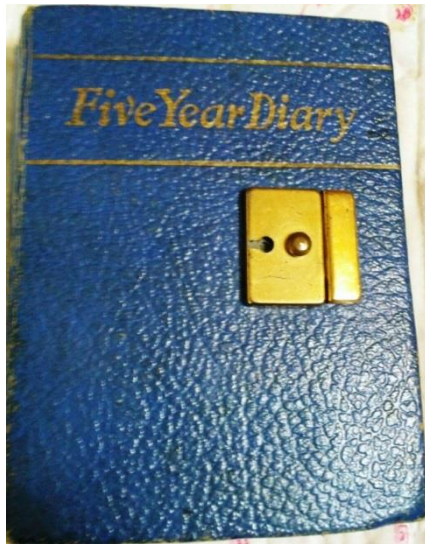


1943 Diary: Lois, an 11-year old girl in a troubled family in Los Angeles

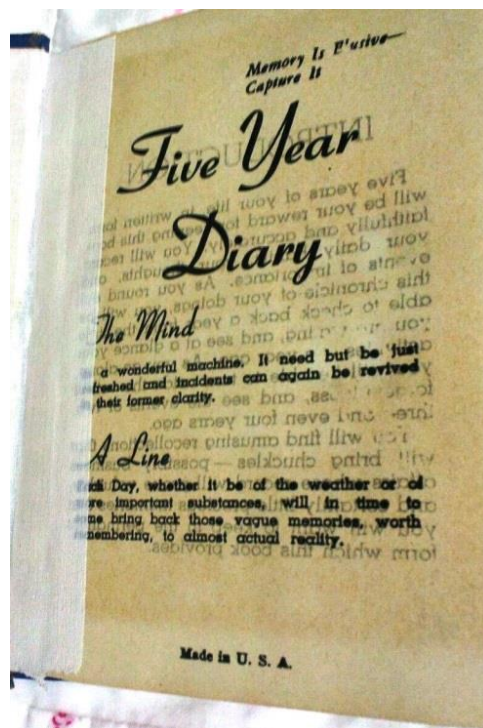


This is the 1943 diary of an eleven year old girl named Lois, who lived in Los Angeles, California. Lois lived with her mother and her step father, Harry. The diary is effectively a chronicle of a troubled childhood, because her mother and Harry have such a tempestuous relationship, with Harry repeatedly abandoning mother and daughter, only to return. At one point her mother plucks up the courage to visit a lawyer, but Harry returns and behaves himself and all is forgiven - until the next fight, when the cycle is repeated.

Lois is like most girls her age. She talks about school, friends, family, her teachers, going to drama class, and wanting to be an actress, about socking another kid in the eye, because he socked her first, she talks about numerous movies she goes to see, and mentions the name of the movie, and usually if she liked it or

Lois

About her when Harry when he having to then seems writes about being card coming most young writes about are the between her seem to have person she sometimes 'Harry' and sometimes 'the rat', is in all likelihood her stepfather.

