

FRIEND OF THE HULME FAMILY

"This afternoon I played Tosca and wrote before ringing Deborah. Then she told me the stupendous news. Last night she woke at two o'clock and for some reason went into her mother's room. It was empty so she went downstairs to look for her.

"Deborah could not find her so she crept as stealthily as she could into Mr Perry's flat and stole upstairs. She heard voices from inside his bedroom and she stayed outside for a little while, then she opened the door and switched the light on in one movement.

"Mr Perry and Mrs Hulme were in bed drinking tea. Deborah felt an hysterical tendency to giggle.

"She said: 'Hello'. She was shaking with emotion and shock although she had known what she would find.

"They goggled at her for a minute and her mother said: 'I suppose you want an explanation.' Yes,' Deborah replied, 'I do.' 'Well, you see we are in love,' her mother explained. Deborah was wonderful. 'But I know THAT,' she exclaimed, her voice seeming to belong to some one else. Her mother explained that Dr Hulme knew all about it, and that they intended to live as a threesome. Anyway, Deborah went as far as telling about our desire to go to America in six months, though she could not explain the reason of course.

Comments

"Mr Perry gave her £100 to get permits. Everyone is being frightfully decent about everything and I feel wildly happy and rather queer.

"I have... my second chapter to-night and—actually proposed to me. I am going out to Ilam to-morrow, as we have so much to talk over."

"That is entirely untrue," said Mrs Hulme. "There was no question of money. The opening of the door and the switching on of the light are quite impossible."

Mr Brown: The entry for April 24 states that Pauline biked to Ilam and found Juliet in bed. Dr Hulme asked them into the lounge with him as he wanted to talk to them. The diary states:

"He said we must tell him everything about going to America. So we told him as much as we wanted. He was both 'hope giving' and depressing. Dr and Mrs Hulme are going to divorce. The shock is too great to have penetrated my mind yet. It is so incredible. Mrs Hulme was sweet and Dr Hulme absolutely kind and understanding.

"But one thing. Deborah and I are sticking together through everything. We sink or swim together."

Trip Abroad

"Was it the night before that you had first learned of this projected trip to America?" Mr Brown asked.

Mrs Hulme: No. We had heard some days before.

Mr Brown: Had you told Dr Hulme of the incident of the night before?—Yes.

The diary states: "Dr and Mrs Hulme are going to divorce." Was that so?—Do I have to answer that?

Mr Gresson: Mrs Hulme has already said that the future of her marriage was uncertain.

Mr Brown: Was it so at that date?—It was under discussion but what Dr Hulme said to the girls I do not know.

Mr Brown: Why should Dr Hulme have talked to the girls about divorce?—Because of the incident in Mr Perry's bedroom the night before.

Prior to reading the diary, did you know of their interest in shoplifting?—No.

Did you have any thought that your daughter needed medical attention for her brain?—We had discussed it, Dr Hulme and I, with my friends who understood children and our concern over her emotional development.

"We had at one time wondered if it would be wise to have her psycho-analysed, but were advised it would be unwise at such an early age, and were told we were doing all that could be done to help her."

Have you ever called any experts in?—Not professionally but privately.

Would you say who they were?—I would rather not mention names.

"These people, who knew Juliet intimately, said that Juliet was highly emotional and would be a responsibility until she developed and acquired a less intense attitude to living," said Mrs Hulme. "She was always difficult to discipline, and resisted discipline."

Mr Brown: Did you have any reason to suspect that your daughter was insane?—No.

Re-examined

Mr Gresson was granted leave to re-examine.

Mr Brown said that he had been careful to ensure that all the questions he asked arose out of those of defence counsel.

"One of the friends with whom you discussed Juliet, was a doctor of medicine and the other a doctor of psychology, were they not?" Mr Gresson asked.

"Yes."

Mr Gresson: You have not had an opportunity of perusing Parker's 1953 diary?—No.

You and Dr Hulme did not know of an incident at Port Levy on April 3, 1953, to which Parker and your daughter appeared to attach great significance?—No.

They kept it a secret?—Yes.

Mr Brown asked Mrs Hulme whether the girls liked going to Port Levy.

She replied that they enjoyed it very much.

Walter Andrew Bowman Perry, an engineer employed by a London firm, said he had a flat in Church Lane. He arrived in Christchurch on July 22, 1952, being on an assignment. He went to Ilam at Christmas, 1953, as a guest of Dr Hulme. He had his own flat, and had a housekeeper until about the middle of April.

