



LILIAN BELL  
BIRTHDAY BOOK





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*The* LILIAN BELL  
BIRTHDAY BOOK







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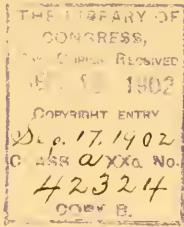
*Lillian Bell*

The  
**LILIAN BELL**  
BIRTHDAY BOOK

EDITED BY  
**A. H. BOGUE**



BOSTON  
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MDCCCIII



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Published, September, 1902

**Dedicated**

TO

**MARY HARTWELL CATHERWOOD**

**THE BRILLIANT WOMAN WHO MOST GENEROUSLY ADMIRES  
ANOTHER WOMAN'S WIT**



## FOREWORD

*It is the custom of taste and Christianity and civilization to wait until hearts have ceased to feel and ears to hear before we pour forth our tributes to the excellencies of our loved and great.*

*In direct defiance of the possible criticism of these oracles I have gathered together the epigrams of one living author, and have dedicated the book to another living author, that both may see and feel and, I hope, enjoy.*





*The* LILIAN BELL  
BIRTHDAY BOOK

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## JANUARY

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**January**  
1 **D**O you suppose because I know Greek that I cannot be in love? Do you suppose because I went through higher mathematics that I never pressed a flower he gave me? Do you imagine that Biology kills blushing in a woman?—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✿

**January**  
2 **S**HE was almost beautiful; and there was a Sabbath calm in her presence which led one's thoughts, perhaps not quite to religion, but at least as far as ethics.—*A Woman of No Nerves, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*

✿

**January**  
3 **W**HEN an American man is a gentleman, he is to my mind the most perfect gentleman that any race can produce, because *his* good manners spring from his heart, and there are a few of us old-fashioned enough to plead that politeness should go deeper than the skin.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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# JANUARY

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**January**

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**M**EN never realize the height of the pedestal where women in love place them, nor do they know with how many perfections they are invested, nor how religiously women keep themselves deceived on the subject. They cannot comprehend the succession of little shocks which are caused by the real man coming in contact with the ideal. And, if they did understand, they would think that such mere trifles should not affect the genuine article of love, and that women simply should overlook foibles, and go on loving the damaged article just as blindly as before. But what man could view his favorite marble tumbling from its pedestal continually, and losing first a finger, then an arm, then a nose, and would go on setting it up each time, admiring and reverencing in the mutilated remains the perfect creation which first enraptured him? He wouldn't take the trouble to fill up the nicks and glue on the lost fingers as women do to their idols. He wouldn't even try to love it as he used to do. When it began to look too battered up, he would say, "Here, put this thing in the cellar, and let's get it out of the way."—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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**January**

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**January**  
5      **H**OW in the world are you going to find out whether you like a man unless you do encourage him? You never even begin to know him until he falls in love with you!  
*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**January**  
6      **W**HEN I talk with a clever man, I feel a little tingling in my brain, as if my ideas were being called for by one who deserved them, and as if they were waking out of the sleep into which they had been lulled by the conversation of other men.—*A Study in Hearts, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*



**January**  
7      **Y**OU might cram a woman's head with all the wisdom of the ages, and, while it would frighten every man who came near her into hysterics, it wouldn't keep her from going down abjectly before some man who had sense enough to know that higher education does not rob a woman of her womanliness. Depend upon it, when it does, she would have been unwomanly and masculine if she hadn't been able to read.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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**January**

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**January**    “**W** E Americans always talk the  
    **8**            most about what we care the  
least. That’s why we talk about money, and honor  
love. You French talk about love, and honor  
money!”—*The Expatriates.*



**January**    **W** HEN an attractive American girl  
    **9**            is bored, it generally means that  
she is not in love with any one. It never means  
that no one is in love with her. That unfortunate  
state of things would cause her to be discontented,  
not bored. Besides, there always is *somebody* in  
love with the attractive American girl.—*A Study in*  
*Hearts, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*



**January**    **I** WOULD like to be a man for a  
    **10**           while, in order to make love to two  
or three women. I would do it in a way which  
would not shock them with its coarseness or starve  
them with its poverty. As it is now, most women  
deny themselves the expression of the best part of  
their love, because they know it will be either a  
puzzle or a terror to their lovers.—*The Love Affairs*  
*of an Old Maid.*



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**January**

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**January**  
**11** **I**F a girl has one lover, she is called "a sweet creature" by other girls. If she has two or three, she is respectfully alluded to as "fascinating." If she is unhappy enough to have won half a dozen, with more on the ragged edge, she is stigmatized as "a coquette."—*A Study in Hearts, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*



**January**  
**12** **I**BELIEVE some men could go through life without loving anybody on earth. But the woman never lived who could do it. A woman must love something,—even if she hasn't anything better to love than a pug-dog or herself.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**January**  
**13** **"T**ROUBLE between husbun an' wife is dey *own* bizness, and nobody else has got a right to say whedder or no. Dat's what *I* sez; an' *I* knows, *I* does! *I* ain't been mah'd as many times as *Isrul*, but *I*'se had enough trouble wid de one husbun *I* hab had to make up foh it! *I* has foh a fack!"—*Lizzie Lee's Separation, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*

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**January**

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**January**  
**14** **T**HE man under thirty-five is being trained in a thousand ways every day that he lives. Some learn more quickly than others. It depends on the type of man and on the length of time he is willing to remain in the raw. *The Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from a Girl's Point of View.*



**January**  
**15** **H**ER inner nature was like a combination of unmined metals. One could trace copper and gold and a little alloy. But the great emotion or heart experience which would separate the metals, releasing the gold and destroying the alloy, had not come to her.—*Miss Scarborough's Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*



**January**  
**16** **T**HERE is something which makes you hold your breath before you enter the inner nature of some one who has extraordinary depth. You feel as if you were going to find something different and interesting, and possibly difficult or explosive. It is dark, too, yet you feel impelled to enter. It is like going into a cave. *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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**January**

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**January**  
**17**     **L**IKE most men who live in the open air, he had ideals, and high ones, of women.—*The Expatriates.*



**January**  
**18**     **O**H, have you ever entertained people who made you worry so for fear you couldn't suit them that you just wanted to lie down and die beforehand?—*With Mamma Away, from Sir John and the American Girl.*



**January**  
**19**     **S**OME persons seem to possess an atmospheric mental quality. There are those who seem gray and leaden, as if it might rain at any moment. There are others whose cold crispness means a sharp wintry nature, which stings like the sudden warming of frost-bitten hands. There are others whose gentle melancholy and tender pessimism mean nothing short of autumn temperaments, where summer is gone forever and nothing but approaching snow can tinge their thoughts.

Then in a class quite by themselves come those eager natures which remind you of the approach of spring.—*The Expatriates.*

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**January**

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**January**  
**20** **T**HERE is no finer generosity than to receive generously, with the same largeness with which one gives.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*



**January**  
**21** “**I** THINK when a horse hears himself recommended to anxious parents as safe, steady, and gentle as a kitten, when he himself knows that he shies at bicycles, that it is his equine duty to show the whites of his eyes, to signify ‘danger ahead,’ even if it spoils a trade.”—*Miss Scarborough’s Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*



**January**  
**22** **W**HY is it that all the cleverest men we know have selected girls who looked pretty and who coddled them? Look at Bronson and Flossy! That man is lonesome, I tell you, Ruth. He actually hungers and thirsts for his intellectual and spiritual affinity, and yet even he did not have the sense, the astuteness, to select a wife who would have stood at his side, instead of one who lay in a wad at his feet.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



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**January**

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**January**  
**23** **I**F I see a fine painting or hear magnificent music, I think of Rachel before any other thought comes into my mind. One involuntarily associates her with anything wonderfully fine in art or literature, with the perfect assurance that she will be sympathetic and appreciative. She understands the deep, inarticulate emotions in the kindred way you have a right to expect of your lover, and which you are oftenest disappointed in, if you expect it of him. If I were a man, I should be in love with Rachel.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**January**  
**24** **H**OW can those girls who give evidence of no more thought than is evinced by their namby-pamby chatter call their existence living? They mistake pertness for wit, audacity for cleverness, disrespect to old age for independence, and general bad manners for individuality. Has nobody ever trained these girls to think? What kind of schools do they attend? Who has spoiled them by flattery, until they are little peacocks to whom a mirror is an irresistible temptation?—*Girls and Other Girls, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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**January**

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**January**    “**S**HE’s got de sin ob avariciousness,  
25            if anybody ever had. De Lawd  
knows what she’s saving huh money for — I don’t.  
She don’ buy no clo’es, she don’ go to de picnics,  
she don’ go to corn-roasts nor barbecues, nor even  
to de babtizin’s for fear dey’ll take up a collection.  
She don’ allow herself no pleasure ’tall, she’s so  
skeert she’ll spend a nickel; an’, when my second  
husband was hung, do you know dat woman  
wouldn’t leab off half a day’s ironin’ to go to de  
hangin’!” — *Yessum, from The Instinct of Stepfather-*  
*hood.*



**January**    **T**HE newspapers have ridiculed the  
26            new woman to such an extent, and  
their ridicule is so popular, that it requires an act  
of physical courage to stand up in her defence and  
to tell the public that the bloomer girl is not new;  
that they have had the newspaper creation — like  
the poor — with them always; that they have  
passed over the real new woman without a second  
glance. In other words, to assure them as delicately  
as possible that they have been barking up the wrong  
tree. — *The New Woman, from From a Girl’s Point*  
*of View.*

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**January**

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**January**  
**27** I AM tired to death of hearing men fall back on nonsense about their honor. I notice they seldom feel called upon to refer to it unless they are involved in something disreputable. *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**January**  
**28** A SMALL town! Is anything more maddening than to go ambling peacefully along in life, smiling at the world, and harming nobody, and suddenly to dash your head against the stone wall of provincial virtue, and lie on your back for a while, seeing red and green stars? I really think there is an element of viciousness in the virtue of a small town which is worse than loose-slipped liberalty.— *The Under Side of Things.*

**January**  
**29** THERE are some women who prefer a valet to a husband; who think that the more menial are his services in public, the more apparent is his devotion. It is a Roman-chariot-wheel idea, which degrades both the man and the woman in the eyes of the spectators.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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**January**

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**A** WOMAN who has quarrelled with her lover, in her secret heart expects him back daily and hourly, no matter what the cause of the estrangement, until he becomes involved with another woman. Then she lays all the blame of his defection at the door of the alien, where, in the opinion of an Old Maid, it generally belongs.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



January

31

**M**EN make no secret of the kind of women they want us to be. We get preached at from pulpits and written about by "The Saunterer" and "The Man about Town" and "The One who knows it All," telling us how to be womanly, how to look to please men, how to behave to please men, and how to save our souls to please men, until, if we were not a sweet, amiable set, we would rebel as a sex, and declare that we thought we were lovely just the way we were, and that we were not going to change for anybody!—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



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**January**

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## FEBRUARY

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**February**  
1 **O**FTEN it is not that we are not secretly much more of women, and better and cleverer women, than men think us. But there is no call for such wares, so we lay character and brain on the shelves to mildew, and fill the show-windows with confectionery and illusion. We supply the demand.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✿

**February**  
2 **P**RAY do not imagine that girls have certain hours for studying how to make good wives, or that it is as rigid or exhausting as a broom drill.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✿

**February**  
3 **G**AUGED by a woman's love, many men love, marry, and die without even approximating the real grand passion themselves or comprehending that which they have inspired; for no one but a woman can fathom a woman's love.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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# FEBRUARY