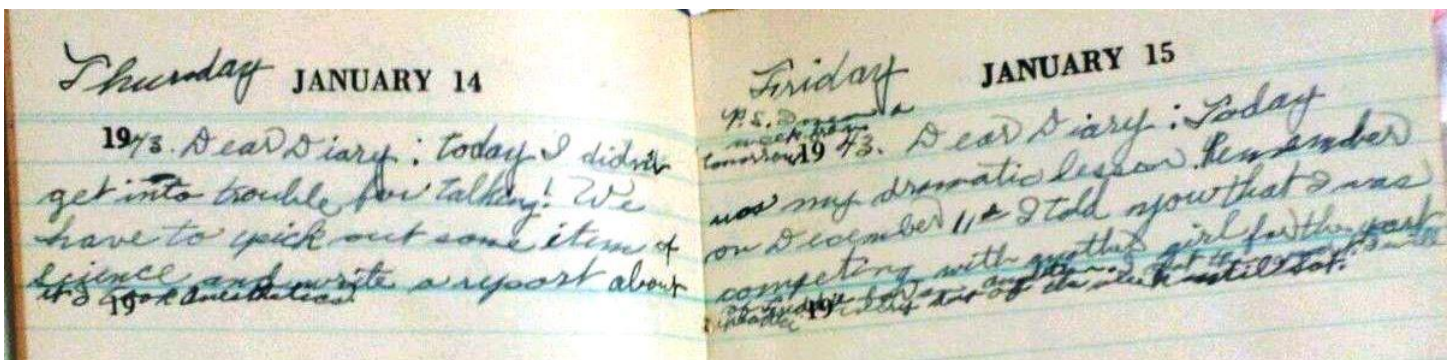


not.

writes about family problems. mother looking for a job leaves her, then quitting comes home, and eventually find another one, which she to give up. This young girl having her girlfriends over, nervous about her report out, and all of the things girls talk about, but what she most, and what she dreads, tensions and arguments parents. The parents don't been married for long, so the sometimes calls 'father', and

Dear Diary at night I went to Brooklyn Ave and saw Esther Silverman and her husband Oscar, and surprise of all surprises all day my mother or father didn't fight.

Dear Diary forgot to tell you yesterday but Pauline gave me three movie magazines and a box of Aba zebra candy. And when she gave me the candy she said "Be sure and give some to your Daddy". Can you beat that! p.s. The magazines had pictures of movie stars that I am saving.



Dear Diary. Today Mitzie Lile and I had an attack of gigglesides at school. (We couldn't stop laughing). Today my mother baked her first cake (with Miss Silbar's help). p.s. My mother got very mad at me last night she bit me in [?] and scratched my eye.

Dear Diary my daddy didn't come home all night! How do you like a guy like that for a husband? I sure am not proud of him for a father.

Dear Diary. Happy Birthday today is my mother's birthday. I was the only one that got her anything. That rat isn't back yet.

Dear Diary: Today while I was downtown with my mother I caught my foot in the escalator and I couldn't get it out.

Dear Diary: Today mom went to work at the May Company as a switchboard operator for \$18.00 a week.

Dear Diary. Nothing exciting happened today. My Daddy didn't talk

and my mother got mad (as usual) and my grandfather butted in which got my mother very angry. That is all for today Dear.

Dear Diary: Today we went over to see Pauline Marcus and of course mom and pop had a fight. My dad fixed some electric wires at a house and then he went to the show.

Dear Diary: Today was mom's day off. We went down to see Harry. He was pretty nice he says he will call for me on Tuesday.

Dear Diary: The rat (Harry) didn't send mom a cent this week. She got a job at Vega Aircraft she goes to work today. I got my report card. I am moving into Mrs. Marshes room.

This is a five year diary, but there are entries for only about 226 days in one year, 1943. She writes steady until March 5th, and then for only a few days after that. She picks up her entries again in early August and writes every day for the rest of the year.

The diary, which measures about 5 1/2" X 4", is in fair condition. When you open the book, there is tape holding the binding together, and the pages are yellowing a little and slightly fragile, and the strap is missing. Lois writes in pen and pencil. Sometimes her handwriting is sloppy and careless, and the pencil entries are sometimes very faint.

Overall, this is an interesting diary but it is not a light or happy read. Lois seems to be managing school and friendships, and she seems to be a cheerful soul, but her personal development is weighed down by circumstances, caught as she is in the middle of an awful marriage.

The reader cannot help but feel for Lois. In her childhood years, right at the beginning of her years of perception, when her world view is forming, her parents lack the grace and kindness to keep her free of their pain and aggression. It seems that both were caught in a terrible cycle and could find no way out, with the mother doing her best to negotiate the moods of an aggressive partner.

One wonders what became of Lois and whether she found some peace in later life, or whether in this account her parents, in their ignorance, were modelling another troubled mind, another troubled family, and another troubled child down the line.