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# ASPECT

OCTOBER, 1969

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## THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD

Edward J. Hogan

Part 2—PROBLEMS FACED BY DEMOCRACY  
IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

## INTRO:

The newly independent nations of Africa are the latest examples of an obnoxious condition which seemingly cannot be overlooked: democracy usually doesn't work in the underdeveloped (or to be more optimistic, developing) world. The leaders of the former colonial powers and of democracies in general have always had high hopes when each former colony became independent. There has always been a kind of magic feeling associated with independence, both in the minds of the territory's inhabitants and those of the liberal element of the mother country. However, although almost without exception these new countries are launched with democratic forms of government (due to the simple fact that countries under other forms of government (authoritarian, monarchist, communist) rarely grant any of their territories leave to split), they more often than not soon drop the pretense, and turn to a form of authoritarian government, be it dominated by one person or one party. Some such cases are those of Indonesia, Brazil, Argentina, Algeria, Sudan, Togo, the Congo, Tanzania.

The result of such events has tended to bring either a hostile or a detached, hurt and wondering reaction from the average Westerner. The plain fact is that the environ-

ment in most of these countries is too hostile to allow the functioning of democratic government.

## WHY?

First, the economies of these countries are very weak. Due to the subsistence-farming way of life of most of the people, there is little need for consumer and service industries, and due to the lack of skilled or even healthy workers there is scant attraction for any heavy industries save those that extract or process natural resources. Even when resource industries are present, they are not by any means mining, drilling, cutting, and so forth for the country in which their operation is located—all such resources are taken out of the country for use by the American, European, or other company doing the work. (Continued below)

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NOTICE: As of this issue, Aspect is running each of the two columns on every page out one more space, in order to provide more room. This may seem trivial, but when all is added up, this arrangement permits about 200 more words per issue to be printed!

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This very lack of industry perpetuates the inexperience of large numbers of the country's people in industry, and thus causes subsistence farming to continue to be the average man's lot.

Secondly, personal initiative, the habit of cooperation, competent personnel, and, on the practical side, sufficient monetary and material resources are all wanting to

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a large degree in the practice of government. In addition, the fact that independence is so new to these countries makes a strong belief and reliance on parliamentary institutions almost non-existent, for such a collective conviction can only be forged over a course of years.

Thirdly, trained administrators are in short supply as well, making the formation of an effective government bureaucracy (not in the unfavorable, but in the absolutely necessary context) next to impossible.

On top of all this, all of these countries face staggering problems in the fields of health and sanitation.

#### THE KEY

However, the circumstance that largely maintains all these deficiencies is the absence of an educational system that reaches a significant percentage of the people. Thomas Jefferson once said that a government founded on democracy and ignorance will be swept away like the house built on sand. In most such countries, this has been the case. (As the table on page 3 shows, those countries with the highest literacy rates have usually fared the best overall. However, even Argentina, a country with a 92% literacy rate, boasts an annual income per person of \$765, dwarfish by U.S. standards. This can be explained quite simply: although such countries as Argentina and Venezuela have very high literacy rates, the people of these countries possess an education inferior by far, on the average, to that of an American citizen. Education in even what would be the second half of public education [grades 7-12 or so] in the United States is available to only a small percentage of the population for one reason or another in all of the developing world at this time.)

This widespread ignorance means that traditional ("privileged")

ruling families or classes tend to limit popular participation in national and even local government. The conduct of politics is dominated by these cliques. The masses often are restless under this setup, and thus the army is relied on to crush such unrest. The dependence of the civilian regime on the military enhances its role and increases the chances of a military coup in the future. Thus interest groups in developing nations tend to consist of classes, not associations.

#### THE SUCCESSES

Where these beginning democracies haven't stumbled soon after their founding, the reason has usually been that a larger percentage of the people were educated and otherwise prepared for self government before independence. Such was the case with Cyprus, Turkey, India, The Federation of Malaya,\*The Philippines, and Nigeria. It should be readily noticed that most of these countries were formerly British possessions. (The Philippines, of course, had been owned by America.) Both England and the United States consciously readied their colonies for independence either more or less for decades before it was granted. Where it was more, quite stable governments remained in power. When it was less, one or another form of authoritarianism became the rule.