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**February**

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**February**  
4 **H**E knows that he is in love,— that is one great step in the right direction. But he is in that first partly alarmed, partly curious frame of mind that a man would be in who touched his broken arm for the first time, to see how much it hurt.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**February**  
5 **N**OW, if the assertion is made that the American man makes the best husband in the world, let him not think that there is no room for improvement; for with him it is much the same as it is with the wild strawberry. At first blush one would say that there could be no more delicious flavor than that of the wild strawberry. Yet everybody knows what the skilled gardeners have made of it in the form of the cultivated fruit.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**February**  
6 **S**HE is too refined and high-minded to defend herself against the “slings and arrows of outrageous” people, although, if she would, she could exterminate them with her wit.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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**February**

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**February**     **I** HAVE seen a young, untried race-horse; with small, pointed, restless ears; with delicate nostrils where the red blood showed; with full, soft eyes where fire flashed; where pride and fire and royal blood seemed to urge a trial of their powers, and I have thought: "You are capable of passing anything on the track and coming under the wire triumphant and victorious; or you might fulfil your prophecy equally well by falling dead in your first heat. We can be sure of nothing until you are tried; but it is a quivering delight to look at you and to share your impatience and to wonder what you will do." Occasionally I see women who affect me in the same way.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✦

**February**     **I**T seems, too, that she is great enough to be a target. So she is under fire continually. This, while it causes her exquisite suffering, is from no fault of her own, save the unforgivable one of being original. "A frog spat at a glow-worm. 'Why do you spit at me?' said the glow-worm. 'Why do you shine so?' said the frog."—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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**February**

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**February**  
9 **T**HERE is something strangely pathetic about an American woman's worship of titles. It is so sincere, so deep-rooted, so overpoweringly honest. Let Americans try to conceal it as they will,—let the men mock and the women dissemble,—yet, within an hour after they have really met a man of title, both will find themselves talking of it.—*The Expatriates.*

**February**  
10 **I** THINK men are a good deal more human than women. You can work them out by algebra (for they never have more than one unknown quantity, while in the woman problem there would be more  $x$ 's than anything else); and you can go by rules, and get the answer. But nothing ever calculated or evolved can get the final answer to one woman, though they do say she is fond of the last word.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**February**  
11 **C**LEVER girls are also human. They love to go about and wear pretty clothes, and dance, and be admired quite as much as anybody.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



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**February**

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A MAN with a conscience will sacrifice his head and his bodily comfort to his ideal of duty, but he clings tenaciously to his heart's desire, and yields that last, if at all. A woman with a conscience often makes a burnt-offering of her heart from pure altruism. Men call such a woman either a saint or — cold.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



February

13

THESE silent, sympathetic souls, whose receptivity makes them sensitive to the fine and beautiful, are the companions whom those need who have the gift of expression. They are the great mental cushions which pillow the sharp points of speech. They are the complement of the inarticulate,— the joy, the comfort, the everlasting haven of the speakers in this world.— *A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*



February

14

SOUTHERN compliments to women spring from the heart, French from the head. But a Frenchman lays his hand upon his heart, and that misleads the unthinking.— *Miss Scarborough's Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

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**February**

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**T**RY to talk to the untrained man under thirty-five upon any subject except himself. Bait him with different topics of universal interest, and try to persuade him to leave his own point of view long enough to look through the eyes of the world. And then notice the hopeless persistence with which he avoids your dexterous efforts, and mentally lies down to worry his Ego again, like a dog with a bone.—*The Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

February

16

**H**E has what I call a conscience for surface things. He regards life from the wrong point of view, and, as to his always intending to do right—you know the place said to be paved with good intentions.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

February

17

**G**IRLS are just the same along the main lines of sentiment and hope and trust and belief in men now as they ever were, and most of this talk about the new woman being different is mere stuff and nonsense.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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**February**

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**February**    “ I AM only twenty-seven, and it is  
18                    too soon to give up all love-mak-  
ing from my own husband. It makes me miss it  
more to be with a girl like you and see men in love  
with you, as men used to be with me, and looking  
at you as though they loved the very thought of  
you, and seeing every move you make whether  
they are looking at you or not, and hearing every  
word you speak even if they are talking to some-  
body else. It used to be that way with Frank and  
me. Then it fell away, as it so often does.”— *Miss  
Scarborough's Point of View, from Sir John and the  
American Girl.*

❖

**February**    T HERE is nothing like travelling  
19                    together or being jealous to bring  
out the innate vulgarity of people's natures.— *As  
Seen by Me.*

❖

**February**    I N the divine unconsciousness of  
20                    innocent childhood this baby com-  
forted the pure and the guilty woman alike. Only  
wisdom and culture would later teach her where to  
soothe with stones and where with kisses.— *A Little  
Sister to the Wilderness.*

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**February**

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SHE had fetched and carried for her mother until it was second nature for her to thrust pillows behind people's backs and tuck footstools under their feet. And many persons unaccustomed to these gentle ministrations, who visited her in her new home, were so touched by her thoughtfulness that they cheerfully sat for hours with their knees too high for comfort rather than reject her little props.—*The Under Side of Things.*

✻

February

22

“I WONDER that these emotional women get on at all. I should think they would die of the strain. Men are always deadly afraid of such women. I believe my husband wouldn't stop running till he got to California if I should burst into tears and not be able to tell him instantly just exactly where my neuralgia had jumped to.”—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

February

23

THERE is nothing so uncivil at times as to be cuttingly polite. What I said wasn't so at all, but a woman is obliged to defend herself from a man who reads her like an open book.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



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**February**

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**February**  
**24**      **R**OMANCE comes later to a boy than to a girl; but it hits him just as hard when it does come, and a boy is quite as responsive as a girl to the suggestion of a personal chivalry which shall prepare him to be a better husband to a shadowy personality which he cannot do better than to keep in his mind and heart.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**February**  
**25**      **L**IKE many other good women, with excellent small town intentions and high ideals in tatting, she was her brother's keeper to such a rigorous extent that her spiritual brother often longed to go from her presence straight to the broad way which leadeth to destruction, just for a relish.—*The Under Side of Things.*



**February**  
**26**      “**M**R. FINCH couldn't kill anybody. Not that I am selecting a husband for his murderous capabilities, but it would be a satisfaction to know that if a foot-pad attacked him he could defend himself. I believe if I said, ‘Burglars!’ to Mr. Finch, he would crawl under the table.”—*A Pigeon Blood Ruby, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

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**February**

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February

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I DEPEND a great deal upon other men's opinion of a man. I never thoroughly trust a man who is not a favorite with his own sex. I wish men were as generous to us in that respect, for a woman whom other women do not like is just as dangerous. And I never knew simple jealousy, the reason men urge against accepting our verdict, to be universal enough to condemn a woman. There always is a sufficient number of fair-minded women in every community—just enough to be in the minority—to break continuous jealousy.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

February

28

MEN must needs study women. Often the terror with which some men regard these, to us, perfectly transparent complexities, could be avoided if they would analyze the cause with but half the patience they display in the case of an ailing trotter. But no. Either they edge carefully away from such dangers as they previously have experienced or, if they blunder into new ones, they give the woman a sealskin, and trust to time to heal the breach.  
*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**February**

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February

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NO one could deny that the room was beautiful, for the military lends itself readily to decorations. From crossed sabres and stacked arms up to small cannon, everywhere were the signs of the peaceful side of war; and over and under and above, in all kinds of soft draperies and flowing festoons, the flag,— the dear, dear flag,— that flag which taste and love and patriotism all combine to make us think the most beautiful in the world; the flag which pulls at your heartstrings like a human thing when you see it floating anywhere; which makes you want to put your hand on it and love it, if you see pictures of it with hosts of others; which, when you accidentally run across it in Europe, makes you want to kiss and hug and cry over it, if you are a woman; and stand up and take your hat off to it, if you are a man.— *The Under Side of Things.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**February**

**29**

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## MARCH

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**March**  
1 **I**T seems sometimes as if children know just when their heavenly healing is needed by helpless grown people; for what else can explain their sudden bursts of affection, or the love expressed in their clinging kisses when one least looks for such outpourings?—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

❖

**March**  
2 **N**O woman's friendship could stand the test of a man's coming between them.—*With Feet of Clay, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

❖

**March**  
3 **S**HE possessed the American girl's native quickness of wit, and she had that sharp little manner of putting things which made you look up from your soup, if you sat next her at dinner, but it seemed more than all to be her electrical vitality which made you like her. There was a sparkle to all she did, as if the sunlight were flashing over a little lake.—*The Expatriates.*

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# MARCH

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**March**

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**March** “ I’M afraid that some day, after I am  
4 **I** safely married to you, and you are nagging my life out, that I shall meet the man, for I know he exists somewhere, who will think the very sins for which you lecture me, virtues; who will accept me wholly, imperfections and all; who will allow me to be myself, and find that self wholly good; who will foster the very side of me which you are trying to crush; who will think that when I do the thing it becomes fine and good, because he knows and believes in the real me, and who will never consider my most generous actions ‘bad form.’ ”— *The Expatriates.*

**March** **I**T is one of the unanswered conun-  
5 **I** drums of life why the anger of a lover rises to a white heat at a similar display of his own mild insanity in any one else.— *The Under Side of Things.*

**March** **T**HERE is something pathetic about  
6 **T** the wrinkled socks of an old man, especially if they are white.— *A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**March**

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**March**  
7 **I**T is the effect only that men take in; and when a man goes into ecstasies over a gown of pale green on a hot day just because you look so cool and fresh in it, when you know that you paid but forty cents a yard for it, and only nods when you show him your velvet and ermine wrap, which cost you two hundred dollars, I would just like to ask you if it pays to dress for him.  
*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**March**  
8 **"CAN** you fall in love to order?" I asked in dismay. "Not exactly. 'To order!' Why, no. Anybody would think you were having boots made. But it's being with a man, and having him awfully good to you, and admiring everything you say, and having lots of smart clothes, and not being in love with any other fellow, that makes you love a man."—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**March**  
9 **L**IVING with a song in one's life may be the sweetest while it lasts, and before one thinks; but to live by a psalm is to find life infinitely more beautiful and worthier.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**March**

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**March**  
**10** **T**HE world is full of chatterboxes,  
whose emptiness makes more noise  
than the fulness of the philosophers.—*A Little  
Sister to the Wilderness.*



**March**  
**11** **T**HERE are fashions in thought as  
well as in dress; and the best of us  
follow both, as sheep follow their leader. We will  
sometimes follow our neighbor's line of insular  
prejudice, when worlds could not bribe us to copy  
her English or her gowns.—*The Love Affairs of an  
Old Maid.*



**March**  
**12** **H**ER respect, which she withheld from  
him until his sensitiveness forced him  
to make the most radical move of his life in order  
to compel it, she now, with the royal generosity of  
her nature, lavished upon him without stint or  
reason. He revelled in this fine distinction with  
the reacting joy of his previous discomfort, and  
lapped himself in the tropical warmth of her appre-  
ciation with all the satisfaction of the mentally thin-  
skinned who dread the cold judgment of the world.  
*With Feet of Clay, from Sir John and the American  
Girl.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**March**

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**March**  
**13**     **T**HE untold story of his silent love for his friend's wife was so recent, so hopeless, and so perfectly understood by her that he was safer for a companion than a freshly made widower; for the sacredness of his grief was tempered by a certain earthly piquancy which removed it from the danger of the solely spiritual and gave it a temporal flavor which acted as mental ballast. *With Feet of Clay, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

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**March**  
**14**     **I**T seems as if some men never *would* see the justice of the way a woman, who has been affronted by somebody else, takes it out on her husband or whoever happens to be handy! *The Under Side of Things.*

