

CASE HISTORY of a LESBIAN

On the Q.T.

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NOV.

The CLASS Magazine In Its Field

Marilyn Monroe:
END OF A
SEX GODDESS?

**THOSE
B-GIRLS
WITH
UNION
CARDS**



Did "Lolita" Change
James Mason's Mind
About Marriage?



WILL CLEOPATRA TAKE A \$30,000,000 BATH?



On the Q.T.

NOVEMBER, 1962

Volume 6

Number 4

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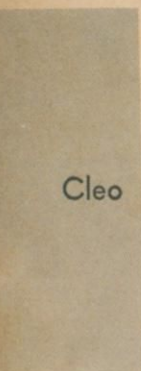
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Marilyn



Cleo



Ya-Ya Girls

ON THE Q.T. Published bi-monthly by Barton Magazines, Inc., at 1133 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y. Second class postage paid at New York, N. Y., and at Meriden, Conn. Single copy price 25 cents; yearly subscription \$1.50. Entire contents copyrighted 1962 by Barton Magazines, Inc. NOV., 1962. Vol. 6, No. 4 Printed in U.S.A.

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Case History of a

LESBIAN

By BOB LINDELL

"To conquer a disease, knowledge limited to physicians regarding its cure is not sufficient. The public must be educated as to its cause, symptomatology and ways of preventing its development. The same holds true for psychosocial ills such as prostitution, juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, narcotic addiction, sexual aberrations, etc.

"We need less moral condemnation and greater scientific understanding of human frailties. We need to become sexwise."

Frank S. Caprio, M.D.

A PHYSICIAN reaps the most gratifying rewards of his profession when a severe illness he has been treating for some time begins to respond to his efforts and almost miraculously disappears.

Even more satisfaction is gained by the psychiatrist who, working with more uncertain tool against an enemy that is not even visible, conquers a disease of the mind and restores a tragic social outcast to a position of mental health and self respect.

Unfortunately, in the complex realm of the mind, success is much more difficult than that enjoyed almost matter-of-factly by physicians who treat the more responsive ills of the body; and a single victory in this area is justifiably cause for great satisfaction on the part of the psychiatrist, and a desire to share his experience with others in his profession.

Such was the case with Dr. Richard C. Robertiello, author of a book called "Voyage From Lesbos," the first complete report of the psychoanalysis of a lesbian ever published. Dr. Robertiello's qualifications are impressive. He is a Diplomate in Psychiatry of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; a Fellow of the Academy of Psychoanalysis and of the American Psychiatric Association; a Member of the Society of Medical Psychoanalysis and of the New York County Medical Society.

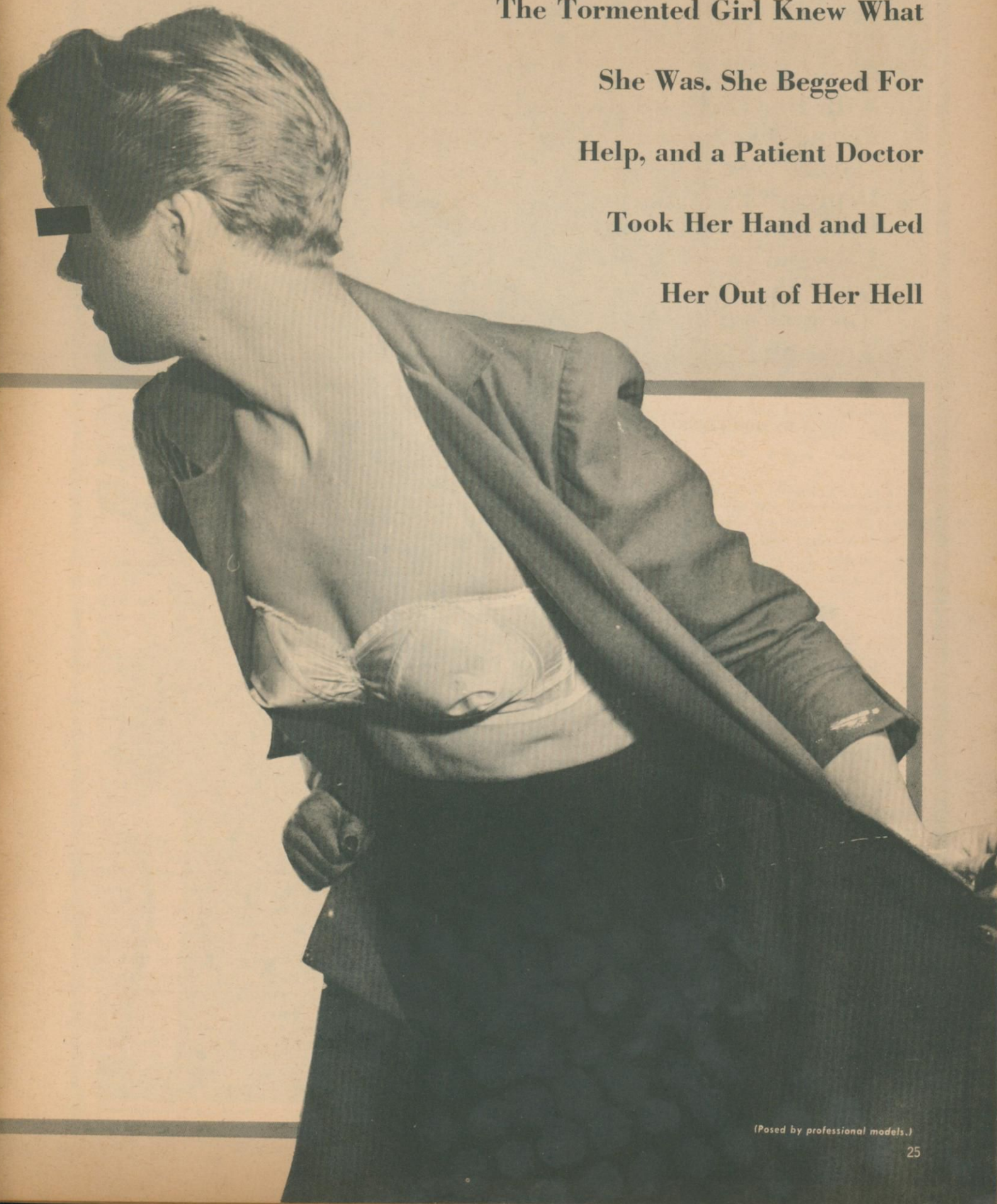
With these evidences of professional esteem behind it, "Voyage From Lesbos" was received with respect by the profession and its contents carefully studied.