#### GHANA: A BORDERLINE CASE

Ghana lies between the two extremes. Although she was formerly ruled by the United Kingdom, her gaining of sovereignty was a little forced. (In fact, Ghana was the first of a great number of African nations destined to become independent in the late 50's and early 60's.) Kwame Nkrumah and his Convention People's Party swept into office on independence in 1957. Nkrumah's President-for-life government became so corrupt that it was bleeding the country dry of financial and economic resources. It was overthrown in a

\* now renamed Malaysia



## COMPARITIVE CONDITIONS IN SELECTED DEVELOPING NATIONS

**Introduction:**

This table, compiled from various sources within the 1968 Readers' Digest Almanac and Yearbook, has been designed to show how certain factors play a very large part in a country's overall condition. The information is also presented to show the stark contrast between the U.S. figures and those of these typical developing countries.

The information presented here indicates without question the key role played by education in a country's progress. In the economic realm, the progressively lower categories: diverse, agricultural, one or two dominant products, and subsistence farming, go downward in quite close order with the listing

as well. Additional insight can be gained by comparing the results among the different countries of dividing the population into the Gross National Product (G.N.P.).

In addition, this listing again confirms the widely-held belief that the order of continents best off in terms of relative conditions are: Latin America, Asia, Africa. Above these, of course, would be Europe, North America, and Australia.

The life expectancy figures showed the most remarkable divergence. The strangest discrepancy was that of Egypt, a country with a cotton-dominated economy, an average annual income of \$135, and a literacy rate of only 19.5%.

COUNTRY	Population (millions)	G.N.P. (billion \$)	Dominant factor in economy	Avg.in- come per person (yr.)	EDUCATION: Life literacy expectan- cy (age 45)
UNITED STATES	200	775.3	Diverse	\$2,940	ca. 99% 29.8
Argentina	22.8	18.8	Diverse	\$765	92% 26.0
Venezuela	9.4	7.8	Fairly Div.	\$760	84% 27.3
Ecuador	5.3	1.0	Agriculture	\$181	68.5% 26.5
Colombia	18.1	3.5	Coffee	\$261	62.3% 22.2
Thailand	31.5	3.9	Rice	\$102	62% 23.6
El Salvador	3.3	0.8	Coffee&Cotton	\$235	49% 25.5
Guatemala	4.8	1.4	Agriculture	\$280	28% 23.6
India	500	32.5	Subsistence Farm.	\$60	24% 19.6
Egypt	30.5	4.7	Cotton	\$135	19.5% 28.5
Congo	16.0	1.3	Subsistence Farm.	\$70	15% 19.4

(continued from page 2.)

military coup in 1966. This spring and summer, the military government, under Brigadier A.A. Afrifa, first lifted the ban on politics, thus permitting the existence of political parties (April, 1969) and then called the first elections since 1957 (August). It appears that Ghana is now on the road to a truer

democracy.

**THE OTHERS**

But for the developing countries which did not receive this pre-independence preparation, the outlook is different. Perhaps the most realistic hope is for authoritarian but not decadent regimes to be replaced by democracies through either



volition or force when the masses have become well enough educated to grow dissatisfied with such governmental arrangements. The best one could hope for would be authoritarian governments which desire to upgrade conditions while hopefully holding the fort for eventual democracy (examples: Pakistan and Peru).

ONLY ONE "RIGHT" GOVERNMENT? Finally, democracy is not the only responsive type of government in existence. The communist governments of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia before the invasion showed the capability to become as responsive as the best of democratic governments. These countries were are examples of primarily socialist and secondarily communist regimes. In fact, a socialist or semi-socialist government would be able to do much for a developing nation, since the government, as the most viable credit risk in the country, would find it much easier to obtain the foreign loans necessary to build industries owned and run collectively for the citizens' profit, not that of an already rich people thousands of miles distant.

#### SUMMARY

Instability must be the rule in the developing world in the near future; the almost overwhelming problems these nations face make a fallacy of any other general rule. Only much work on the part of the "have-not" countries' people and a considerably larger portion of money devoted to foreign aid on the part of the "have" nations will ease this situation.

In the final analysis, this is in our "vital interest," if one must reduce it to that, for a world made up almost entirely of countries with stable governments will be the world most likely to live in peace.

NOTES: I used these books and periodicals in my research: Modern Government, by D.G. Hitchner and W.H. Harbold, the 1968 Readers' Digest

Almanac and Yearbook, The Boston Globe, and The New York Times.

POETRY/Alice Nims

#### HERE AND GONE

Up, up from the ground, the army of ants,

They know at the wood and drink the sap.