✻

**March**  
**15**     **W**HEN a man speaks of a "simple white muslin" in the softly admiring tone which he generally adopts to go with it, he means anything on earth in the line of a thin, light stuff which produces the effect of youth and innocence. A ball-dress or a cotton morning gown is to him a "simple white muslin."—*The Philosophy of Clothes, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**March**

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**March**  
**16** **I**N the brute it is instinct; in women, intuition. Man is the only creature sent helpless into the world to blunder along on reason. *A Study in Hearts, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*



**March**  
**17** **H**IS was a typical man's mind, out of which was driven all thought of love at the idea of a woman's having got on the wrong train.—*A Study in Hearts, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*



**March**  
**18** **I**N real life you cannot lose your love and heal your worse than widowed heart and love anew, as you would in private theatricals. *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**March**  
**19** **H**E was moody, and confided in her. She was foolish, and confided in him. They both decided that their hearts were ashes,—love burned out, and life a howling wilderness,—and then proceeded to exchange these empty hearts of theirs and to go through this howling wilderness together.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**March**

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**March**    **20**    **P**UT on your prettiest frock, the one which fits the best in the back. All your gowns should fit best in the back, for your back is at the mercy of the observer. You can defend the front in fifty ways; but how do you know what is going on behind you? A woman of genius has the backs of her gowns faultless. Mine are! The fronts of mine are plain. You never notice them, because I myself am the front of a gown.”  
*The Under Side of Things.*

**March**    **21**    **P**ERHAPS you think that girls do not know enough about other girls' husbands to discuss them with profit. But, if there has been a dinner or theatre party within our memory where the married girls did not take the bachelors and leave their husbands for us, we would just like to know when it was, that's all.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**March**    **22**    **D**ID you ever notice that men instinctively put confidence in a girl with blue eyes, and have their suspicions of a girl with brilliant black ones? and will you kindly tell me why?—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**March**

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**March**  
**23** **M**EN are always saying, "Well, why don't you tell us the kind of men you would like us to be?" And their attitude when they say it is with their thumbs in the arm-holes of their waistcoats. When a man is thoroughly satisfied with himself, he always expands his chest.—*The Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**March**  
**24** **T**HE owner of a stern moral sense, who has the wit not to preach at people, has no idea how permeating a Puritan influence is. It percolates through all looser-jointed natures with which it comes in contact, and acts like a spiritual tonic, stiffening up involuntarily the moral backbone of the weak.—*Miss Scarborough's Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*



**March**  
**25** **I** WONDER why Sunday nights always brings to a woman thoughts of the man she loves and can't marry,—won't marry, I mean. *A Pigeon Blood Ruby, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**March**

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**March**  
**26** **H**ER gravest fault is a witty tongue. That which many people would give years of their lives to possess is what she has shed the most tears over, and which she most liberally detests in herself. She calls it her private demon, and says she knows that one of the devils, in the woman who was possessed of seven, was the devil of wit.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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**March**  
**27** **S**HE is clever, too, at introspection and analysis — of herself chiefly. She studies her own sensations and dissects her moods. She is not, perhaps, more selfish than many another woman; but her selfishness is different. She is mentally cross-eyed from turning her eyes inward so constantly.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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**March**  
**28** **O**H, I hope, if I should live to be over fifty, that I may be a pleasant old person. I hope my teeth will fit me, and the parting to my wave be always in the middle. I hope my fingers will always come fully to the ends of my gloves, and that I never shall wear my spectacles on top of my head.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**March**

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**March**  
**29** I DO not see how a woman with any self-respect can marry until she meets her master. The man I marry must have a stronger will and a greater brain than I have, or I should rule him. I shall never marry until I find a man who knows more than I do. Yet, as to these other men who have loved me, you know what a tender place a woman has in her heart for the men who have wanted to marry her. My intellect repudiated, but my heart cherishes them still. Odd things, hearts.  
*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**March**  
**30** A BORE is a man or woman who never knows How or When.—*Men who Bore us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**March**  
**31** N OBODY wants undiluted honesty,—least of all, men. But the mistake women make is in coloring the truth. They make it gray, and gray is dull and unbecoming. Now when I color the truth, I make it red. Most men love red. It warms and cheers.—*The Under Side of Things.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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## APRIL

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**April**  
1 **T**HE first spring wind brings a suggestion of late patches of snow, of the last thaw, of the rich black earth melting beneath, of the thin green stalks of jonquils and crocuses to-day and the promise that we shall have violets to-morrow. There is little of tenderness in a spring wind. It is too young for that. Tenderness comes with experience. But there is a rush and a whirr in it as of myriads of unseen wings, and there is a buoyancy in its sting which sends a sparkle into wintry blood and a thrill to cool pulses; for its electricity is contagious.— *The Expatriates.*



**April**  
2 **M**ANY people, of wide experience in other matters, absolutely deny the existence of love at first sight. They lay great stress upon the impossibility of such an occurrence, and point with pride to the fact that they are bank presidents or treasurers of orphan asylums or aldermen, to give weight to their opinions.— *The Under Side of Things.*

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# APRIL

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**April**


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**3** **T**HE more I know of horses, the more natural I think men and women are in the unequalness of their marriages. I never yet saw a pair of horses so well matched that they pulled evenly all the time. The more skilful the driver, the less he lets the discrepancy become apparent. Going up hill, one horse generally does the greater share of work; and, if they pull equally up hill, sometimes they see-saw and pull in jerks on a level road. And I never saw a marriage in which both persons pulled evenly all the time; and the worst of it is, I suppose this unevenness is only what is always expected.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**April**  
**4** **M**OST men are provincial when they make love, but it is the provincialism of those who give the matter no thought, and not of bigotry.—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**April**  
**5** **I**T is queer what a curious effect daylight has on love, and odd how many of the kinks the moon puts in that the sun takes out. *The Under Side of Things.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**April**  
**6** **I**T is the curse of triflers that even when in earnest they cannot take all the comfort from the blissful pastime of falling in love with which that rapturous occupation is usually fraught. *A Study in Hearts, from The Instinct of Steppatherhood.*



**April**  
**7** **T**HEIR manners in public would have put Beau Brummel to the blush; but in private Frances was a little demon, and Peggy would fight as quietly but as long as a bull-dog. Frances flew into a passion a dozen times a day, but was ready to kiss and apologize in two minutes. Peggy would stand almost anything, but, when once her anger against her sister began to burn with a slow white heat, she had to be peeled off of Frances like a plaster.—*The Under Side of Things.*



**April**  
**8** **N**OBODY could take any comfort with as sharp a child as Frances, and people made no secret of their preference for the soothing companionship of her fat little sister. Most people prefer a pin-cushion to an emery — for daily use.—*The Under Side of Things.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**April**  
**9** **G**IRLS really believe, I suppose, that they dress for other girls; but they do not. They dress for men. And only experience will teach them the highest wisdom in the matter. But that they cannot acquire until they believe that only another woman will know just how well they are dressed, and, above all, whether Doucet turned them out or a dressmaker in the house at two dollars a day.—*The Philosophy of Clothes, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**April**  
**10** **I** SUPPOSE that women who never have encouraged a love which they did not intend to return never dream that an honest love may not be reciprocated.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**April**  
**11** **I** WONDER how many marriages there really are where both are perfectly free to marry. I mean, no secret entanglements on either side,—no other man wanting the bride, no girl bitterly jealous of her. I never heard of one,—not among the people *I* know, at least.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**April**

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**April**  
**12** **B**EAUTY such as hers successfully masks unusual intelligence; for who looks for philosophy in Venus?—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*



**April**  
**13** **E**LDERLY admirers with unctuous manners and an oily skin can make themselves very revolting to sensitive young ladies with romantic tendencies.—*The Under Side of Things.*



**April**  
**14** **H**E felt that a girl who could look up at a fellow like that was enough to turn West Point back to the starting-place for all the world,—the Garden of Eden, so called, perhaps, because two lovers were there alone, with nobody to bother them or ask them to make up a set.—*The Under Side of Things.*



**April**  
**15** **T**HERE is something particularly ruminative about the occupation of watching for the postman. A girl is apt to feel gently sentimental at such a time.—*A Study in Hearts, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**April**  
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**April**  
**16** **I**F a woman's heart is filled with love for a man, it makes it so tender that he has doubly the power to wound by a word or neglect.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**April**  
**17** **H**ER sensitiveness through every available channel makes her of no use to general society. Blundering people tread on her, malicious ones tear her to pieces. She is so clever that she is perfectly helpless.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**April**  
**18** **I**T is of no use to kick against the pricks. Bores are in this world for a purpose,—to chasten the proud spirit of women, who otherwise might become too indolent and ease-loving to be of any use,—and they are here to stay.—*Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**April**  
**19** **T**HERE is a delicacy, a fineness, about an answering silence which quickens the mind beyond that of the most responsive speech.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**April**  
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**April**  
**20** **O**UTSIDE gossip was scarce, of course, in a town like Stockbridge, where nothing ever happened. Still, Mrs. Copeland thought there was no sense in Mrs. Overshine's acting as if she were the ark of the covenant, just because she was in the inner circle of a celebrated New York divorce case.—*The Under Side of Things.*

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**April**  
**21** **H**IS anger never disturbed her. She could cope with that. It was only his conceit which sickened her, and made her long for unlimited open air,—some vast wilderness in which to pray out loud her thankfulness that she wasn't married to him and forced to listen to it always.—*Miss Scarborough's Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

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**April**  
**22** **I** BELIEVE in callin' a spade a spade, and not 'a sweet little shovel,' just because it happens to belong to us; especially when it is a spade, and not entirely free from garden mould, either!" — *Lizzie Lee's Separation, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**April**

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**April** “**L**OOK up there,” she cried, pointing.  
**23** “See the red in the river, and the black shadows, and the silver haze on the opposite shore, and the purplish light on the trees. Isn’t that a lovely picture?”

“What a beautiful, misty look it has,” said Gordon. “It is like a Corot.”

