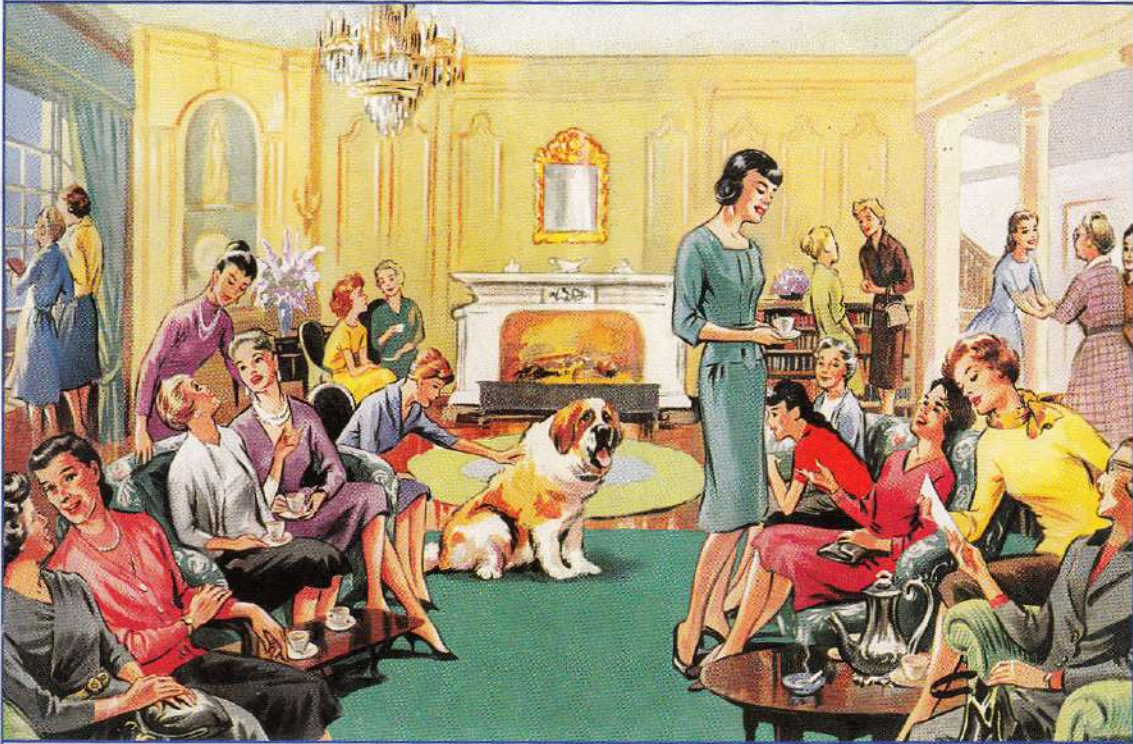




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Onwards and Upwards



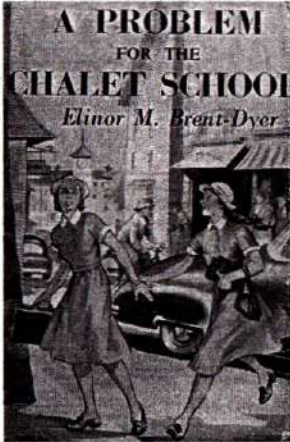
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Nastiest characters

Janet Stow “It was only when reading Mark Taha’s comments on Juliette Carrick’s father that I realised the link with F H Burnett’s *A Little Princess*. Sara Crewe received no such kindness when she found herself stranded at boarding school nor, indeed, did Jane Eyre at Lowood.”

Languages and the Chalet School

Katharine Childs “Monica Godfrey raised some interesting questions about the



practicalities of being a tri-lingual school in her article in the August mag. Whilst re-reading *Problem*, I found the answer to one of them! Monica was querying why there were no lessons for new girls to help them become more at ease with other languages. Well on page 97 of my paperback, I found the following ‘[Joan Baker] .. went off to join a little coaching class held by Mdlle for half-a-dozen girls who knew little or no French. Rosamund [Lilley] was not in it as she was already being coached by Mdlle Berné from St Mildred’s.’ So it seems that some provision was made to help those who would otherwise remain dumb on French and German days!”

Katherine Leach “With regard to the comments about languages in the last issue: surely it would be possible to learn, say, history in French one year, German the next and so on? Thus only one textbook in the appropriate language would be needed. Also why were the Christmas plays, pantomimes, etc., apparently all performed in English in Switzerland – and even seem to have ended with the British national anthem?”