They claimed this spot, they took it away,

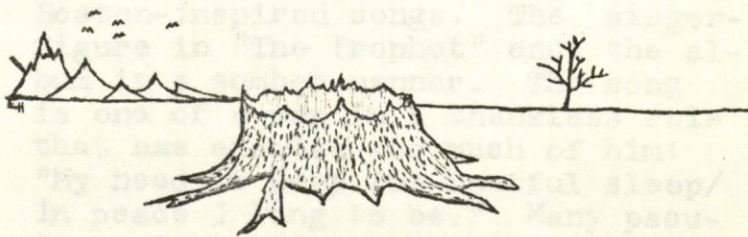
My favorite tree where I used to play.

I can remember the times I'd climb  
And swing up, up in this tree.

But now I'm down and so is this tree.  
The fall's come to it, as it must  
come to me.

So march, march on, you endless line;  
Destroy this tree and all past time.  
But those days are gone and so is  
this tree—

All that remains are these memories.



SKETCH/Noelle Wright

#### THE LUCKY ONES

She was standing there, on the steps of the schoolyard, singing in her flat, toneless voice.

Her audience, the school children who were waiting for their buses, smiled and laughed mockingly. When she stopped singing, one of them



told her it was beautiful and they laughed again. She smiled and blushed, not knowing that they were merely making fun of her.

One of the boys told her to dance for them. She obliged and began the Mexican Hat Dance, moving slowly and very stiltedly. She was proud of being able to dance, for she had just learned it that day in school. One of the boys asked her to dance with him. All of the spectators laughed, thinking that this was great fun.

Suddenly a bus pulled up in front of the school. In the rush toward it, the entertainer was knocked down into the snow. No one heeded her bewildered questions and cries for help. The bus pulled away, leaving her sitting in the snow, waiting for her bus because she was not allowed to ride the regular one.

She is one of the "lucky" ones, lucky in the fact that, although she's mentally retarded, she is able to receive a public school education.

A NOTE: While initiating this new feature in ASPECT, I would like to clarify one point. There has been some comment by readers who ~~album~~ <sup>have never</sup> are deep in the music quicks scene that it is unwise ~~\*\*\*\*\*~~ to review albums which are not "current". However, I often write about records up to a year or more old because I believe that many who might enjoy such an album <sup>have never</sup> either heard or heard of it. Over and above this reasoning, the whole value of an LP worth buying is that it is of much more lasting value than is a 45. In this context, of what significance is a year? I think that catching up with a few discs released before ASPECT appeared is in line with the magazine's attempt to review as

many significant LP's as possible. These mini-reviews are another step in this direction.

by Edward J. Hogan

# THE EYES OF THE BEACON ST. UNION (MGM SE-4517)

My first look at the Beacon St. Union was during an appearance on WHDH-TV last year. At that time, my opinion of the group was "loud but not good" (to borrow my father's spontaneous description of all rock music). This impression lasted for some time—that is, until I heard this album. The group showed plenty of originality here. From the poetic "Recitation" that introduces Side 1 to the closing band, variety abounds. "Sportin' Life" conjures the image of a melancholy recall to a far-wandering small town boy. "Four Hundred and Five" is a throbbing, pulsating instrumental. "Speed Kills", "Blue Avenue", "South End Incident", and "Green Destroys the Gold" are all Boston-inspired songs. The singer-figure in "The Prophet" ends the album in a somber manner. The song is one of a man in a thankless role that has exacted too much of him: "My need is deep for restful sleep/ In peace I long to be." Many pseudo-musical effects are introduced.

## SEA TRAIN (A&M SP 4171)

Sea Train is a new group comprised of Roy Blumentfield (drums & percussion), Richard Green (violin & strings), John Gregory (guitar & vocals), Donald Kretmar (sax & bass), Andrew Kulberg (bass & flute), and James T. Roberts (lyrics). Their first LP should be released by





press time. I was able to get a sneak preview by means of a WMEX promotion copy. The disc is really great. Sea Train is already making an important addition to the development of progressive rock. The group has a fresh vocal sound in John Gregory; this is certainly one of the requirements for acceptance as a top group. In addition, the LP, with its emphasis on violin, flute, and other more mellow instruments over guitar, drums, and percussion, turns out to be an exceptionally beautiful one musically. The polished instrumental harmony of the album makes it really a listening pleasure. The two instrumentals on SEA TRAIN are better than most, for they have a distinct character of their own; they produce a musical image as well as the vocals. They are named "Pudding Street" and "Sweet Creek's Suite". Other highlights of the record are "Sea Train", "Tell The Duchess No", and "Outwear the Hills".