“Only in a Corot we call that haze atmosphere; but in Pennsylvania we call it malaria,” said Kate.—*The Under Side of Things.*



**April** **H**E looked so manly and determined  
**24** that Miss Scarborough viewed his possibilities in a feminine flash, and allowed herself to drift for a moment into the current of his will. It was one of those rare, potential moments when a woman lets herself think for the first time of this particular man as her husband.—*Miss Scarborough’s Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*



**April** **I**T takes moral courage in a man to be  
**25** true to one woman, if another woman has pitted her charms against him.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**April**

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**April**  
**26** SHE had everything in the world she wanted, yet she was always referred to as "poor little Elsie Copeland." Alas, to waste the heavenly gift of pity upon the carefully suffering rich!—*The Under Side of Things.*

**April**  
**27** THERE is no hatred so bitter as that engendered by outraged love.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**April**  
**28** WHEN a woman, born to be ruled by love only, passes by her master spirit, she becomes an anomaly in woman,—she makes complications over which the psychologist wastes midnight oil, and, if he never discovers the solution, it is because of its very simplicity.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**April**  
**29** IT really would be a delightful as well as a most instructive thing if a man occasionally could exchange places with the woman he loves, and view his actions through her eyes.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**April**

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**April**  
**30**      **O**NE'S first enchanted, enchanting view of Piccadilly is like being in love for the first time. You like it, and yet you don't like it,—this tremendous rush of feeling. You wish it would go away, yet you fear it will go all too soon. It gets into your head and makes you dizzy, and you want to shut your eyes; but you are afraid, if you do, that you will miss something. You cannot eat, and you cannot sleep. You feel that you have two consciousnesses,—one which belongs to the life you have lived hitherto, and which is still going on somewhere in the world, unmindful of you, and you unmindful of it; and the other is this new bliss which is beating in your veins, and sounding in your ears, and shining before your eyes, which no one knows and no one dreams of, but which keeps a smile upon your lips,—a smile which has in it nothing of humor, nothing from the great without, but which comes from the secret recesses of your own inner consciousness, where the heart of the matter lies.—*As Seen by Me.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**April**

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## MAY

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**May**  
**1** **H**E generally sat silent before her, only looking at her in the comprehending, appreciative way which develops unexpected powers of monologue in a woman who makes thought a habit.—*With Feet of Clay, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

✿

**May**  
**2** **S**HE always knew where the hem of her gown was, and how her train was hanging, and that people were looking at her. It was a subconsciousness entirely beyond her control, and in no way interfering with the deep experiences of her life; yet because she talked about it people called her frivolous.—*The Under Side of Things.*

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**May**  
**3** **I** HAVE always said that a man could marry any woman he wanted to,—given equal conditions,—and now I shall forever afterwards add that a woman can marry any man she sets out to.—*The Under Side of Things.*

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# MAY

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**May**

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**May**  
**4** **H**E thinks his money will compensate for the lack of family and the lack of breeding, and that it will even get him into heaven. Well, it will almost do that. I suppose heaven is the only place where money will not buy an entrance into best circles.— *A Pigeon Blood Ruby, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

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**May**  
**5** **T**HERE are traditions of women to whom their engagement was the period of bliss for which books are the authority. But books are so misleading. There are other women who would not live through it again for anything,— even to acquire the husbands whom its trials purchased.— *The Under Side of Things.*

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**May**  
**6** **W**E women have a right to question the wisdom of Olympus, when we, who must of necessity cope with the petty, narrow, hateful woman-worries of life, are only given the shield of Patience and are denied the buckler of Humor, when we might just as well have had both and been invulnerable, all but the heel.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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May 7 IT is so easy to feel sympathy for a man you admire, especially if he is strong and loyal, and does not ask or desire it of you.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

May 8 HE was always turning over a new leaf. But he lived in the land of to-morrow. His intentions, however, were good, only Kate said he spent the most of his time paving hell. And that saying almost shocked several members of first families into untimely graves.—*The Under Side of Things.*

May 9 I HAVE no worries which I do not borrow from my married friends. I keep up with the fashions; my clothes fit me; my fingers still come to the ends of my gloves; I feel no leaning towards all-over cloth shoes; I have not gone permanently into bonnets. I have tried to be a pleasant Old Maid, and my reward is that my friends make me feel as if they liked to have me about. I am not made to feel that I am *passée*. One's clothes and one's feelings are all that ever make one *passée*.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**May** “**N**ARY mules in West Tennessee kicks  
**10** like Ol’ Nick and General Grant. They air ugly as sin an’ mean as dirt. Paw, he named ’em that a-way ’case he says all the trouble the South ever had come from one or t’other of them two.” — *A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

**May** **T**HE names of the two towns may differ  
**11** in various Eastern States; but their tolerance rarely gets beyond two, and, when it does, it skips over to London and Paris. It never, for instance, comes to include three,—their own, New York, and Boston, or their own, Philadelphia, and New York. For most Eastern people the trinity does not exist. They have fallen into a certain geographical unitarianism.—*The Under Side of Things.*

**May** **W**HEN you say of a woman, “She is one  
**12** of those honest, outspoken persons,” it means that she will probably hurt your feelings or insult you in your first interview with her. This is why honesty is so disreputable.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**May**

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**May**  
**13** **O**PPPOSITE to her, on the other side of the table, her younger brother squirmed. Gifford's years are of no importance. He was at the age when boys wriggle.—*The Under Side of Things.*

**May**  
**14** **E**XCELLENT people they were, with sterling principles and large bank accounts, and clothes four seasons behind the times. That was the Scotch of it,—to buy good firm material which wore like iron, and then to wear it out. *The Under Side of Things.*

**May**  
**15** **I**F other women would let men alone, constancy would be less of a hollow mockery.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**May**  
**16** **S**OMETIMES in fashionable life we catch a glimpse of the simple-minded, homely kindness which we are taught to believe exists only among horny-handed farmers, rough miners, and hardy mountaineers.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**May**  
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**May**  
**17** I OFTEN wonder if men who have loved superior women and married average ones do not have occasional wonderings and yearnings over lost "might have beens."—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**May**  
**18** THE years cannot go on without destroying the old landmarks, and I am so old-fashioned that change of any kind saddens me. People move away, strangers take their houses, the girls marry, children grow up, and everything is so mutable that sometimes my cheerfulness has a haze to it.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**May**  
**19** THE favorite gibe of the self-made man is directed against the college graduate. Let there be a young fellow present who is fresh from college, and let him mention any subject connected with college life, from honors to athletics, and then, if you are hostess, sit still and let the icy waves of misery creep over your sensitive soul; for this is the opportunity of his life to the self-made man.—*Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**May**

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**20** **A** STRONG-MINDED woman is easier to persuade than a weak one. The grander the nature, the greater its pliability towards truth.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**May**  
**21** **A** MAN whom girls have trained is really modest. Even at twenty he does not think that he knows it all.— *Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**May**  
**22** **Y**OU never will hear a man praise even the good dressing of a woman he dislikes; while girls who positively hate another girl often will add, "But she certainly does know how to dress." *Philosophy of Clothes, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**May**  
**23** **N**EARLY everybody who was full-grown, and there were also quite a goodly number of non-dangerous infantile disorders, had his own private malady, which was as distinctive and peculiarly his own, and as unavailable to others, as his silver door-plate.— *The Under Side of Things.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**May**

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**May**  
**24** **A** VERY good thing about Percival is that he does not think he knows everything. It encourages me to believe in his genius.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**May**  
**25** **S**HE and her conscience were on intimate and free-spoken but not particularly agreeable terms. One sometimes has friends of that description.—*A Study in Hearts.*



**May**  
**26** **I** WOULD rather argue with a woman who is desperately in love, to prevent her marrying the man of her choice, than to try to dissuade a woman from marrying a man she has set her head upon. You feel sympathy with the former; and you have human nature and the whole glorious love-making Past at your back, to give you confidence and eloquence. But with the latter you are cowed and beaten beforehand, and tongue-tied during the contest.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**May**  
**27** **U**SED against a high soul, there is no surer method of humiliation than an apology.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**May**

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**May**  
**28** **N**O unwarned man is a suitable antagonist for a predetermined woman. Besides that, it is said that even Jove nods upon occasions; but, if Venus ever did, the record has been lost.—*The Under Side of Things.*

**May**  
**29** **T**O be absolutely genuine and humble is half the battle. One may win even the most obstinate and prejudiced. If one will only bend low enough, one may go through the lowest portal.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

**May**  
**30** **I**F the mother has neglected her obvious duty in training her son to be a livable portion of humanity, who but the girls must take up her lost opportunities? — *From a Girl's Point of View.*

**May**  
**31** **I**NEVER could understand why a man who plays a good game of whist should not know how to make love. There are so many points in common. You can play a game of whist with only enough skill to keep your partner's hands from your throat, or you can play it for all there is in it.—*Men as Lovers, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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## JUNE

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**June**  
**1** I NEVER can blame people who refuse to accept an apology in the shape of flowers when the wound has been given in words.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

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**June**  
**2** HE is so clever that you would be afraid of him if it wasn't for his lovely manners, which make you feel as though what you are saying is just what he has been wanting to know, and he is so glad he has met some one who is able to tell him.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

**June**  
**3** WHO knows the private demon who dwells, side by side with one's good angel, in the heart of a woman like me? Does any one dream of the tumult within, when I carry such a proud front? Who can tell what is going on in the heart of any woman who is making up her mind to marry?— *A Pigeon Blood Ruby, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

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# JUNE

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**June**  
**4** **T**HERE is so much in life which we cannot see at the beginning, but which grows with our growth, and bears us company in the richness of evening-tide.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**June**  
**5** **A** **M**AN who talks constantly has a thousand ways always at hand in which to make a fool of himself. A silent man has but one.— *Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**June**  
**6** **I**T never does women any harm to weep and sob and cry their hearts out over tender, old-fashioned music. And, if they were not just that gentle and sentimental and soft-hearted, the men would never love them as they do.— *The Under Side of Things.*

**June**  
**7** **T**HE dyspeptic generally wants to tell you "all about it." That is a bore, to begin with; for nobody in the world wants to hear anybody in the world tell all about anything in the world.— *Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**June**

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June  
8     **A** BROKEN engagement ought to be considered a blessed thing as a preventive of further and worse ills.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*



June  
9     **S**HE was one of those who are fully appreciated only when they are dead, and who then call forth the bitterest remorse that we have not made them know in life how dear they were and how painfully necessary to our happiness. *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



June  
10    **T**O have the bridge of your nose ache is the only stopping-place this side of tears for the pathos in the under side of things.— *The Under Side of Things.*



June  
11    **N**O love was ever wasted. It enriches the giver involuntarily. You are a sweeter, better woman than before you loved, unless you made the mistake of small natures, and let it embitter you. You have no right to feel that it has been wasted.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**June**

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**June**  
**12** **F**OR *the dramatis personæ* a marriage engagement is an uncomfortable contrivance in many ways. Like the misunderstood honeymoon, it is easier for an outsider to weave romances about its perfect bliss than it is for the courageous participants, who are simply trying to live it down.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**June**  
**13** **W**HAT girl at a summer resort has not felt the misery of coming out on the verandah with the wrong man, only to see the right man with another girl? And if the other girl was having her glove buttoned at just that particular moment, and your own soul's property was bending over her hand,—actually holding it, as everybody knows a man has to do when he buttons a glove,—and if the other girl was so absorbed in the interesting process that she did not look up to bow or give him a chance to bow, and you had to go on down the steps, chattering to your own man, who suddenly has become so hateful to you that you almost wish he would trip on the steps and land on his head,—then you can truthfully say that you know what real misery is.—*The Under Side of Things.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**June**


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**June**  
**14** **I** DO not mentally love white, and he does not mentally love black, as so many husbands and wives do. We both love gray,—different tones of gray, but still gray.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**June**  
**15** **O**H, these girls, these girls, who believe every time a man at a ball says he loves them that he means it!—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**June**  
**16** **L**ET men beware how they criticise us unfavorably ; for the truth of the matter is that, be we frivolous or serious, vain or sensible, clever or stupid, rich or poor, we are what the American man has made us.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**June**  
**17** **E**VERYBODY seems to think they are making an experiment of marriage, because they are so much alike. But, then, doesn't every one who marries at all, Jew or Gentile, black or white, bond or free, make an experiment?—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**June**

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**June**  
**18** **H**E was more than convinced that she was a lady. In fact, she admitted it herself.—*The Under Side of Things.*



**June**  
**19** **I**T is true that these unselfish women inculcate a system of unselfishness in their families which often works their ruin. They rob the children of their rightful virtue of self-sacrifice.  
*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**June**  
**20** **M**Y friends always have confided in me. I suppose it is because I am receptive. Men tell me their old love affairs. Girls tell me the whole story of their engagements,—how they came to take this man, and why they did not take that one. And even the most ordinary are vitally interesting. Before I know it, I am rent with the same despair which agitates the lover confiding in me, or I am wreathed in the smiles of the engaged girl, who is getting her absorbing secret comfortably off her mind. It seems to relieve them to air their emotion, and sometimes I am convinced that they leave the most of it with me.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**June**

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**June 21** **O**H me, these mothers! It brings tears to my eyes to think of their unending love, which wraps around and shelters and broods over every one whose helplessness clings to their help, whose need depends upon their exhaustless supply. Theirs it is to bear the invisible but princely crest, "*Ich dien.*"—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