Angela Procter “One thing which I found very irritating was when Jo used to ‘bump into’ groups of girls going for rambles on the Platz, or if they came over to Freudesheim she insisted that if it was a French or German day, they had to speak the relevant language. Also in *Wins the Trick*, when Len’s group were sitting O levels, Len, who spoke French all day, several times a week, and had done so for the best part of ten years, and who had lived in French speaking Canada when younger, thought she might have scraped a pass in French. She, and most of the others, surely should have found the examinations easy. Her French was described as ‘fluent’, ‘idiomatic’ etc.”

Matron

Olive Miller “Why has Matron the power to interrupt lessons to take a girl out to tidy her drawers? Surely education comes before tidiness! In one book, I can’t remember which, Len is removed from her supervision with the juniors to tidy her drawers. Besides undermining her authority, it meant that the juniors were

memorial, as this is in the outer entrance hall, immediately opposite the doors. I seldom fail to greet Ernest's name as I go in and out."

Mark Taha "Does anyone know where I could find Ernest Farrar's songs? Were they published anywhere or recorded?"

Queries on *Lorna*

Lou Brundell "I've just read the *Lorna* books for the first time, courtesy of Hilary, and thoroughly enjoyed them. I noticed one theme which I hadn't been particularly aware of in the Chalet books – that of an event being arranged and eagerly anticipated, and then having to be cancelled for some reason, thus forcing the characters concerned to come to terms with the disappointment. For example, in *Lorna at Wynyards* the half term party especially arranged for Lorna had to be cancelled because of quarantine, and in *Step-Sisters For Lorna* the journey to visit Marigold in hospital, very much looked forward to by Rosemary, was unable to be made because of the fog. These episodes seem very realistic – life is



full of disappointments! Kit and Lorna were preparing to make scrapbooks to send to the North London (p.133) but later they are making a screen, not scrapbooks, and the North London is never mentioned again. What was it?"

Marie's Brood

Patricia Brodie "While I do not know the names and the ages of Marie's children at the time of *Prefects*, in *Coming of Age* on page 102 (pb) Frieda tells Herr Braun that 'Fräulein Marie has five girls and two boys'. One of Marie's children is mentioned in *Three Go* (hb) (page 80). That is Josefa. It states 'How pretty she was with her golden curls and violet-blue eyes'. I do not know if Josefa would be the eldest of Marie's family or not."

Chalet Reading

Maria Figes "I picked up an interesting find recently while browsing through a pile of outdated magazines on a charity stall - a copy of *Home & Country*, April 1994 which contains an article on Chalet Schooldays by Clarissa. It is really interesting; I don't often look through piles of magazines as I buy the magazines I am interested in each week/month."

Exploit Thoughts

Amrita Balachandran "I was just re-reading *Exploits* and I was wondering if

death. Rachel brought home the dreadful emptiness that many victims of the holocaust must have felt about 'not knowing'. Thank you, Rachel."

Irene Moll "I enjoyed the last magazine and was especially interested in *The Last Months of Herr Marani*. We hear so much about Jews in concentration camps, but I've never heard much about political prisoners. In *Exile* (hb) Jem does remark 'I wish Marani would take Maria away. I admire him for what he's doing; but I'm very much afraid of the consequences to himself.' It's cut from the paperback. So I think Rachel's right and this must be the action that seals his fate. EBD does seem to have known a lot about what was happening at this time."



Pauline Ashton "Just a footnote to *The Last Months of Herr Marani* by Rachel Taylor. One political prisoner who survived eleven years in concentration camps, mostly in Dachau (not a death camp, but obviously not a holiday camp either) was Pastor Martin Niemöller, a U-boat captain in the First World War and head of the German Protestant Church after the Second. Pastor Niemöller was among the Protestant leaders who met in Geneva after the Second World War and a plaque commemorating this meeting is to be found in the Munster in Geneva with the names of those who attended, amongst them our own Archbishop Fisher of Canterbury."

Mark Taha "I don't care for Herr Marani's belief in 'absolute obedience' in children - it may be convenient for parents but leaves a nasty taste in my mouth. Especially remembering what the obedient Austrian and German children grew up to do! Herr Marani does seem to have been a nice chap, at least - and I expect Rachel Taylor got his fate right."

Minette

Olive Miller "Incidentally, who is the father of Minette's kittens?"

The Daisy Debate

Susan Tinning "I would like to make a comment about the Daisy situation. It also touches on the men being in charge. My mum wanted to be a nurse when she left school (circa 1942) but my grandfather would not hear of it. She had to go into an office (which she hated but made the best of) until she married my dad. She did train in later life and loved it, my dad was more tolerant (and we needed the money), also my granddad had passed on. When I was growing up and she told me this story I could not understand how she let him rule her life like that, but as she said it was the way things were back then. I think that