THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME

It happens every day. A young man goes off to college, leaving behind not only broken heart with vows of eternal love, and then he finds that he has outgrown her. What, in such cases, is the honorable thing to do?

Well, sir, you can do what Rock Stripes did. When Rock left Cut and Shoot, Pa., he said to his sweetheart, a simple country lass named Tess d’Urbervilles, “My dear, though I shall be away in college, I will love you always. I will never look at another girl. If I do, may my eyelashes pouch and mite, may your visera writhe like adders, may the moths get my new pocket watch.”

Then he clutched Tess to his bosom and planted a final kiss upon her fragrant young skull and went away, meaning, with all his heart, to be faithful.

But on the very first day of college he met a coed named Fata Morgana, a girl of such sophistication, such poise, such accessibility, her face never lasted a week before.

This Rock knew.

So all day he followed Fata around campus and listened to her talk about Franz Kafka, and then in the evening he went back to the dormitory and found this letter from his home town sweetheart Tess:

Dear Rock,

Us hild had a keen time yesterday. We went down to the square and caught a nickel show. I caught the worst of anybody. Then we hitched rides on trucks and did lots of nasty stuff like that. Well, I must close now because I get to whiteness to the fence.

Your friend,

Tess

P.S. — I can do my Tuss Hop 5,000 times.

Well, sir, Rock thought about Tess and then he thought about Fata and then a great sadness fell upon him. Suddenly he knew he had outgrown young, innocent Tess; his heart now belonged to smart, sophisticated Fata.

Rock, being above all things honorable, returned forthwith to the campus and found Fata’s chief confidant, and broke the news to Tess and looked her in the eye and said manfully, “I do not love you any more. I love a girl named Fata Morgana. You can hit me in the stomach with all your might if you like.”

That’s okay, boy,” said Tess amiably. “I don’t love you either.”

Fata, a spirited fellow, said Rock and shook Tess’s hand, and they have remained good friends to this day. In fact, Rock and Fata often double-date with Franz and Tess and have heaps of fun. Franz can do the Tuss Hop 6,000 times.

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