**June 22** **I**AM in mortal terror of a very little baby. It feels so much like a sponge, yet lacks the sponge's recuperative qualities. I am always afraid, if I dent it, the dents will stay in. You know they don't in a sponge.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

**June 23** **C**ONVERSATION with the untrained man under thirty-five is impossible, because he never converses: he only talks.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**June 24** **T**HERE'S no use in talking. After a girl falls in love with a man, she often ceases to be the girl he courted.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**June**

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**June**  
**25** **M**EN seldom make perfect lovers. I deeply regret being obliged to say this, as they are about all girls have to depend upon in that line.—*Men as Lovers, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**June**  
**26** **S**HE is so perfect that there is absolutely no flaw in her for me to recognize and feel friendly with.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**June**  
**27** **I**N one skilled at reading human nature an apology becomes a weapon.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**June**  
**28** **D**ID you ever notice, when he talks, how Rachel turns her head away? But you can see the color creep up into her face. She is too proud and shy to let people see how much she cares for him. But, when *she* speaks, Percival looks at her with all his eyes, and positively leans forward so that he shall not miss a word. I love to watch those two. Sometimes when I have been with them, I feel as if I had been to church.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**June**

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**June**  
**29** **T**HERE are those rare souls whose sorrow is never of their own making, whose lives might bask in sunshine except for the shadows which others cast.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*



**June**  
**30** **K**ENTUCKY girls are all pretty, I suppose,—everybody says so, and you have to make believe you think so, whether you do or not; but this one,—you know her? Isn't she the prettiest thing you ever saw?—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**June**  
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## JULY

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**July**  
**1** **I** HONESTLY believe that the simple phrase, "I am sorry, dear: forgive me," has done more to hold brothers in the home, to endear sisters to each other, to comfort mothers and fathers, to tie friends together, to placate lovers; that more marriages have taken place because of them, and more have held together on account of them; that more love of all kinds has been engendered by them than by any other words in the English language.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**July**  
**2** **I**T is only by knowing the under side of things that we are able to judge brilliantly.—*The Under Side of Things.*



**July**  
**3** **A** GIRL who wilfully catches a man's heart on the rebound does the thing which involves more risk than anything else malevolent fate could devise.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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# JULY

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**July**

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**July**  
**4** **H**OW dare men and women trifle with the Shekinah of their lives? And, when it has been dulled by abuse, what a pitiful Shekinah it appears to the one who approaches it reverently, confidently expecting it to be the uncontaminated holy of holies! It is this sort of thing which makes infidels about love.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**July**  
**5** **S**HE disbelieved in people against her will. She envied those who could skim lightly over the surface of society, being amused by its cleverness, yet escaping the heartache which she always carried home with her at the remembrance of its falseness.— *Miss Scarborough's Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

**July**  
**6** **A**LL my life I have been dodging bores and landing clever men and floating in to shore on the high tide of success, without letting anybody catch me at my harmless little tricks except women. I wouldn't let them if I could have helped myself. But other women are sometimes too much for me.— *The Under Side of Things.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**July**

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**July**  
**7** **M**EN might be a little bit surprised if they could read the minds of these very wives whom they have won, whose life-work often may be only to improve them so that they will make some other woman the kind of a husband they should have made at first, and then to lie down and die.—*The Untrained Man Under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**July**  
**8** **I** KNOW so many women who carry an ache in their hearts, which their husbands never suspect; sometimes for a love they have lost; sometimes for one that never came; sometimes for one they dared not take.—*A Pigeon Blood Ruby, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

✻

**July**  
**9** **I**T is a fortunate thing for some people's chances for a future life that there are a reasonable number of consciences distributed through the world, although it would be an Old Maid's suggestion that sometimes they be allowed to drive instead of being used as a liveried tiger,—for ornament, and always behind.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**July**

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**July**  
**10** **I**T is so easy for one's Ego to grow accustomed to spelling itself with a capital, and to forget that one's old friends had hitherto always spelled it with a small letter.—*The Self-made Man, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**July**  
**11** **I**T does not surprise me so much when girls from another city marry men under thirty-five. Most men do not like to write letters, and visits are only for over Sunday.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**July**  
**12** **Y**OU have set your feet on the slippery downward path of Perfection, and I only wish you could see how stupidly conceited you appear to a pagan outsider because you believe so absolutely that you are right and that I am wrong.—*The Under Side of Things.*



**July**  
**13** **W**HY is it that men expect an old sweetheart to take an active interest in their bride-elect, and are so deadly sure that they will like each other?—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**July**  
**14** **A**LICE has embraced Theosophy and spells her name "Alys." She always is interested in something new and advanced; and, whenever I meet her, I am prepared to go into ecstasies over a plan to save men's souls by electricity, or something equally speedy in the moral line. She is daft on spiritual rapid transit.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**July**  
**15** **W**IT is a weapon of defence, and was no more intended to be an attribute of woman than is a knowledge of fire-arms or a fondness for mice. A witty woman is an anomaly, fit only for literary circles, and to be admired at a distance.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**July**  
**16** **Y**OU can always tell when a man is in love, especially if he is not the loving sort, and has never been troubled in that way before. The best kind of love has to be so intuitive that it often is grandly, heroically awkward. Depend upon it, a man who is dainty and pretty and unspeakably smooth when he makes love to you has had altogether too much practice.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**July**

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**July**  
**17** I HAVE seen women so uplifted by the sound of glorious music, and men so stirred by the sight of some heroic deed, that I have thought, "Oh, what the world loses because you do not speak *now*, and tell what you dream and strive and agonize to do!" — *A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

✻

**July**  
**18** "WHEN I see how easily some married people get along with each other, and how patient wives are, I do get ashamed of the way my husband and I fuss; but somehow, even when I make up my mind not to get mad, he says something about my religion just *too* much — mostly about bap**t**ism — and then I flare up!" — *Lizzie Lee's Separation, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*

✻

**July**  
**19** YOU say pretty things even to old women, and bring them shawls, and put footstools under their feet with the air of a lover. And if you only hand a woman an ice, you look unutterable things. You have a dozen girls at a time in that indefinite state when three words to any one of them would engage you to her. — *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**July**

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**July**  
**20** **H**ER quick wit resented the inanities of the conventional, but her conscience kept her from breaking over its set rules. She shocked her mother by telling her she was too cowardly to be wicked, and she didn't want to be good.—*Miss Scarborough's Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

✿

**July**  
**21** “**S**HE ought to have had mo' patience with him. Cuthbert admits he was wearin' ; but, laws, sister, most men are !”—*Lizzie Lee's Separation, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*

✿

**July**  
**22** **S**TILL natures, with the power of self-repression developed beyond all other faculties, are oftenest misunderstood.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

✿

**July**  
**23** **S**HE was a girl over whom men went to pieces so easily and recovered from such lapses so suddenly that she knew the danger of believing too much.—*A Study in Hearts, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**July**

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**July**  
**24** **P**ERHAPS you don't know that a girl who makes a business of wearing scalps at her belt never stands a bit of a chance with a man she really loves; for she is afraid to practise on him the wiles which she knows from experience have been successful with scores of others, because she feels that he will see through them, and scorn her as she scorns herself in his presence. She loses her courage, she loses control of herself, and, being used to depend on "business," as actors say, to carry out her rôle successfully, she finds that she is only reading her lines, and reading them very badly, too.—  
*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**July**  
**25** **S**HE could rock on a squeaking board for an hour, with no hint from her own sleeping nerves that she was driving the more sensitive frantic. She never could sit very long without jingling two of her rings together or fingering her bunch of keys or tapping her thimble on wood. When she was a child, I suppose she wrote with a slate-pencil which—but why refer to a sound more horrible in my ears than the wail of a lost soul?—  
*A Woman of No Nerves, from The Instinct of Stepfatherhood.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**July**

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**July 26** **T**HE judge, although scrupulously careful about his diet, had dyspepsia. Perhaps this was because he went through with a good deal at his meals besides eating, particularly at breakfast, which was a pity. Breakfast is bad enough in itself, without any one selecting that unfortunate time to be particularly disagreeable.— *The Under Side of Things.*

**July 27** **H**EAVEN help the man who is girl-spoiled! — *The Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**July 28** **H**EAVEN defend me from the too accurate man! In non-essentials the man who decorates his conversation with mild but pleasing patterns of that style of statement made famous by one Ananias is to be depended upon quite as surely as the man who takes all the sunshine from the day, and leads one's thoughts to dwell on high, by spending ten minutes trying to recall whether he dropped that stone on his foot before or after dinner.— *The Too Accurate Man, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**July**

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**July 29** **W**OMEN wish to please men aside from their power of winning them. Whereas, if a man can get a girl without any change on his part, he considers himself a howling success. *Men as Lovers, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**July 30** **A** PARIS cabman makes it a rule never to look around before he turns his horse. He can determine what is behind him with more accuracy by running into it.—*The Expatriates.*



**July 31** **M**ANY people know nothing about a real apology. A lukewarm apology is more insulting than the insult. A handsome apology is the handsomest thing in the world, and the manliest and the womanliest. An apology, like chivalry, is sexless. Perhaps because it is a natural virtue of women, it sits manlier upon men than upon women.

. . . "It becomes

The throned monarch better than his crown."

*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**July**

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## AUGUST

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**August**  
**1** **F**LOSSY'S mother named her—not Florence, but Flossy. I suppose she was one of those fluffy, curly, silky babies. She grew to be that kind of a girl,—a Flossy girl. It speaks for itself. I dare say with that name she never had any incentive to outgrow her nature.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

**August**  
**2** **T**HE wisest thought is that which is ripening in the minds of philosophers who are yet dumb. The cleverest books are those which have not yet been written. The heavenliest music is that which is yet surging and beating in the hearts of men, which cannot find a voice.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

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**August**  
**3** **I** NEVER said you could not get married. There is nothing intricate about that. Anybody can marry.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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# AUGUST

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**August**  
**4** **B**RONSON had his ideals before he was married, as most men have, concerning the kind of a home he hoped for. He always said that it was not so much what your home was as how it was. He believed that a home consisted more in the feeling and aims of its inmates than in rugs and jardinières. He used to say that "the oneness of two people could make a home in Sahara." — *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**August**  
**5** "THERE is nothing, absolutely nothing, you cannot do with a man who loves you, if you don't care a speck for him. And the luxury of perfect indifference! Emotions are awfully wearing." — *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**August**  
**6** **M**AKING love to women requires the same sort of skill required to play a scientific game of whist. I have seen men win very superior girls, but they have done it in a manner which would disgust good whist-players.— *Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**August**

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**August**  
**7** **A**LL that girls have to do is to lean back, and let men wait on them until they see one that suits them. It is like ordering from a menu card for them to select husbands. Marrying is so easy for a girl. It comes natural to her.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**August**  
**8** **W**ITH success should come the determination, be you man or woman, to fall upon your knees every day, and pray Heaven for strength to keep from believing the flattery of enemies, so that you still may be bearable to your friends and livable to your family.—*The Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**August**  
**9** **S**ILENCE is a weapon. It is a powerful corrective, when used against a silent person, who then sees himself as others see him. It is a defence, used against the indiscreet; and in the hands of wise men it is a suit of armor. Silence is never dangerous, unless, like a gun, in the hands of a fool.—*Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**August**

