

Thoughtbook

of

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald

of

St Paul Minn USA

me

My girls

August, 1910

My recollections of Nancy are rather dim but one day stands out above the rest. The Gardeners had there some three miles out of town and one day I came in, Enky for short, my best friend, and I were invited out to spend the day. I was about nine years old Nancy about eight and we were quite infatuated with each other. It was in the middle of the winter so as soon as we got there we began playing on the toboggan. Nancy and I and Enky were on our toboggan and Tom (Nancy's big brother) came along and wanted to get on. He made a leap for the toboggan but I pushed off just in time and sent him on his head. He was awful mad. He said he'd kick me off and that it was my toboggan and that I couldn't play. However Nancy smoothed it over and we went into lunch.

Kitty Williams is much plainer to my
 memory. I met her first at dancing
 school and as Mr. Van Amum (our
 dancing teacher) chose me to lead the
 march I asked her to be my partner. The
 next day she told Marie Louty and Marie
 repeated it to Dorothy Reno who in turn
 passed it on to Carl that I was third
 in her affections. I don't remember who
 was first but I know that Carl was
 second and as I was already quite
 overcome by her charms I then and there
 resolved that I would gain first place
 As in the case of Nancy there was one day which was
 preeminent in my memory. I went in Honey Chilenton's
 yard ^{one morning} where the kids usually congregated and behold
 Kitty. We talked and talked and finally she asked
 me if I was going to Robins party and it was
 there that my eventful day was. We played
 post office, pillow, slopper and clapp
 out as the other football boys interested.

games. It was impossible to count the number of times I kissed Kitty that afternoon. At any rate when we went home I had secured the coveted 1st place. I held this until dancing school stopped in the spring and then relinquished it to Johnny Gowen ~~a~~ oval. On valentines day that year Kitty received no less than eighty four valentines. She sent me one which I have now as also one which Nancy gave me. Along in a box with them is the lock of hair - but wait 'ill come to that. That Christmas I bought a ^{five} pound box of candy and took it around to her house. What was my surprise when Kitty opened the door I nearly fell down with embarrassment but I finally stammered "Got this to Kitty" and ~~ran~~ home.

Indians and Violet Sept 1910

Violet Stockton was a niece of Mrs. Finch and she spent a summer in Saint Paul. She was very pretty with dark brown hair and eyes, big and soft. She spoke with a soft southern accent bearing out the ris. She was a year older than I but together with most of the other boys liked her very much. I met her through Jack Mitchell who lived next door to her. He himself was very attached as was Art. Toloy and together they sneaked up behind her and cut off her hair that is a snap of it. We had a game we played called Indians which I made up. One side were the Indians who went off and hid somewhere. The cowboys then started off to find them and when the Indians saw their chance they would jump out and take them by surprise. We were all armed with croquet mallets. There were about fifteen of us. Kitty Smully, Betty Mudge, Betty Lester, Elenor Mutchel, Marge Hershey, Dorothy Green, Violet Stockton, and Harriet ~~Stockton~~ ^{Adolph} Smully, Adolph Smully, ~~W. H. Smith~~

Smith, Jack Mitchell, Arthur Foley Aschue
 Meridgian Roger Foster. Every day for a month
 we played this and then we turned
 into truth. at that time I was more popular
 with girls than I ever had been before. In truth
 Kitty Shully, Dorothy, Violet, Marie, and Catharine
 they all liked me best. At the present moment
 it is the reverse with probably most
 of these; with at least two, Kitty Shully
 and Katharine too. However I am wandering
 from the subject. Finally Violet had a
 party ^{which was very nice} and it was the day after this
 that we had the quarrel. She had some
 sort of a book called flirting by sighs
 and Jack and I got it away from
 Violet and showed it to all the boys.
 Violet got very mad and went into
 the house. I got very mad and therefore I
 went home. Immediately Violet repented
 and called me up on the phone to see
 if I was mad. However I did not

want to make up, just then
 and so I slammed down the receiver.
 The next morning I went down to
 Jacks to find that Violet had said
 she was not coming one that
 day. It was ~~now~~ now my turn
 to repent and ~~she~~ she came out
 even had ~~things~~ things and
 afterwards ~~she~~ she wanted to have justified. Violet
 and I sat down on the hill back
 of Shultz's a little away from
 the others.