#### ULTIMATE SPINACH(MGM SE-4518)

"Pop music deserves to be an art form, taken as seriously as its content...top 40 is not where it's at anymore." These words, spoken by the group's leader, Ian Bruce-Douglas, are a foretaste of the composition of Ultimate Spinach's music. Their arrangements come the closest to fitting the title "classical-rock" that this writer has ever heard.



There are indications of "classical-rock" tendency. First, the many instruments listed as played by the members of the group are not used in predominantly rock-type arrangements, as has been done in the past by the Beatles, Vanilla Fudge, Cream, and others. Secondly, guitar and drums, as on the Sea Train album, are con-

sciously played down, and are relatively subdued when they do appear. "Sacrifice to the Moon" is a four-movement arrangement that nearly qualifies as an excellent light classical piece. "Plastic Raincoats/Hung-up Minds", a mocking look at the "beautiful people" of the jet set, and "Funny Freak Parade", a song which looks upon the flower people with a sympathy which borders on pity, are the only bona-fide rock tunes on the Spinach's first recording effort, and even these have a controlled air about them. The LP comes with complete liner notes containing information on Ultimate Spinach's personnel, brief descriptions of the selections performed, and a heavy 350-word introduction by Bruce-Douglas. In short, the album provides both musical enjoyment and mind food(as deep as you care to make it) in one package waiting to be opened.

#### MUSIC ESSAY

##### THE MOTHERS OF INVENTION

###### FAR OUT, MAN

The Mothers of Invention are unlike any group you've ever heard; they're really far out. Their bag is "satirical rock"(a term coined by THE NEW YORKER magazine). If you are especially partial to music which follows a smooth line of tone and beat, then the Mothers are not your people. Their music is just the opposite: helter-skelter.

###### PLASTIC PEOPLE

The first emotion one feels on hearing them is a sensation of strangeness, unreality. Their ABSOLUTELY FREE album begins with a sustained drumbeat followed by the introduction of the President of the United States:

"Fellow Americans——"



This, somehow, is the cue for the whole group to go into a silly conglomeration of nonsense lines, over emphasized guitar, and hoots. But then we find that the song is about plastic people, so with this in mind everything falls neatly into place—that is, almost. (It is not hard to perceive whom the Mothers are against.) Of course, by this time they're really going strong:

"Plastic people!

Oh, baby, now you're such a drag!"

Suddenly, Frank Zappa (a genius) interrupts the song, droning in his flat voice:

"I know it's hard to defend an unpopular policy every once in awhile..."

MOTHERS: "Plastic people!

Oh, baby, now you're such a drag!"

ZAPPA: "And there's this guy from the CIA and he's creeping around Laurel Canyon..."

MOTHERS: "Fine little girl; she waits for me;

She's as plastic as she can be!  
She paints her face with plastic glue

And wrecks her hair with some shampoo.

Plastic people!

Oh, baby, now you're such a drag!"

ZAPPA: "I don't know...sometimes I just get tired of you, honey...It's your...uh...hair-spray or something..."

MOTHERS (faster tempo): "Plastic people!

Ohh, baby, now you're such a drag!"

ZAPPA: "I hear the sound of marching feet down Sunset Boulevard to Crescent Heights and there at Pandora's Box we are confronted with a vast quantity of plastic people."

MOTHERS: "Take the day, and walk around!

Watch the Nazis run your town!

Then go home and check yourself!  
You think we're talking 'bout someone else!

BUT YOU'RE PLASTIC PEOPLE!

Ohh, baby, now you're such a drag!

We see a neon moon above;  
I searched for years; I found the love.

I'm sure that love will never be  
As bright as her plasticity!"

Soon after this number gets under way, the strangeness begins to subside, as familiarity breeds mirth. But there are other emotions mixed in too. For instance, questioning—"Are they referring to me?" This is something new, being insulted by a record I bought!