Wrote the doctor in the preface to his book: "Homosexuality is still considered a crime in almost all states and a person caught in a homosexual act can be prosecuted and imprisoned. I hope that, after reading this book, the layman will see that it makes about as much sense to punish a person thus for homosexuality as it does to take him to court for having pneumonia, tuberculosis or coronary disease."

Dr. Robertiello pointed out that homosexuality is the symptom of an illness and that childhood traumatic experiences cause anxieties in the homosexual that compel him to express his sexual interest only toward members of his own sex. They are mostly unhappy, suffering people, says the doctor, even though some of them pretend they are not.



The Tormented Girl Knew What
She Was. She Begged For
Help, and a Patient Doctor
Took Her Hand and Led
Her Out of Her Hell



(Posed by professional models.)

**Connie's Life
With Her Girl
Friend Was
Marked by a
Depressing
Cycle of
Hate and
Love. She
Was Amazed
When She
Learned Why**



(Posed by professional models.)

CASE HISTORY OF A LESBIAN

The psychiatrist denies the involvement of physiological or hormonal problems in homosexuals. Anyone, no matter how fine a physical or mental inheritance he has, can become homosexual if exposed to certain environmental situations as a child. "There but for the grace of God go I," is a statement anyone can say about a homosexual.

IN HIS book, Dr. Robertiello gives his patient the name of Connie. She was a pretty brunette of 29 with a good figure. Calmly she admitted to the psychiatrist that she was a lesbian and had split up with her girl friend, Jo—with whom she had been living for eight years—several months earlier. Since that time she had been suffering from depression and insomnia.

One year younger than Connie, Jo seemed older and more sure of herself, despite her sensitivity that made other girls careful of hurting her feelings. A small, pretty brunette, she was very popular in the office where both girls worked.

It was the custom at this office—as in many others—for a group of the girls to bowl or go to a movie after work. At the theater Jo always managed to sit beside Connie, and soon began to hold her hand. Connie liked this, without dreaming that anything might be wrong with it.

Late one night Jo invited Connie to stay at her apartment rather than make the trip home. Connie consented and went to bed. Then Jo startled Connie by becoming amorous in a masculine way. Connie, more aroused than ever before in her life, later told her psychiatrist that she had enjoyed the experience, and she began to spend more time in Jo's apartment. Eventually she moved in.

Their relationship lasted much longer than such an arrangement usually does, but it was marred by the inevitable arguments and accusations. Jo was very jealous, and would fly into a rage at "gay" parties and bars when other lesbians flirted with Connie. Connie, too, was jealous at times, and often the two girls engaged in a physical battle, striking each other, pulling hair and hurling objects at each other. This combat seemed to arouse them physically and all would be forgiven in the glow of their sick relationship. After that, their interest in each other would decline—until their next battle.

During their relationship, Connie had a brief affair with a married man and responded a few times, but the experiences were so unrewarding she decided to end them.