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**August**  
**10**     **S**HE wears red on a cold, raw day; and the eyes of the men light up when they look at her. She wears gray when she wants to look demure. Let a man beware of a woman in silvery gray.— *The Philosophy of Clothes, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**August**  
**11**     “**M**EN who stand by their guns,— those are my heroes. Sometimes one never knows their names: only that a fireman belonging to such and such a company rescued women and children from a burning building. No name, often not even a medal or the recognition of having his name spelled correctly in the morning papers, but in my mind every inch a hero, and the bravest of heroes at that.”— *The Expatriates.*

**August**  
**12**     **W**HY are old maids always supposed to wear black silks? And why are they always supposed to be thin?— the old maids, I mean, not the silks. Why are literary women always supposed to be frayed at the edges?— *Philosophy of Clothes, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**August**

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**August**  
**13** **I**F a girl receives three proposals, that, I am told, is a fair average. If she receives ten, she is either an heiress or a belle. If she receives more than ten, she must visit in the South.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**August**  
**14** **T**HERE is only one thing meaner than a person who never apologizes, and that is a person who will not accept one.—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**August**  
**15** **W**OMEN who are capable of being really *bored* never even see men who ogle, any more than, if you were being roasted alive, you would care if a hairpin pulled.—*Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**August**  
**16** **W**HY have men always possessed an exclusive right to the sense of humor? I believe it is because they live out of doors more. Humor is an out-of-door virtue. It requires ozone and the light of the sun.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**August**

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**August**  
**17** **T**HE great soft gift of silence shall always remain the precious possession of those who cherish it as they should. They shall still, as friend and mate, draw to themselves the articulate.— *A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

**August**  
**18** **M**EN have become famous as conversationalists who have only sat and looked admiringly at vivacious women.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

**August**  
**19** **T**HERE is a difference between pity and sympathy. One is thrown at you: the other walks with you.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**August**  
**20** **T**HE "tell-all-about-everything" bore can only be explained on the microbe theory. None other can account for its universality. You can carry contagion of it in your clothes and inoculate a person of weak mental constitution, who is of a build to take anything, until, in a fortnight, he or she will be a hopeless slave to the tell-all-about-everything habit.— *Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**August**

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**August**  
**21** **S**HE thought what her mission was,—  
to make a home; to be a good wife;  
to understand and teach little children. And where  
do you find the new woman now? In the kinder-  
garten colleges; in university settlements; attend-  
ing mothers' meetings; teaching ignorant mothers  
how to understand the tender souls and delicate  
bodies of the dear little creatures committed to their  
loving but unwise care. You find them well pre-  
pared by a course of study to accept the responsi-  
bilities of life when their time comes. Is *that*  
trivial? Is *that* a subject to sneer at or to jest about?  
Rather it is the hope of the nation.—*The New*  
*Woman, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**August**  
**22** **C**OME now. Own up, you men.  
How well do we girls know you  
when you have called on us three hundred and sixty-  
five times in succession? Not at all. We know  
only what we can see and hear. How well do we  
know you when we have been engaged to you six  
months? Not at all. We know only what you  
have been unable to conceal of your faults, and the  
virtues you have displayed in your show-windows.  
*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**August**

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August

23


WHEN success — business or social or athletic or literary or artistic — comes to the untrained man under thirty-five, it comes pitifully near being his ruin.—*The Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



August

24

YOU can jail a man who steals your watch; but the girl who steals a man's heart away from his sweetheart walks free and uncondemned even, to their shame be it spoken, by those who know what she has done. Love is not a matter of infatuation. It is not the temptation which is wrong: it is the deliberate following it up simply because the temptation is agreeable. Of course it is agreeable! You are not often irresistibly tempted to go and have your teeth filled!—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



August

25

THE girl is actively miserable, and her husband is indifferently uncomfortable,—which is the habit this married couple have of experiencing the same emotion.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**August**

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**August**  
**26** **I**T is a sad thing to get so used to a beautiful exception like love that you never think of it as marvellous.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**August**  
**27** **A**GIRL who deliberately intends to get another girl's lover begins by gaining her confidence. Very likely she manages to stay all night with her. (That is the time you tell everything you know, just because it is dark, and then spend the rest of your life wishing you hadn't.) *From a Girl's Point of View.*

**August**  
**28** **I**WOULD even address a private query, at just this point, to the women, begging that the men will skip it, asking women where in the world we would find ourselves if we were unflinchingly honest with the men who love us?— *Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**August**  
**29** **W**HAT the Gaul calls pride the Anglo-Saxon calls vanity.— *The Expatriates.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**August**

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**August**  
**30**      **T**HE adulation of the world is more intoxicating and more deadly than to drink absinthe out of a stein,—more insidious than opium, more fatal than death. It unsettles the steadiest brain and feeds the too ravenous ego with a food which at first he deems nectar and ambrosia, but which he soon comes to feel is the staff of life, and no more than he deserves.—*The Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**August**  
**31**      **I**N the whole history of the world, from nineteenth-century Public Opinion clear back to the age of chivalry, men never have been inclined to deal out justice to women. It is their watchword with each other, but with women it always is either injustice or mercy. And, in spite of all wrongs and all abuses, I say, Heaven bless the men that this is so! Who among us is brave enough to demand justice at the expense of chivalry? — *From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**August**

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## SEPTEMBER

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**September**  
**1** **I**T is not pride, it is a stupid vanity and an abnormal self-love which prevent a man or woman from apologizing.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**2** **M**EN never will have done with their strictures on girls until girls achieve two things. One is to observe more honor in their relations with each other, and the other is to learn to think.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**3** **Y**OU men are so terribly practical and common-sense and every-day. We girls like flowers, and mental indigestibles, and occasional Sundays. We do not know why we do, but we do, and we cannot help it; and, if you are going to make love according to Hoyle, you must recognize this fact, and pamper us in our folly. Don't we pamper you?— *Men as Lovers, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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# SEPTEMBER

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**September**

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**D**OES a fragment of genius corrupt the æsthetic sense? Is writing a hardening process? Must you wear shabby boots and carry a baggy umbrella just because you can write? Not a bit of it. Little as some of you men may think it, literary women have souls; and a woman with a soul must, of necessity, love laces and ruffled petticoats and high-heels and rosettes. Otherwise, I question her possession of a soul.—  
*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

September

5

**A**S with most men, love was making him more alive. He felt more keen, more sensitive to impressions, more psychological. The woman's point of view was continually coming into his mental vision, rendering him uncertain of himself, less assured. His unconscious masculine finality of judgment was being shaken.—  
*The Expatriates.*

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September

6

**I**T requires a finer type of generosity to receive generously than to give generously.—  
*Love-making as a Fine Art, from  
From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**September**

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**September**  
7      **H**E spends hours studying that horse's traits. He is always saying that she won't back, or that she hates this and is afraid of that. His horse never has to do anything that she doesn't want to ; but his wife does.—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
8      **I**N the first place, dyspepsia is such a refined and ladylike trouble. It has no disgusting details. You can refer to it at all times without fear of nauseating your hearers. In the second place, you can count on nearly half of your hearers' having it, too.—*Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
9      **A** NEW Man has been created by the development of the New Woman, and he is the highest type we have.

“Courtesy wins woman as well  
As valor may, but he that closes both  
Is perfect.”

—*The New Woman, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**September**

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✓ **September**  
**10** **T**OO much analysis is death to unmitigated rapture.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*



**September**  
**11** **I** GLORY in the new woman in that so often she *is* rich and beautiful. It is easy enough to be good if you are plain. In fact, there is nothing else left for a plain woman to do.— *The New Woman, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**September**  
**12** **T**HE too accurate man is ubiquitous. If you hear of him, and refuse to meet him, it is only to find that he has married your best friend, whom worlds could not bribe you to give up. If you weed him out of your acquaintance, it is only to realize that he was born into your relationship a generation ago, before you could prevent it. Sometimes he is your father, sometimes your brother. Both of these, however, can be lived down. But occasionally you discover that, in a moment of frenzy, you have married him! Heaven help you then, for "marriage stays with one like a murder."— *The Too Accurate Man, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**September**

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**September**  
**13** **I**T is a question whether a woman ever knows all the joys of love-making who has one of those dumb, silent husbands who doubtless adores her, but is able to express it only in deeds.—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**14** **F**AR be it from me to say that the untrained man under thirty-five, at his worst, is of no use in this world. He is excellent for a two-step.—*The Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**15** **T**HE most perfect lover is the one who best understands how and when to apologize.—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**16** **W**OMEN have more conscience about deceiving themselves into staying in love than men have.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**September**

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**September**

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**A** MAN never seems to be able to understand that, in order to obtain the supremest pleasure from an act of thoughtfulness to his wife, he must be wholly unselfish and give it to her in her line and the way she wants it, and the way he knows she wants it, if he would only stop to think.—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**September**

18

**I** HAVE learned to love my life and to cultivate it. Who knows what is in her life, until she has tended it and made it know that she expects something from it in return for all her aspirations and endeavors?—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**September**

19

**I**NFIRMARIES should be established for the purpose of making the stupid interesting, or classes organized on "How to Be Brief" or on "The Art of Relating Salient Points" or on "The Best Method of Skipping the Unessentials in Conversation." I would go, for one.—*Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**September**

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**September**  
**20**      **T**HERE is a hollowness about having a man praise your gowns when you know he doesn't know what he is talking about. When a man praises your clothes, he always is praising you in them.—*The Philosophy of Clothes, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**21**      **A**DYSPEPTIC disagrees with me as religiously as if I had eaten him.—*Men who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**22**      **A**MAN will always take more good advice from a woman whom he has no right to love than he will from his own sweetheart or wife.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**23**      **Y**OU men do not recognize the romantic streak which, of more or less breadth and thickness, runs through every woman, making her love good love-making.—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**September**

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**September**  
**24**      **H**OW I pity the people who love those men and women who "never apologize"!—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**25**      **E**VERY man honestly believes that he has made, is making, or could make a good lover.—*Women as Lovers, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**26**      **I** NEVER worry myself when a man is on his knees in front of me, tying the ribbons of my slipper, as to whether he considers me his equal politically or not. It is sufficient satisfaction for me to see him there.—*Woman's Rights in Love, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**27**      **T**O those of us who are romantic it is fearful to think of deliberately turning our backs on the terrapin and lobster and ice-cream of life, and meditating upon plain bread and cold potatoes.—*Men as Lovers, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**September**

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**September**  
**28** **I**MAGINE the calamity of Hamlet married to Ophelia! That *would* have been a tragedy. Think of a man clever enough to discover that his idol was made of putty, — that his sweetheart was a Rosamond Vincy! Hamlet was a wise man. He withdrew in time. Most men have to be married ten years to discover that they have married an Ophelia or a Rosamond.  
*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**29** **W**OMEN have tenderer hearts than men for a purpose; and, if they are hurt oftener than men's, why, that is for us to bear. We cannot make ourselves over and turn Amazons at their expense.—*Woman's Rights in Love, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**September**  
**30** **H**AVE you never noticed the change in conversation with the entrance of a new person? How, when a lovely girl enters, the men all straighten their ties and the women moisten their lips? — *From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**September**

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## OCTOBER

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October

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THOSE dense persons inhabiting the thickly populated region bordering on foolishness,—those self-satisfied, uncomprehending egoists occupying the half-way house between wisdom and folly known as stupidity,—against such my wrath burns fiercely. They are so deceptive, so un-get-at-able. They wear the semblance of wisdom, yet it is but a cloak to snare and delude mankind into testing their intelligence. They are not labelled by Heaven, like the fools, whom we may avoid if we will, or to whom we may go in a spirit of philanthropy. They do not wear straw in their hair, like maniacs, nor drool, like simpletons. No: they infest society clad in the most immaculate of evening clothes. Often they are college graduates, and get along very well with other men. They are frequently found among the rich, sometimes even among the poor. Sometimes they are stolid, and cannot understand. Sometimes they are indifferent, and won't understand. Sometimes they are English.—*The Stupid Man, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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# OCTOBER