"Violet", I began, "Did you call
 me a brat?"

"No".

"Did you say that you
 wanted your ring and your picture
 and would have back?"

"No"

"Did you say that you hated me?"

"Of course not, is that what you went home for?"

"No, but Archie Mudge told me those things yesterday evening."

"He's a little scamp" said Violet indignantly.

At this juncture Eleanor Mitchell almost went into hysterics because Jack was kissing her, and Violet had to go home with her. That afternoon I spanked Archie Mudge and finished making up with Violet.

Excerpt from my diary the next day
Wednesday, Aug. 20

- Didn't do much today but learned a few valuable things to wit
- 1) that I was a fool to make up with Violet, — Lionel Kameel Foster
 - 2) that Violet wished she had my teeth from Eleanor Mitchell

3) That Violet had said that she wanted her ring as soon as she could get it - from Betty Mudge

Thursday Aug 21)

I learned two things from Betty Mudge

- 1) That Violet thought I was a flirt
- 2) That Violet did not like me half as well as she used to

Friday Aug 22

I learned ~~some~~ truth

1st) That Betty Mudge's fellows were Bob Harrington, Tom Daniels and Bob Prescott

2nd) That I had a new rival in Wharton Smith

3d) That Poroboy's fellows were me and another Tolay

4th) I also learned that as Harold Foster said Violet said some things that went honest

Mon. Aug 25th

I heard that Violet got mad at me because I got mad so easily from Wharton. That Kitty Shulzys bows wore me and T. Daniels, from her.

Dorothy Green said that when I was dizzy she liked Wharton Smith better but that usually she liked me better.

Harriet Gosler said some sarcastic things as usual

Saturday Aug 30

I just hate Violet

Jack Mitchell said that Violet's opinion of my character was that I was polite and had a nice disposition and that I thought I was the whole push and that I got mad too easily.

Sept. 29th

Not much has happened since Violet went away, the day she went away was my birthday and she gave me a box of candy. Her latest fancy is a rather Hokey. He has her ring. She wrote him a letter to ask him for his picture.

* * * * *
and that is the story of

Violet Lockton

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November 1910

One day Marie Hersey wrote me a note which began either "Pear Gott I love you very much, or I like you very much," and ever since then she has been rather shy when she meets me.

Dorothy Green and Caroline Clark are two boys. Bob Clark is interesting to talk to because he lets me do a lot of talking (which I like) and not like some people I know of never letting you get in a word edgewise.

I had a midnight conversation one night with Jim and Cecil and afterwards found that Susan Rice had heard every word of it from her front window. Alada Bigelow is the most popular girl I know of. I know five boys who like her best.

These are the boys I like best in order
and girls
First three ^{boys} are tie.

- Art.
- Bab
- Cecil
- Shimmer
- Boardman
- Biglow
- Singis

This list
changes
continually
Only
available
at
date
chapter

- Alida Biglow
- Margaret Armstrong
- Kitty Schuly
- Elizabeth Dean
- Mare Hersey
- Dorothy Green
- Caroline Clark
- Julia Doer

- Tom
- D. Dinscott
- R. Washington
- Paul

- Speyer
- Rube

When I first came to St. I
these were my favorite

- Mitchell
- Linton

- | <u>boys</u> | <u>girls</u> |
|---------------|----------------|
| Wharton Smith | Violet Hadton |
| Arthur Foley | Dorothy Green |
| Adolph Sholly | Harriet Foster |

This is an extract from something I wrote after dancing school ^{in Buffalo} one night.

Lin Jan 17-1908

I just love Kitty Williams. Today in dancing school I told her she was my best girl. I dared Earl Krot to say "I love you Kitty," & he and he did it. Then I did too. She asked me if I liked dancing school and I said I liked it if she went. Then she said she liked it if I went.