#### VARIATIONS ON A THEME BY FRANK ZAPPA

This track, which must be one of the silliest songs ever written, yet provokes much serious thought on the listener's part, if he has been listening to the lyrics. There are humorous moments during this reasoning, too, such as "Do I have to look like them to avoid being plastic?" But most of it goes like this: "Am I plastic? Is it wrong to be plastic?" It should be. One of the most important and immediately applicable messages is one that has been carried by all the kids who have become collectively aware of it in the last 2 or 3 years: a ranch house in suburbia with 2 cars in the garage isn't all of it anymore.

Being able to become affluent was the last generation's greatest accomplishment. Now the generation of the 50's can take this affluence for granted: we can afford to say that affluence is no longer an end in itself. We can hope that the gift we bequeath on the next generation will be one of a world where common brotherhood and peace are in much greater abundance. And why

Note: The Mothers are on Verve Records. Unless otherwise noted, the songs are from ABSOLUTELY FREE.



will this be possible? Because our parents created a climate in which so many of us could have more time (and the money) to become more aware; instead of spending all of our lives hunting out the dirty dollar, we have more time to think about our fellow men, our brothers. So when you hear people talk of the better world coming, don't laugh, or you will be one of the guilty ones if it doesn't make it; and make no mistake: it would be a heinous crime.

#### BACKGROUND: ZAPPA & CO.

This may seem like a lot to garner from one song, but as I noted before, Zappa is a genius, a thirty-five year old one at that. He writes most of the Mothers' songs. He has also written one of the recent, and funny, Alka-Seltzer ads for T.V. His Bizarre Productions released the recording of Lenny Bruce's last performance. Among the others can be found an Indian (a couple of times their songs are interrupted by him: "Hello, boys and girls! I'm Jim Black and I'm the Indian of the group!") and one member who is in his fifties.

Although most have heard of the Mothers, few have actually listened to them. Radio is responsible for this, since very few stations give them any play. There seems to be a tendency for radio people to consider them from a "What's wrong with that group?" standpoint. Perhaps they suspect that the Mothers are tied up with the Movement preached by the underground press. But whereas the Movement is dead serious, preaching unrelenting violence until all the straight world is tumbled into its own ruins, the Mothers of Invention have much too great a sense of humor to support such notions.

#### GREEN THINGS

"Mom & Dad" (on their WE'RE ONLY IN IT FOR THE MONEY album—a real pun) and "Brown Shoes Don't Make It"

follow the "plastic people" theme. But the ever inquisitive Mothers explore other fields too—like vegetables. What can you say about vegetables? Wait and see. Frank Zappa grants "Call Any Vegetable" an auspicious start:

"This is a song about vegetables. They keep you regular.. They're real good for ya."

Again the Mothers chirp in:

"Call any vegetable,  
Call it by name!  
Call any vegetable.  
When you get off the train!  
Call any vegetable and the chances  
are good  
Ahh, that the vegetable will re-  
spond to you!"



After a lengthy instrumental sketch, where they do some unbelievable things with flute, guitar, and drums, the words resume, loud and clear, saying things like this:

ZAPPA: "A lot of people don't bother about their friends in the vegetable kingdom. They think, 'Ah...What can I say? What can a person like myself say to a vegetable?' But the answer is simple, my friends! Just call and tell them how you feel...about muffins, pumpkins, wax paper, Caledonia mahogany's elbows, and green things in general. And soon... a new accord...you and all your little green and yellow buddies ..... " and on and on it goes.

I'm not sure what effect seeing all those lyrics only in print has on a reader, but once you hear them for real (are they?) you may find yourself believing that they are the best group you've ever heard.<sup>1</sup>



Every time "What a pumpkin!" you play a Mother's album, you hear 1. They have done a 50's rock style album as well, CRUISING WITH RUBEN AND THE JETS, which they also wrote.



new wonders. There is so much going on in every song—the theme(if you can find it), the intermittent choring and sound effects, the lyrics, and the most amazing instrumentations. Every song is bursting with so much that each is a treasure. It is not likely that many people trade away or sell their Mothers albums. They rate excellent on lyrics, instrumentation, humor, and also on a few categories they have invented themselves. Great people.

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CREDIT IS DUE to these sources for the final product published here:

1. John Fraser, Somerville.
2. ROLLING STONE magazine, San Francisco.
3. THE NEW YORKER magazine.

POETRY/Jeannette Hogan  
MEMORIES

Memories are like flowers.  
Gradually, details,  
Like petals,  
Fall away.

In time even the root  
Of the memory  
Withers  
And dies.

