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wrong lyrics for all kinds of things. One I particularly remember was ‘ah, cinderlight’ – I used to think it was very poetic, until I found out that it was actually ‘walk in the light’. Doesn’t say much for the choir’s enunciation, does it!”

Jenny Marshall “Vanessa Thomas reminded me of the hymn we sang at Sunday School: ‘I will make you fishers of men.’ Although I knew the words, the meaning escaped me at four years old.”

Kate Eggleston “My brother could not imagine what the Palace would do with all the Victoria plums that people were asked to send to the King. ‘send Him Victorious, happy and glorious....’ in the National anthem.”

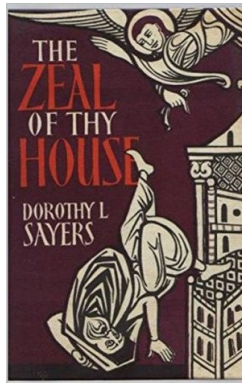


EBD on TV

Nadine Norris “I wonder if anyone can remember Elinor’s interview on TV? I was about nine at the time. It was on just after the Midland News. My father called me in to watch because he knew I loved to read school stories. While I wasn’t so foolish as to expect her to look like Jo, I was amazed. She didn’t look at all like an author. She seemed so smart and so headmistressy! Unfortunately I can’t remember anything she said!”

Angels’ Wings

Val Walker “Oh! Hilary, this struck a chord with me. While at grammar school we did a performance of Dorothy L Sayers play *Zeal of Thy House*, which is about the rebuilding of Canterbury Cathedral after a fire had destroyed part of it. I played a humble workman but there were three Archangels in it. They had beautiful wings which had been borrowed from another school. I was so envious that Raphael (a very kind prefect) let me wear her wings for part of one rehearsal. Our English teacher used to remind me of it years later but it was a very satisfying experience.”



Carla Kerr “I have plenty of experience of playing angels in school plays – as I took speech and drama as an extracurricular, I wasn’t allowed a ‘part’ in the class nativity, and I never got a part in the speech and drama plays either, because parts went to outgoing girls rather than by an audition process. So I was ALWAYS an angel in the back row! Our parents used to make the

wings out of clothes hangers covered with tin foil, or cardboard covered with tin foil if they were a bit more artistic. Then they got clipped or taped to your dress. There was always a little store of tea-towels, bathrobes, white nighties, and



of protective covering round the building which has been in an ever increasing state of disrepair following a long dispute of shared ownership. I thought this was probably to stop the building falling down as part of it has protected status. (Nothing to do with EBD!)

Being curious, I did an internet search and found a story on the e-paper site

Bezirksblätter. It seems the building was at last sold to someone in Innsbruck who then sold it on to a group of people, including the owner of the Wiesenhof, who are intending to develop it as a boutique hotel with 20-30 rooms and an additional annexe of 16 suites.

So it looks as though the Alpenhof will soon be restored to its former glory and guests can once again stay in the hotel that inspired the Chalet School. (If you can afford it – Pertisau is not the cheapest place!)





most of her energies to an unsuccessful battle with her devil over her jealousy of Len's friendships with other girls. In *Leader*, while Margot herself works hard, the majority of her form do not, and Vb are called to see the Head. In Chapter X, entitled 'Margot asks for help' she tells Len "She said she'd sent for us to try to make us realise that as a form we were a disgrace to the school. Our standard was lower than anyone else's, including even the junior forms. Next school year, we ought to be doing G.C.E. work with the exam in view for the end of the year, but as things were, she didn't see how there would be more than three or four to enter. In that case, she was afraid we wouldn't be allowed to have our own centre as usual" (GGBP, p117)

In the following Chapter XII, 'Emulating Mary-Lou, Len forgoes a half-term trip to Montreux to plead Margot's case with Miss Annersley. She asks the Head to withdraw her threat of demoting the entire form to Inter V from the minority who have worked well. Miss Annersley's response is that, "[Margot] has pulled up tremendously this past term and a half, but it's been largely for her own ends. [...] What Margot must do is to work for the sake of her form's reputation as well." (GGBP, p137) Once the Head has succeeded in putting Len, and, via Len, Margot herself, right on the matter, the storyline is shelved. The plot of *Leader* revolves around Len's character development, of which letting her sisters 'stand on their own feet' is an important aspect.

In the following book, *Trick*, Va and 'a handful' of girls in Vb take the GCE exams, and in *Triplets* all three are in the Lower Sixth. (Dimly remembered by me, the information about exams in *Trick* was confirmed by *The Chalet School Encyclopaedia, Volume Three*, by Alison McCallum; I don't own a copy of *Trick*.) *Triplets* is the book in which Margot receives the invitation from Emerence Hope to spend the following summer holidays in Australia. Margot is