Going back to her childhood, Dr. Robertiello learned from Connie that her mother had given most of her affection to Connie's older sister. When Connie brought girl or boy friends home, her mother would whisper about them to Connie right in front of them or make unflattering remarks about them.

Her father was a dominating man and always laid down the law to Connie. Her two brothers were much older and left home early to get married. Her sister, a startlingly beautiful girl, was the family favorite, though she died at the age of 24.



Lesbians are always unhappy, even if many of them protest they are not. Their relationships rarely last very long.

(Posed by professional models.)

In subsequent months, the psychiatrist learned more about Connie, and about her blazing arguments with Jo. Connie was concerned about her own hostility. Since the separation, she had been involved in four lesbian affairs. Each ended in violence and bad blood. Why, she wondered, wasn't she ever hostile toward men, or toward girls with whom she was not emotionally involved?

THE psychiatrist began to analyze her dreams.

Many were heterosexual and similar in content: She would become sexually attracted to a boy, then become anxious and end the relationship.

Once she dreamed of a beautiful colored towel rack that had been pulled out of the wall, leaving an ugly hole. Connie associated the hole to the female characteristic and the towel rack to the male, apparently regarding the former as ugly.

Unconsciously, Connie had a basic desire for men, it was clear, that was being smothered by the anxiety aroused by the desire.

Another theme that recurred in her dreams was her hostility toward women. While yielding to them, she was controlling this hostility, but when the relationship foundered and left her without that control, she would direct the hostility against herself. Result: depression.

Other dreams revealed Connie's wish for heterosexuality. She was beginning to understand now that she had had to settle for a poor second choice—lesbianism—because anxiety prevented her from going the right way. Needing some satisfaction, she had turned to women.

This posed several questions to the psychiatrist. What stood between her and men? And why had she turned to women for relief, rather than solitary sex, or sublimation?

Connie revealed a dream that she was watching a nude girl on a movie screen. (Continued on page 38.)

CASE HISTORY OF A LESBIAN

(Continued from page 27)



Connie considered the breasts attractive, but when the camera concentrated on other feminine areas, she was overcome with anxiety and left the theater.

Connie understood now that she regarded the female characteristics as dirty and repulsive and believed men would do the same.

In another session, Connie remembered as a child her cousin telling her not to let men see her in panties. She understood this then to mean men considered the female body ugly. She realized now that this thought had been firmly fixed in her mind.

She remembered that the men in her family had often referred to the women as dirty, and that even her nephew had asked Connie to teach his wife feminine hygiene.

For nearly five years—with some interruptions—Dr. Robertiello worked with Connie. One of her biggest problems, he knew, was that her heterosexual feelings had remained affixed to her father and to her brother-in-law who had made passes at her during her adolescence. Any attempt on her part now to involve herself with men meant, in her unconscious mind, that she would have to compete with her mother or sister.

Her mother had apparently given Connie the impression that she was competing with her for the affection of her father and kept telling her what a terrible person he was, hoping to keep them apart. With the death of her sister and the sexual overtures made by her brother-in-law, Connie suspected she could win in such competition.

Her sister's death left her with severe guilt feelings because of her unconscious desires, and her father added to this guilt by saying he would give her more attention now.

DR. ROBERTIELLO knew now that Connie's sexual illness was a cover for her competition with women. To avoid hating them and competing with them, she loved them. That would

relieve her feelings of guilt—particularly over her sister's death—together with fears of retaliation from female rivals who might discover her competitiveness.

It had started as far back as high school when Connie had concealed her jealousy of beautiful girls by allying herself with them and remaining in their shadow.

Also important was her childhood toilet training, in which her mother made her feel dirty. Later bedwetting convinced her of this, and she believed men considered women dirty and inferior. This being the case, she was certain men couldn't possibly love them.

Under the direction of this brilliant psychiatrist, Connie slowly began to understand her lesbianism as a defense mechanism. She began to understand the beginnings of her anxieties. It was long, and often painful, work, peeling back the layers of the unconscious, and even when the time came that she understood why she was a lesbian, the problem remained for her to give up that life. Whenever she tried it, she was overcome by the same anxiety that had caused her to adopt homosexuality as a defense in the first place. Once she became so frightened that she quit analysis altogether for a period.

But then the patient began to return to health. Men began to be important in her life, women less important, until finally a certain man's arms and the discovery of herself as a woman to be fulfilled became the greatest adventure of her life.

For the patient, probing psychiatrist, something as important as life itself had been saved . . . the mind of a human being.

To the thousands who followed the step-by-step voyage from Lesbos in the pages of his book, it meant an assurance that many of these sick, tormented individuals can be helped, and a promise that someday the tools of psychiatry will be so perfected that *all* can be saved. ●