(Probably 11 years old)

O Judge

The looks of the girls

<u>1st</u>	(1911) Kitty Schultze	(1912)	Elenor Alair
<u>2nd</u>	Alida Bigelow		Kitty Schultze
<u>3d</u>	Elenor Alair		Marie Hersey
<u>4th</u>	Marie Hersey		
<u>5th</u>	Julia Dorr		

Paul and Art. Chap. VI

Feb. 12, 1916

I devote a whole chapter to these two because for a long time they were my ideal but lately Bob has fallen in my estimation. For a long time I was Paul's ardent admirer Cecil and I went ~~with~~ ^{with} him all the time and we thought him a hero. Physically Lewist is the strongest boy I have ever seen and he is a fine football, baseball and tennis player and a fair hockey player and swimmer. All last winter we three went together and speed a lot ~~but~~ since I have gone with Bob Clark however I have not liked Paul half so well. In the first place we thought Paul a hero and we both considered him our best friend. He was awfully funny, strong as a ox, cool in the face of danger, polite and at times very interesting. Now I don't dislike him. I have simply out grown him.

Feb 2 1919

Chap. VII Dancing school in 1918

Since dancing school opened this last time I have deserted Alida. I have two new crushes, to wit - Margaret Armstrong and Irene Jersey. I have not quite decided yet which I like the best, the ~~first~~ is the prettiest the ~~2nd~~ the best talker. The ~~3rd~~ the most popular with T. Ames, S. Parleyfield, B. Jiggs, C. Read, R. W. Wainwright and Dan Cray about her. I think it is charming that she say "Give it to me as a compliment" when I tell her I have a trade last for her. I think Una Bachus is the most unpopular girl in dancing schools last year in dancing school I got 11 valentines and this year 15. Dorothy Green sent a valentine to every girl and met every boy, there are 2 new girls and one new boy in dancing school this year, the girls are

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Constance Jones, Eliza Elan, and Margaret
~~Whitcomb~~ the new boys William Sanding
I have a season engagement for every dance
up to the ninth. We boys got up a petition
to get Elan into dancing school and
gave it to Mrs. Townsend. We are
going to get up another petition &
we thought the Boston. One day about
a week ago some of the boys including
Arthur Foley, Carl Pease, Donald
Bidlow & Lawrence Boardman refused
to do the Grand march. They went out in
the hall and began to put on their
shoes. Mr. Baker almost had a fit
but his efforts to make them march
were unavailing. Those of us that were
in the march missed it up
every which way so now the
grand march is abolished and we
have three other dances in its
place.

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Group VIII

The goose club and other clubs Feb 24-11

The first club I remember really belonging to was "The white handkerchief" Arthur and I were the organizers of this and later we admitted Adolph Sholly and George Gardner. Then came Cecil Reade and Phil Foley making six members. Our first meeting was held in the yellow house next to Mitchell's old house. Adolph Sholly was elected president and I secretary dues were fixed at 5 cents per fortnight 5 cents a week being considered too extravagant. Ours was a secret society and we were bound to tell none of its secrets tho I doubt muchly if there were any to tell. This club died a natural death unlike the next one I was in which came to a sudden and dramatic ending. The members were H. Green, P. Bulley, Cecil Reade and me and we whittled

ourselves the "boy's secret service of St. Paul". I was chief scout, local chief spy; Paul president, and Harold Green chief detective. The "fun" of this club is narrated in the chapter on Paul and Art. Once I belonged to a cruelty to animals society and Betty Mudge told them that I cut off rats tails and so I received a note signed by ten girls telling me politely but firmly that I was fired from the organization.

The best club I ever belonged to was the Gooserah club gotten up by myself. The club originated with the name. There was a boy in our Sunday school class named Alfred Giesm and they call him Goosm. One day quite by accident Paul said Rob for Goose Gooserah. The absurdity of the name

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struck us and I suggested that we get
up a club named this. The first
member was Cecil and Paul and I
subjected him to a most horrible initiation
which consisted of having him eat
raw eggs and of operating on him with
saw, cold, and needle accompanied
by a basin. Then we invited Sam Hughes,
Tom Porterfield, Bob Clark, and Bobby Shearn.
There was a rival organization gotten up by
Art Fox, and Laurie invited the bulldozers
and from the first we were sworn enemies.
We cleared out ~~Paul's~~ Cecil's 3^d floor for a
club room and part of the basement for
a gymnasium which ^{last} was quite creditable.
It consisted of 4 pairs dumbbells, 2 pairs Indian
clubs, 2 pairs ^{of} gloves, boxing gloves, 1 pair
rust exercisers, 1 punching bag, 1 wall
exerciser, 1 trapeze, 1 pair swinging
rings. Paul was the boxing master.