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October

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**October**  
**2** I SUPPOSE there is not a man in the world who would not be surprised if he knew that we do not consider men good lovers. We have accepted them and been engaged to them and married them and pretended to them, and, what is worse still, pretended to ourselves that they were satisfactory; but the truth is, they were not and they are not,—and this is the first time we have dared to say so.—*Men as Lovers, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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**October**  
**3** THERE are men, you know, whose one grand passion in life is for themselves.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

**October**  
**4** IN her simplicity, she accepted the spirit of kindness as the complete fulfilment of the highest courtesy, and never dreamed of that pitiful portion of humanity who demand only the outward form of politeness, and are ready with their cruel ridicule if this same form be not of the most finished outside, leaving the prompting spirit grieved and forgotten.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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**October**  
5 **I** QUITE envy a man who is an acknowledged bore; he is so free from responsibility. *He* does not care that the conversation dies every time he shows his face: he is used to it. It is nothing to him that clever men and women ache audibly in his presence: *he* has no reputation to lose. The hostess is not a friend of his, for whom he feels that he must exert himself. A bore *has* no friends. He is a social leech.—*Men Who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**October**  
6 **O**F course there is the woman who shrieks on political platforms and neglects her husband, and lets her children grow up like little ruffians, the woman who wears bloomers and bends over her handle-bar like a monkey on a stick, the woman who wants to hold office with men and smoke and talk like men,—alas that there *is* that variety of women! but she is not new. Pray, did you never see her before she wore bloomers? Bloomers are no worse than the sort of clothes she used to wear. Her swagger is no more pronounced now than it used to be in skirts. She has always had bloomer instincts.—*The New Woman, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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**October**  
7 **T**HE whole of Europe would not compensate some women for a hurt, when the hurt had been distinctly worded and the apology came in the shape of a dumb, voiceless present.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**October**  
8 **T**HE touching wickedness of the American girl consists in saying things which would be a shock to her Puritan mother, but of behaving at all times as if chaperoned by the angel Gabriel.—*Miss Scarborough's Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

✻

**October**  
9 **S**OME of the greatest little frauds I know are the purry, kitteny girls with big, innocent blue eyes. Blazing black eyes, and the rich, warm colors which dark-skinned women have to wear, suggest energy and brilliance and no end of intellect. A mere question of pigment in the eye has settled many a man's fate in life, and established him with a wife who turned out to be very different from the girl he fondly thought he was getting.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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**October**  
**10** I NEVER clamored very much for women to be recognized as the equals of men, either in politics or in love, because, if I had clamored at all, I should have clamored for infinitely more than that. I should have clamored for men to recognize us as their superiors, and not for equal rights with themselves, but for more, many more rights than they ever dreamed of possessing. 'Tis not justice I crave, but mercy; 'tis not equality, but chivalry.—*Woman's Rights in Love, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**October**  
**11** I APPROVE of men keeping silent when they have nothing to say. It shows that they recognize their limitations, and refuse to rush in where angels fear to tread.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**October**  
**12** WOMEN are a believing set of human geese, and we believe a great deal of what you men say, which is wrong of us; and much more of what your pronounced actions over us imply, which is worse.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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**October**  
**13**      **D**ELECTABLE as honesty is in a bank clerk, or would be in a lawyer, one yearns for a little less accuracy in the moral make-up of the too accurate man, for a little of the celestial leaven of exaggeration in the dusty dryness of his dead-level garrulousness.—*Men Who Bore Us, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**October**  
**14**      **W**OMAN'S rights! Why, the very first right we expect is to be treated better than anybody else! Better than men treat each other as a body, and better by the individual man than he treats all other women.—*Woman's Rights in Love, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**October**  
**15**      **T**HERE is a time when the youth of twenty knows more than any one on earth could teach him, and more than he ever will know again,—a time when, no matter how kind his heart, he is incased in a mental haughtiness before which plain Wisdom is dumb.—*The Untrained Man under Thirty-five, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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October

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HE never bothers. He never is in the way. He is as deft at buttoning a glove as he is amiable at playing cards. You always think of him first if you are making up a theatre party. He serves equally well as groomsman or pall-bearer, although I do not speak from experience in either instance. He never is cross or sulky. He makes the best of everything; and I think men say that he is "an all-round good fellow." *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

October

17

IS it that we women are more artistic and cleverer at masquerading the truth that we make so much better lovers than the men?—*Men as Lovers, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

October

18

THERE is the cry of the inarticulate, of that large, not-to-be-ignored portion of humanity whose thoughts need an interpreter; who with womanish, nice perceptions need equally nice distinction in terms, to enable them to express the fine shades of meaning which it is their gift to feel.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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**October**  
**19** **W**HEN you are not the one who should apologize, when you are less to blame than he, be you the one to apologize first, and see how quickly his noble nature will abase itself and rush to meet you, and how sure and glorious and complete the reconciliation will be!—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*



**October**  
**20** **I** KNOW a man who is just an ordinary man in everything else; but to see him drive a spirited horse is to know that he has the making of a good lover in him.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**October**  
**21** **I** THINK women are often misjudged. Men seem to think that all we want is to be loved. Now that isn't all that I want! If I had to choose between being loved by a man — *the* man, let us say — and not loving him at all, or loving him very dearly and not being loved by him, I would choose the latter; for I think that more happiness comes from loving than from being loved.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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**October**  
**22** **A** WOMAN who suffers heartache because her husband never apologizes to her, or who endures mortification unspeakable because she has not a penny of her own, has no right to rebel, even in her own heart, unless she is training her son to make the sort of husband for some little girl, now in pinafores, which she would have wished for herself.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**October**  
**23** **I**F a man has no specific intentions towards a girl, and has not determined in his own mind that he wants to marry her; if he is only liking her a great deal, with but an occasional wonder in the depths of his own heart whether this girl is the wife for him,— to call upon her casually and see the family scatter and other callers hastily leave is enough to scare him to death.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**October**  
**24** **A** TRITE saying has my sympathy. It generally is stupid and shopworn, and consequently is banished to polite society and hated by the clever.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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**October**  
**25** **L**ET the men give us all the so-called rights they wish to. I never shall get over wanting to get behind some man if I see a cow.—*Woman's Rights in Love, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

**October**  
**26** **I** ABOMINATE those people who are always right. You can't amuse yourself by picking flaws in them. They are so irritatingly conclusive.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**October**  
**27** **O**F course, every woman knows that a sick man is sicker than a thousand sick women, each of whom is twice as sick as he is. We all know that he can groan louder and roll his eyes higher and keep more people flying about — and all this with just a plain pain — than his wife would do with seven fatal ailments.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**October**  
**28** **F**OR myself, I consider absolute honesty most unpleasant. I never knew any really nice, lovable women who were unflinchingly honest.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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**October**  
**29** **E**VERY woman has had, at some time in her life, an experience with man in the raw.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**October**  
**30** **M**OTHERS rear their daughters and send them to fulfil their mission in life, of being wives and mothers, versed in everything except the two things they are destined to be. It is as if a physician were taught architecture, music, and painting, and then sent out to practise his unskill in medicine upon a helpless humanity.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**October**  
**31** **A** MAN thinks, if a woman begins to smile at him again after a hurt, for which he has not yet apologized, has commenced to grow dull, that the worst is over; and that, if he keeps away from the dangerous subject, he has done his duty. Besides, hasn't he given her a piano to pay for it? But that same man would call another man a brute who insisted upon healing up a finger with the splinter still in it, so that an accidental pressure would always cause pain.—*Love-making as a Fine Art, from From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**October**

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## NOVEMBER

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November

1

**I**N point of fact, when a man is in love and a girl does not yet know her own mind; when she is weighing out their adaptability and balancing his love for football against her passion for Browning; during the delicate, tentative period, when the most affectionate solicitude from friends is an irritation, there ought to be a law banishing the interested couple to an island peopled with strangers, who would not discover the delicacy of the situation until it was too late to spoil it.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*



November

2

**T**HERE are times in the lives of all of us when it bores us to be talked to of home or friends or wife or husband or mother or religion. There are times when nothing but a large, comfortable silence can soothe the worry and fret of a trying day. At such times let the tactless woman and the thoughtless man beware, because everything they say will be a bore.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

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# NOVEMBER

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November


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**November**  
**3** **M**ANY brave men, who would stop a runaway horse or who would dare to look for burglars under the bed, quail utterly before the prospect of talking to a young girl who frankly says, "I don't think."—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**November**  
**4** **O** THOSE wearisome, breathless people, who insist upon giving you the tiresome details of insipid trivialities! There is no escape from them. They are everywhere. They are found on farms, in mining-camps, in women's clubs, in churches, jails, and lunatic asylums; and the nearest approach to a release from them is to be fashionable, for in society nobody is allowed to finish a sentence.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**November**  
**5** **T**HOUGH uncultured and untaught, there are some who possess the grander harmony of soul and poetry of heart which many masters and many tongues cannot teach to aught save the elect.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**November**

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November

6

WHILE in her desire for enjoyment she was willing to pay for it by helping a mild flirtation along, still, when she looked out over the ocean or wakened in the middle of the night, she abhorred the whole situation, and hated herself quite genuinely for countenancing it. She got over this, however, when she put on a ball-gown. Miss Scarborough was *fin de siècle* without and early Christian within.—*Miss Scarborough's Point of View, from Sir John and the American Girl.*

November

7

MISS NANCY is a poet without genius,—one who has a talent for discovering the fineness of life, but who lacks the wit to keep his views from ridicule.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

November

8

ADAPTABILITY is a heaven-sent gift. It is like the straw used in packing china: it not only saves jarring, but it prevents worse disasters; and without it a man is only safe when he is alone.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**November**

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**November**  
**9** **W**OMEN are not looking for flaws in men: they are only too anxious to make the best of sorry specimens and shut their eyes to faults, and to coax virtues into prominence. Men have nothing to complain of in the way women in society treat them. They get better than they deserve, and much better than they give.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**November**  
**10** **I**N love a woman's first right is to be protected from her friends while she considers the man whom she contemplates loving.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**November**  
**11** **I** HAVE an idea that names show character. I believe names handicap people. I believe that children are sometimes tortured by hideous and unmeaning names. We cannot be too thankful to our mothers who named us Mary and Dorothy and Constance. What an inspiration to be "faithful over a few things" such a name as Constance must be!—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**November**

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**November**  
**12**

**F**ROM the standpoint of observation and inexperience, I should say that the supremest lack of men as lovers is the inability to say, "I am sorry, dear: forgive me."—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**November**  
**13**

**I** COULD weep over the early death of an epigram with a hearty spirit, which is second only to the grief I feel at a good story spoiled for relation's sake.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**November**  
**14**

**T**O be actually interested is as likely to make one grateful as anything in this world, unless it be a realization of the kindness of fate in sparing us the perpetual society of fools.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

**November**  
**15**

**W**HAT is it that makes the American girl so dangerous for all the other women in the world to compete with? It is because she studies her man.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**November**

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November

16

**Y**OU think I have never loved? All nonsense, my dear. The fact is, I am constantly in love. I manage it in this way. I am an idealist. I admit it. I worship an ideal; but that ideal is hollow,—built like a suit of armor. I meet a man who attracts me. Presto! I slip him into my hollow ideal; and he marches around in it, doubtless wondering what weighs him down so. I love my ideal personally then, until I discover that he eats with his knife or beats his mother, when I take off his armor and stand it in the closet with my mackintosh and umbrella, until I need it again. Meantime I love it empty,—with an impersonal love which keeps my hand in.—  
*Unpublished Notes.*