He, Dr Hulme, and Mrs Hulme were very friendly. Pauline Parker was a constant visitor. She was a close friend of Juliet Hulme's.

When the girl Parker went to Ilam, she and Juliet kept close together. Juliet's health was indifferent, and she spent some time in bed. Pauline was often with her.

When Pauline left the house there was a pronounced change in Juliet's demeanour. Juliet became very dependent on her mother. She liked her mother to listen to Juliet's interests, and take an interest in what she had been doing in her novel writing. There was a great deal of writing.

He had heard that they played acted together, Perry said. He did not see any of this.

He had examined the first novel by Juliet. It was innocent, adventurous, and the sort of



Dr A. L. Haslam, who with Mr J. A. Wicks, is representing Pauline Yvonne Parker.

thing he would expect a teenager to write. It reminded him of Anthony Hope's "Prisoner of Zenda."

Had Horse

Juliet had a horse when he went to Ilam. He owned the horse now. He paid £50 to Juliet's father for the horse.

He knew of the plan of the girls to go to America.

He learned that Dr Hulme was leaving New Zealand. The crisis at the university which caused Dr Hulme's resignation decided Dr Hulme to leave New Zealand. He knew Juliet was to go with Dr Hulme.

Juliet asked him if he knew what the fare would be to South Africa. He said he thought the fare by air would be about £150. She replied: "Oh, good. We've got nearly £100 now."

"This was three or four weeks before June 22."

He remembered that on Monday, June 21, Juliet said to her mother that Pauline had telephoned and invited her to a picnic with Pauline's mother. She sought permission to go.

Perry said he was in the house the next day when Juliet was about to leave. She seemed very gay, but otherwise normal. She was wearing a new skirt, and she asked if her mother liked her in it. She was a girl who took an interest in her appearance.

That day Mrs Hulme called to him. Dr and Mrs Hulme told him there had been an accident. The girls had seen Mrs Rieper fall on some rocks at Victoria Park, and she was badly injured. The girls were then being given a bath.

Mrs Hulme asked him about treatment for shock. He took some tea upstairs. Mrs Hulme was in the bathroom with the girls. There was some clothing outside. It was covered with blood. He did not think it would be a good thing for shock if the girls saw the bloodstained clothing, so he took it straight to the cleaners without seeing the girls.

When he returned Pauline Parker was very quiet and almost in a coma.

Juliet was flushed, perspiring, and extremely animated, said Perry. The alleged accident was not discussed. He gave them a sedative to get them to sleep as soon as possible. He told the police later where he had taken the garments. They were, as far as he knew, in the condition in which he took them to the cleaners.

Mr Brown: When did you know that this was a case for the police?—We heard that the police had arrived at Victoria Park.

Did you discuss it?—With Dr and Mrs Hulme, yes.

To Bedroom

He then went to Pauline's bedroom and said that he was sorry, but they would have to talk about the accident as the police were inquiring.

She said that her mother had fallen and hit her head on a stone," said Perry. "She told me that her mother had hit her head repeatedly on the stone, and demonstrated how she did it. I asked her what the stone was like and she said she thought it was half a brick. When I asked her if her mother had had a fit, she said she did not know. She became very distressed."

"I asked her if she had quarrelled with her mother and had been defending herself from a blow, but she replied: 'Oh no. My mother has never hit me.'"

"They had tried to pick her mother up, Pauline said, but had dropped her, and thought they might have hurt her more then."

"They felt for heart beats but could not feel any, so they ran for help to the kiosk, she told me."

Dr Hulme had asked him to be present when the police interviewed the girls," said Perry.

"Generally what account did the girl Hulme give of the accident?" asked Mr Brown.

Similar

"A very similar one to that given by Pauline," replied Perry.

He felt there was more that could be told, and asked to be left alone with Juliet. Detectives had told him some more details of the tragedy, and Senior-Detective Brown had told him that murder was suspected.

Left alone with Juliet, he said she must tell the truth. It could not have been an accident, and there was far more to it and she broke down, and after a few minutes she told him the story told later to Detective-Sergeant Tate. Then he got the detectives to go back into the room.

He was present when the first statement was taken by Detective-Sergeant Tate, Perry said. He was not present when Parker's statement was made.

He was in Hulme's house the next morning when the detective returned. He was present when Senior-Detective Brown saw Juliet in her bedroom. Mr Brown told her that the information he had received was that Juliet was present when the alleged accident occurred. She had said in her statement the previous night that she was not present.

Star Sun 24th Aug 1953