

FROM THE DIARIES OF ADAM AND EVE
Selected and adapted from the writings of Mark Twain

I. The First Week

EVE:

I am almost a whole day old now. I arrived yesterday.
I feel exactly like an experiment.
It would be impossible for a person to feel more like an experiment than I do.
And so I am coming to feel convinced that that is what I am:
an experiment and nothing more.

ADAM:

This new creature with the long hair is a good deal in the way!
It is always hanging around and following me about.
I don't like this! I am not used to company.

EVE:

The moon got loose last night and slid down and fell out of the scheme.
A very, very great loss. It breaks my heart to think of it.
It should have been fastened better.

ADAM:

Built me a shelter against the rain, but could not have it to myself.
The new creature intruded.
When I tried to put it out, it shed water out of the holes it looks with.
I wish it could not talk, it is always talking.

EVE:

I followed the other experiment around yesterday afternoon, at a distance,
to see what it might be for.
I feel more curiosity about it than about any of the other reptiles
(that is if it is a reptile, and I suppose it is).
For it has frowsy hair, and blue eyes, and it looks like a reptile.
It has no hips, and when it stands, it spreads itself apart like a derrick.
So I think it is a reptile, though it may be architecture.

ADAM:

Been examining the waterfall. It's the finest thing on the estate, I think.
The new creature calls it, "Niagara Falls." Why? I'm sure I do not know.
Says it looks like Niagara Falls! That is not a reason.
I get no chance to name anything myself.

EVE:

I have taken all the work of naming things off its hands
and I can see that it is quite relieved.
It can't think up a rational name to save itself,
but I don't let it see that I'm aware of this defect.
I have no defect like this.

ADAM:

The naming goes recklessly on!
There isn't a thing I can do.
I had a good name for the garden,
and it was musical and pretty:
'Garden of Eden'
'Garden of Eden.'
But the new creature says it's all woods and rocks and scenery,
and it has no resemblance to a garden.
Says it looks like a park, and it does not look like anything but a park.
Consequently, without consulting me, it has been renamed
'Niagara Falls Park.'
My life is not as happy as it was.

EVE:

I think it is a man! I had never seen a man before.
But it looks like a man and I feel sure that that is what it is.
But it isn't an 'it' is it? That wouldn't be grammatical would it?

I think it should be 'he'
nominative 'he'
I think so.
Dative, 'him'
possessive, 'his'n.'

Well I will consider it a man and call it 'he'
until it turns out to be something else.

ADAM:

The new creature says it's name is Eve.
It says it's not an 'it.'
I have no objection.
It's a 'she.'

It used to be so quiet here!

II. The Second Week

EVE:

My first sorrow.
Yesterday he avoided me and seemed to wish I would not talk to him.
I could not believe it, for I loved to be with him and I loved to hear him talk.
So how could it be that he could feel unkind towards me, when I had not done anything?
But at last it seemed true.

ADAM:

Perhaps I ought to remember that she is very young - a mere girl.
I ought to make allowances.
She is all interest, eagerness, vivacity.
The world to her is a charm, a wonder, a mystery, a joy.
If she could quiet down and keep still for a moment at a time,
that would be a peaceful spectacle.

EVE:

So I went away
and sat lonely in the place
where I first saw him
the morning we were made.

But now it was a mournful place
and every little thing spoke of him.
And my heart was very sore.
I did not know why very clearly,
for it was a new feeling.

And it was all a mystery.

ADAM:

For I am coming to realize
that she is quite a remarkably comely creature -
lithe, slender, trim, rounded.

And once when she was standing
marble white and sun-drenched,
with her young head tilted back
and her hand shading her eyes,
watching the flight of a bird in the sky,
I recognized that she was beautiful.

III. A Year Later

BOTH:

They are uncomfortable

EVE:

(but stylish)

BOTH:

and that is the main point about clothes.

EVE:

When I look back, the garden is a dream to me.
It was enchantingly, surpassingly beautiful. And now it is lost.

ADAM:

We have named it Cain.
She caught it while I was in the north country trapping.
It resembles us in some ways, and it may be a relation.
That's what she thinks, but I still think its a fish.

EVE:

If I ask myself why I love him, then I find I do not know.
I love certain birds because of their song, but I do not love Adam on account of his singing.
No. The more he sings, the more I can't get used to it.

ADAM:

It is not a fish.
It has ceased from lying around, and now it crawls about on four legs.
The short front legs and the long hind legs indicate that it is one of the kangaroo family.

EVE:

It isn't on account of his brightness that I love him.
No. But he is not to blame for his brightness (such as it is). In time it may develop.
But there's no hurry. He is well enough as he is.

ADAM:

I have offered to get her a kangaroo if she will let this one go,
but it did no good.

EVE:

For he is strong and handsome and I love him for that.
But I would love him without these qualities.
And so I think that this kind of love is not a product of reason.
It just comes, none knows whence, and it cannot explain itself.

ADAM:

I never saw such luck. She has caught another one!

IV. Many Years Later

ADAM:

They are boys.
We found it out long ago.
It was their coming in that small, immature shape that puzzled us.
After all these years,
I see I was mistaken about Eve at the start.
It is better to live outside the garden with her,
than inside it without her.
At first I thought she talked too much,
but now I would be sorry to have that voice fall silent
and pass out of my life.

EVE:

It is my prayer,
it is my longing,
that we may pass from this life together.
A longing which shall never perish from the earth,
but have place in the heart
of every wife that loves
until the end of time.
I am the first wife
and in the last wife I shall be repeated.

ADAM:

Blessed be the garden
that brought us near together,
and taught me to know the goodness of her heart,
and the sweetness of her spirit.
Wheresoever she was,
there was Eden.