November

17

**I**F he had not married, I doubt whether she would have had the courage to engage herself to any other man. She loved him too truly to take the first step towards an eternal separation. Women seldom dare make that first move except as a decoy. They are naturally superstitious; and, even when curiously free from this trait in everything else, they cling to a little superstition in love, and dare not tempt Fate too insolently.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**November**

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**November**  
**18** **N**EARLY all nice men make good lovers in deeds. Many fail in the handling of words. Few, indeed, combine the two and make perfect lovers.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**November**  
**19** **I**T is not wilful cruelty which makes us say that (to a woman) the word "bore" is in the masculine gender and objective case, object of our deepest detestation.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**November**  
**20** **I**DARE say that more women would have the courage to remain unmarried, were there so euphonious a title awaiting them as "bachelor," which, when shorn of its accompanying adjective "old," simply means unmarried. The word "bachelor," too, has somewhat of a jaunty sound, implying to the sensitive ear that its owner could have been married — oh, several times over! — if he had wished. But both "spinster" and "old maid" have narrow, restricted attributes which, to say the least, imply doubt as to past opportunity.—*Preface to The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**November**

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**November**  
**21** **S**OMETIMES in the street-car or on the elevated train I have seen women who, I felt convinced, had little babies at home. It is because of the peculiar look they wear, the rapturous mother-look, which has its home in the eyes during the most helpless period of babyhood,—an indescribable look, in which dreams and prophecy and heaven are mingled. It is the sweetest look which can come to a woman's face, saying plainly: "Oh, I have such a secret in my heart! Would that every one knew its rapture with me!"  
*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✿

**November**  
**22** **I**T is all your own fault that you are managed (as you men all know you are), and your fault that you get pale gray truth instead of the pure white. It starts out pure white, but it is doctored before it reaches you.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

✿

**November**  
**23** **I**T really is asking too much of a woman to expect her to bring up a husband and her children, too.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**November**

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**November**  
**24**      **T**HE new woman whom I mean is silk-lined. She is nearly always pretty. She is always clever. She is always a lady, and she is always good. Perhaps to the cynical that combination sounds as if she might not be interesting; but she is.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*



**November**  
**25**      **W**HAT *can* you say to a man whose confidence in his power to please you is such that at parting he says: "I cannot spare you another afternoon this week, but I'll come next Thursday if I can. Don't expect me, however, until I let you know; and don't be disappointed if you find that I can't come, after all"? — *From a Girl's Point of View.*



**November**  
**26**      **L**ET "another woman" sympathize with an estranged lover, and place a little delicate blame upon his sweetheart and flatter him a great deal, and, presto! you have one of these criss-cross engagements which turns life to a dull gray for the aching heart which is left out.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**November**

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**A**CCURACY is almost fatal to a flow of spirits. If one is obliged to weigh one's words, one may live to be called a worthy old soul, but one will not be in demand at dinner parties.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

November

28

**A** WOMAN always knows when a man is so perilously near being in love with her that she can say anything impertinent to him with the knowledge that he will take it meekly.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

November

29

**W**HAT kind of women will these girls make, to whom a wrinkle in their waist is of more moment than their soul's salvation?— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

✻

November

30

**I** DO not want somebody to go ahead and baste my life for me. I would rather blindstitch it for myself as I go along.— *From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**November**

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## DECEMBER

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**December**    **1**    “**T**HE mere fact that you are all in all, the *only* woman to the man you so dearly love, the one person who can make his world; when you think that your being away from one meal or out of the house when he comes in will make him miss you till his heart aches,—this will keep down a moan of pain when it is almost beyond bearing, for fear it might cause him to suffer with you. It will nerve you to stand up and smile into his eyes, when you are ready to drop with exhaustion. Love, such as a husband’s love for his wife, is the most precious, the most supporting thing a woman can have.”—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid*.



**December**    **2**    **H**E was red-headed and freckled; but, in looking back over one’s acquaintance with pleasant people, the nicest people one knows are so often red-headed and freckled that it ought to put a premium on freckles.—*The Expatriates*.



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# DECEMBER

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**December**

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**December**  
**3**      **H**E has married Frankie Taliaferro, and she makes the sweetest little kitten of a wife you ever saw. In Louise he would have been protected by a coat of mail: in Frankie he finds it turned into a pale blue, eider-down comforter, which suits his temperament much better.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

**December**  
**4**      **S**OMETIMES girlhood is a mysterious chaos of traits, out of which no one can foretell what sort of cosmos will follow or whether there will be a cosmos at all or only intelligent chaos to the end. But this girl seemed to carry her future in her face. She was a little mother to us all.— *The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

✻

**December**  
**5**      **T**HE eager blood rushed into the girl's face, and a soft, dewy look came into her eyes,— that look which, when a man sees it in the eyes of the woman he loves, gives him the feeling that it would be easy to die for her, if only to see that indescribable look once more.— *The Expatriates.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**  
6      **S**HE is a mass of contradiction to those who do not understand her, — now in the clouds, now in the depths. Bad weather depresses her. So does a sad story, the death of a kitten, solemn music. She is correspondingly volatile in the other direction, and often laughs at real calamities with wonderful courage.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

**December**  
7      **T**RUE humility disarms the meanest vanity; and a sincere eagerness to relieve distress will strike through the pride of the ignorant as a good lance will strike through tin.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*

**December**  
8      **W**E women do our best. And we are shrewd enough to know that, if we should become what men would call honest, they would simply turn their broadcloth backs upon our uncalled-for frankness and seek the honeyed society of some sweet woman who flattered them exactly as we used to flatter them before we became so “honest.”—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**

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**December**  
9 **I**N this day of mad competition in every walk of life, it is not those who can shout the loudest, even in those busy marts where voice reigns supreme, who are going to be heard. No one man can continue to shout the loudest. A momentary audience and a raw throat are the most he can expect. But it is he who can exaggerate the most intelligently and overpaint the most subtly.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**December**  
10 **E**VEN the wayfarer gets an inkling from a poster; but it is a man of the widest comprehension who gets the whole truth from the subtlest exaggeration.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**December**  
11 **H**AVING no marriage of my own to worry over, it is gratuitous when I worry over other people's. Old maids, you know, like to air their views on matrimony and bringing up children. Their theories on these subjects have this advantage,—that they always hold good because they never are tried.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**

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**December**  
**12**      **I**N America particularly, conversation is something which not even the French, who approach it most nearly, can thoroughly understand; for, with all its blinding nimbleness and kaleidoscopic changes, there is a substratum of Puritan morality which holds some things sacred, too sacred even to argue in public, and one who transgresses turns off the colored lights, and, lo! your conversation is all in grays and browns.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**December**  
**13**      **N**OW of course all women desire to be loved. She is a very queer woman who would deny that proposition if asked by the right person; and I hope he would have sense enough not to believe her if she did.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**December**  
**14**      **T**HE French would comment on the cost of their resurrection robes and bite corners off the glittering walls of the New Jerusalem to see if it were 22-karat gold.—*The Expatriates.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**

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**December**  
**15** **M**ARRIED men need all the encouragement they can get to keep them making love to their own wives.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**December**  
**16** **M**EN often wonder why girls' friendships are so hollow. They wonder why we are so ungenerous to each other,—“so hateful” *we* call it. Hateful is not a man's word: it is a woman's. And trust a woman to know exactly what it means!—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**December**  
**17** **M**OST girls have two natures,—one she shows to men and the other to other women. All we know of one is by the way she droops and is so openly bored in the society of women. We recognize the other at the approach of a man, even if we cannot see him, by the changes in the girl's face. She straightens herself, puts a hand on each side of her waist, pushes her belt down lower, moistens her lips, a sparkle comes into her eyes, she touches her back hair, and runs a finger under the edge of her veil. Then she smiles.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**

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**E**VEN the dense man is quite capable of comprehending the a b c of human nature and of keeping his family in flannels.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**December**

**19**

**I** WONDER what will happen when, in heaven, one of these selfless women is led in triumph to a solid gold throne, all filled with eider-down cushions, where she can take the rest she never had on earth. Won't she stagger back against the glittering walls of the New Jerusalem, and say: "Not for me, not for me! Surely it must be for my husband!"—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



**December**

**20**

**W**HEN stupid men are men of family, and one expects to find their wives sitting with clenched hands and set teeth, simply enduring life and praying for death, one is often surprised to see that they are generally stout women who wear many diamonds and a bovine expression in their eyes,—women, in short, who are too stupid to be bored by stupidity.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**

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WHAT would be the feelings of a man of brilliant intellect — for the accomplished villain is always clever — who was detected in his crime, and who stood breathless before his accusers, waiting for and expecting a life sentence at hard labor, to hear the judge's voice pronounce sentence, "Condemned for life to the perpetual society of fools." I believe that man would be taken from the court-room a raving maniac.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



December  
22

THERE is a certain long, wondering, incredulous look which a woman gives her lover when she has tried to make him understand her for his own good and he has obtusely ignored her generosity. No man who has seen it ever understood it. It is so far beyond speech.—*A Little Sister to the Wilderness.*



December  
23

IF men chose their wives oftener with regard to the mother's appearance and character, there might be more marriages which retain their flavor.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**

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**December**

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**T**HE real new woman is one whom you would wish to know. She is one whom you would invite to your most select dinners. You would be better men if you had more friends like her, and broader-minded women if you dropped a few of those who hand you doughnut recipes over the back fence and who entertain you with the history of the baby's measles. *From a Girl's Point of View.*



**December**

**25**

**O**NCE women taught their daughters housekeeping and sewing from stern principle, and made it neither beautiful nor attractive. Then housekeeping went out of fashion.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*



**December**

**26**

**T**HE more fiery and impetuous a woman is, the more easily, if she is in love, will she mould herself to circumstances. The more untamed and unbending she seems, the more helpless will she be under the strong excitement of love or grief.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*



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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**

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**December**    “**T**HERE are so many more Amer-  
**27**                    icans on board than English, I  
am afraid it will not be polite of us to ask them to  
sing their national hymn alone.”

“Not a bit of it,” declared Lida, stoutly. “You don’t know the English, my dear. If there were only one fat dowager or one beef-fed man, she or he would stand up all alone and sing it to the glory of God and the honor of Great Britain, and sit down in the proud consciousness of a duty well done.”— *The Expatriates.*



**December**    **I**T is as if the new woman were striv-  
**28**                    ing, by making the best of her pres-  
ent environments and simply developing her woman  
nature instead of struggling to usurp man’s, to  
enunciate a philosophy of life which shall so dignify  
homely duties and beautify the commonplace that  
her creed might well be:—

“We shall pass through this world but once. If there be any kindness we can show or any good thing we can do to any fellow-being, let us do it now. Let us not defer nor neglect it; for we shall not pass this way again.”— *From a Girl’s Point of View.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**

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**December**  
**29** I KNOW one of these men whose descriptions of a woman's dress are one of the experiences of a lifetime. He loves the word "bombazine." His mother must have worn a gown of black bombazine during his impressionable age; and he never will be successful in describing a modern costume until bombazines again become the rage.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**December**  
**30** I HAVE no patience with those people who fall in love with forbidden property and give as their excuse, "I couldn't help it." Such culpable weakness is more dangerous to society than real wickedness.—*From a Girl's Point of View.*

**December**  
**31** THERE is no loneliness in the world for a woman like the loneliness of being unloved.—*The Love Affairs of an Old Maid.*

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*The* LILIAN BELL BIRTHDAY BOOK

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**December**

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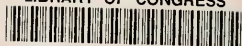
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