn't Dream  
Of Boy Friend

Dear Mary Haworth, —I am a teenage girl, writing to you about something I want to be sure of. I have been going with Robert for a year, and I am very very fond of him.

I like his company very much, and he says he likes to spend his time with me. We go to high school together and sometimes help each other with our homework. I think of him every day, but so far I never have dreamed of him at night.

I think I love him, but I am not quite sure. He is very nice looking and I have thought, after reflection, that there is no another boy I would rather be with.

Other boys have asked me for dates, but I refuse; and some of my girl friends wonder at me for doing this. I refuse these dates because I would rather be with Robert.

Can you tell me, is it true that a girl has to dream of a boy before she can really love him? I am trying to decide whether I love Robert, and I hope you can guide me to the right answer.

DREAMS REFLECT

Dear D.R.: It is my understanding that dreams on virtually any subject that reflect to unconscious mind in that sector of experience. Thus fragmentary dreams of a beloved person are probably motivated by anxious concern, or jealous insecurity, or suspicious distrust, or feelings of rejection, or fear of loss—or other such negative, disturbing emotional material.

But when dear friends share the same social routine, are sympathetically congenial and loyally dependable, when they enjoy each other's society and are mutually devoted, wholeheartedly—and when they have a good conscience about their behavior—they aren't apt to dream about one another.

As I recall, this theory is documented in Calvin S. Hall's book "The Meaning of Dreams (Harcourt)"—which is a psychologist's report on his findings in a six years' comprehensive study of the connection between dreams and the dreamers' real-life situations.

ROBERT NO TROUBLE

So your failure to dream of Robert probably means only that he doesn't give you any trouble, or cause for worry. Otherwise, it doesn't shed much light on the degree of your affection for him. But my opinion, for what it is worth, is that you simply happen to like Robert best of all the boys you know at present—which is a reason why you turn down all other dates, in favor of him. The second reason is, you don't want to set him an example of playing the field, nor leave him loose, as it were, to possibly start dating other girls.

In short, you have no conviction that Robert is the answer to your hopes of perfect love. But you figure, unconsciously, that it's smart to hang on to him—to keep first option on his interest—as a very agreeable social asset for now. Meanwhile you are wondering (in the back of your mind) if Providence has something different and better in store for you. That is, an admirer waiting around the corner of tomorrow or next year, who might completely overshadow Robert in your estimation.

**CHOKING OFF EXPERIENCE**  
In settling down to spend your teen years going steady with just one representative of the opposite sex—as seems to be the tribal custom of American adolescents in this period of history—you are sort of choking off your experience of life, just above the roots, as it were.

You are throwing away one of the special developmental prerogatives of adolescence. You are missing a vital form of social education, at a time in life when it is due—to prepare you for crucial decisions, that must be met a little later. I refer to youth's right and duty and need to employ this pre-adult breathing space—of freedom from the confines of matehood—to explore the varieties of human nature, in decent friendly companionable ways, and thus "mature" one's judgment for choosing the permanent partner, wisely. This is social sophistication in the real sense. M.H.

LAKE VERDE W.I.

Mrs. Owen Callaghan was hostess to the members of the Lake Verde Women's Institute at her home on Wednesday night, July 10.

The meeting was conducted by the president, Mrs. Harry Kelly and opened in the usual manner. In the absence of the secretary, the minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mrs. Raymond Wood. No sick calls were reported.

Mrs. Harry Kelly and Mrs. Raymond Wood were appointed for the next month. It was decided to send the travelling apron around and also to send woollens away in August.

Mrs. Raymond Wood kindly invited the members to her home for the next meeting. Roll call to be an article for grab bag. On motion the meeting adjourned. During a pleasant social hour, a delicious lunch was served by the hostess.

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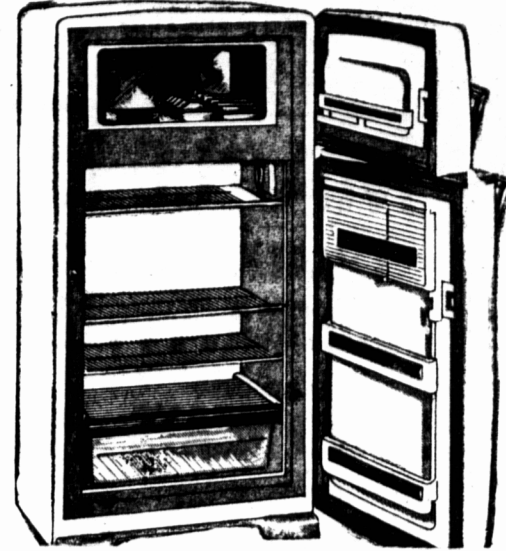
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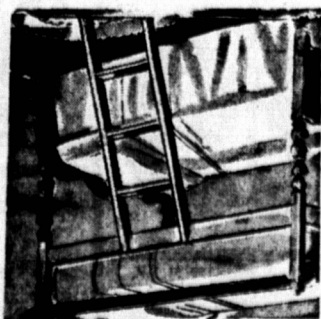
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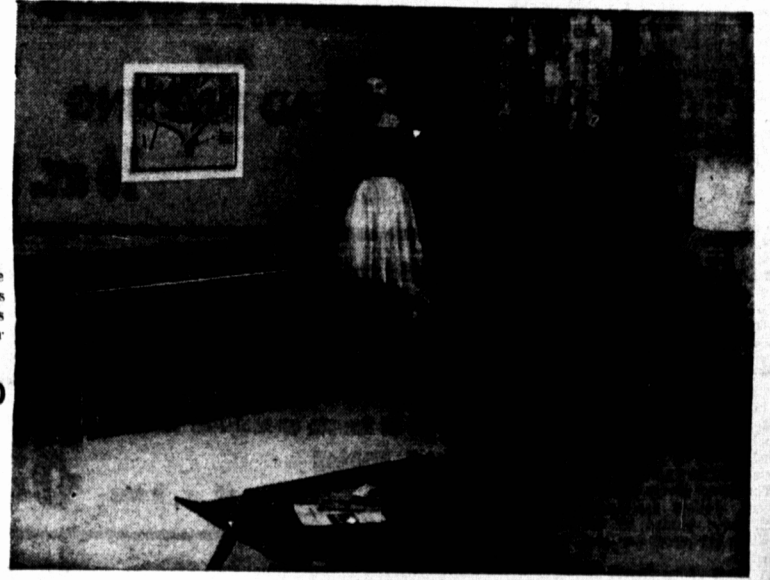
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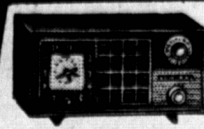
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