and Bob Shurmer and were the
fencing teachers. There were 3 degrees
to the club, 1st, 2nd & 3rd. The first
degree is anyone who has been
initiated, 2nd anyone who has been an
is an officer and the 3rd anyone
who renders an especial service to the
club. That summer the club disbanded
and so far this winter we have had
2 meetings in one of which we voted
in 3 members and the second in which
we initiated them. The new members are
D. Biglow, Shepley & Seymour respectively.

Chap IX Alida + Margaret Feb 24

This chapter should be named Margaret + Alida but when I wrote this name in the index I liked Alida best so it is excusably I am just crazy about Margaret Armstrong and I have the most awful crush on her that ever was. There has been the case ever since Bob's party. She is not pretty but I think she is very attractive looking. She is extremely graceful and a very good dancer and the most interesting talker I have ever seen or rather heard. One Saturday night I was surprised by a visit from Margaret asking me to the Bachus school dance. Of course I accepted with pleasure and that night took her to it. I had a fine time including four dances from Margaret. The next day Julia invited a large crowd of boys and girls to make a visit to a house on Pleasant Ave. that was said to be haunted.

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Of course we went and the bad part of it was that Jim walked all the way out with Margaret and I was left in the lurch. Jim did not have such a walkover going back because I was on the other side of Margaret but ~~it~~ just the same I felt pretty gloom that night for I knew that up to that time I had been almost just with Margaret for a week and now Jim had to step in and cheat me. Wednesday an eventful day dawned clear and warm. Jim Porterfield and I were invited to call on Elizabeth Dear by Elizabeth and when we got there we found her to say we started out for a walk. Margaret and Jim walked ahead and Elizabeth and I behind. This made me mad and this was further increased when they got a block ahead of us. Then

Elizabeth told me some things. She said that
 Margaret had given her a note the day
 before in school which said "I know you
 feel like I'm just as much as I
 do with." When I learned this I was jealous
 of Jim as I had never been jealous before
 I said some ridiculous things about how
 I was young to get
 even with him in
 Margaret's estimation
 When we reached
 the country club
 Elizabeth went ahead and
 asked Margaret which of us
 she liked the best. Margaret
 said she liked me best. All the
 way home I was in the seventh
 heaven of delight. The next time I saw
 Margaret was Friday. I met Elizabeth
 and she was on the corner near Carl's house
 and we talked about 5 minutes.

~~XXXVIII~~

then I took Margaret home and
I told her I was invited to the sophomore
class assembly ^{by the same} and she said that she
would have invited
me if she had
thought of it. I had
three invites
before I came
home.
Alida
invited
me
along
quite an interesting conversation.

Said: "Jim was so confident the
other night that you had a crush on
him."

"Well Jim gets another chunk"
"I shall still know you"

~~XXXXIX~~

"No. but you can let him know that he isn't what."

"I'll do that."

"Now if you had thought that it might be different."

"Good" said I

"Good" repeated she and then the conversation lagged. She asked me to call for her at eight and go to the play with her and I said yes.

Then we said good bye & I went home.

Then I had to say, "Margaret called me up & said that she couldn't go. The play was very good but Margaret was not there. Good-bye."

One Saturday night about two weeks later my friends came we were over at Ben Gregg's four boys, Reub, Ben, Ted & Al, and four girls Margaret, Marie, Ely, both & Dorothy & that evening Margaret

~~XXXX~~

got an awful crush on Barbara which
at the time I write this is still active
more about Margaret later on

Alida is considered by some the
prettiest girl in dancing school.
Bob Clark, E Purcell, D Purcell, A Foley and
I all had a crush on her last winter
and this fall. Every night Bob & I would
go over to see Dan^(P) & incidently see
Alida. She lived on 1st, E. 2nd
& 3rd & 4th. Bob is south now
& writes her a letter 3 times a week