POETRY/Edward J. Hogan  
SEASON'S END

The contest through, there's no one there.  
The dugout's silent—seats are bare.  
No one's round to smile or joke  
And none remain to laugh or poke.  
Men with bats have tried their best,  
But now all Beantown's hopes must rest.  
Only next year's dreams are left—  
All pennant hopes are now bereft.

(Long live the Mets! Long live Ed

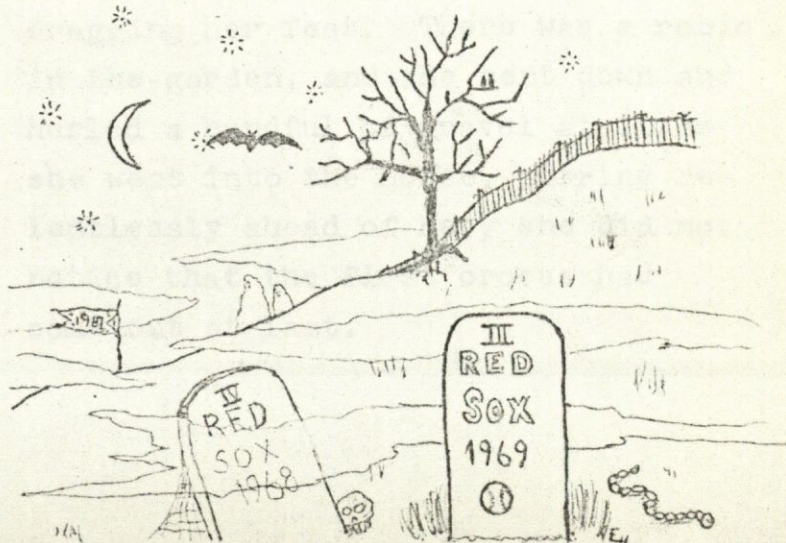
Kranepool!)

SHORT FICTION/Noelle Wright  
THE CROCUS

Preface: This story, by one of the best writers who have appeared in ASPECT, is perhaps her best effort of the sixteen she has done for the magazine.  
E.J.H.

Mrs. Ferris walked down Hemlock Road, her mouth set in a bitter, angry line. She looked like a sour old spinster, but was not; she was a sour old widow who had just lost her only son in Vietnam. No one knew yet, only she and the Army; the telegram was clutched in her withered hand, and she unconsciously squeezed it tighter, as if to hurt it. She was thinking bitterly about her lot—why, oh why must she always be the one?

First it had been her husband. Oh, she had never really loved David, but he had loved her and she had been happy with him. And he had





given her the baby, William, the only person she ever loved. He had been a brilliant boy, graduating cum laude from Cornell. But now he was dead, killed by some nameless soldier in some unnecessary skirmish, and she would never be able to say, "That's my son, Will Ferris, the great chemist." A tear quivered in the corner of her eye, but did not fall; she was too angry to feel love.

"Don't worry, Mother, it's only for a year, and then I'll marry Betsey and settle down—Don't worry. Not everyone gets killed, you know, most don't."

Damn you, Johnson, damn you. God—oh, God, what am I saying? She let the pain come out then; she couldn't stay angry, couldn't curse God or she'd be condemned.

"Mrs. Ferris! Good morning! How are you? I was just going down to the Post Office to see if there was any news from Will, but I see you've been down there already. Was there any news?"

"Hey, Mother, you'll write me when the flowers come out, won't you? Our house looks so pretty with all the crocuses in front of it. Say, why don't you and Betsey have a race, to see whose will bloom first?"

"No, Betsey, there wasn't."

"Guess what with the patrol and all he hasn't had time. Well, I'll be seeing you; I've got to run along now."

Mrs. Ferris stared after the young, slim girl. Was she blind? Then she put her hand up to her cheek and realized she hadn't been crying after all; she'd just been crying in her mind.

"Plan the wedding for right after I get back; while I'm gone you and Betsey can work it all out. And whatever you do, don't waste time thinking about me and getting all afraid...."

Why had she lied to Betsey? Didn't the girl have as much right to know as she did? No, no, she didn't love him like I did, nobody loved him like I did...and she was angry again, with no emotion left to waste on sorrow, but bitter, black hate against the cruel world.

She turned onto the gravel walk, dragging her feet. There was a robin in the garden, and she bent down and hurled a handful of gravel at it. As she went into the house, staring relentlessly ahead of her, she did not notice that the first crocus had come out at last.