Alberto Vargas diary

Extracted on Apr-08-2020 02:06:10

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Sic transit
Gloria
Mundis
Aug. 1940- First calendar-

Smart = “These pictures should be in the engraver’s hands as soon as you finish each one - as they will be inserted in the “Esquire” Xmas issue. I know this is a whale of a lot to ask in such a short time - But 1st I intend to print 25000 copies in a separate calendar. Frankly I expect to be stuck with 10 or 15,000 if the public reaction to your girls isn’t very gratifying in which case you’d have to take the longer road to success and plug and work harder than ever. - From what you’ve shown me so far - I know that you can deliver. You just give all you’ve got to this big effort. The public will decide about your ability - if you win their praise - you are a made man and all your worries are over.”

Jan. 1941- Calendar became national institution.

About March 1941 - at my studio in the evening

Smart = “I’ve just come from my office where I had a discussion with a man who just can’t stand your success. He had the nerve to tell me that he is going to do the calendar for next year!”
March 41. at my studio in the evening.
(cont.), "I told him to go jump in the lake, that when and if another
calendar was going to be made Varga would do it. So, you see, we'll
have to get together soon regarding the cal. 1942. Lets make this one a brilliant successor to the first one-as now, we have time
to do it at leisure." --- (Incidentally give some thought to make a
double-deck of playing cards. This also will enhance your prestige and
popularity with a larger public.)?
Summer 1941 First set of Playing Cards were made for 1942 [[whole
line underlined]]
Jan. 1942 - At war - 2nd Cal. out.
Summer 1942- work'd on 3rd Cal. 1943.
2nd Set P. Card * 1943.
41943.-Along the month of June 28-1943.

Smart & myself in his office (As I delivered a pic. Mr. S. specially liked he volunteered the following-
Smart="By the way-as you probably recall. The time for taking up your option is here, this I cannot do for it means doubling your salary and you know you are frozen for the duration at your present wages. Even I am in the same situation. You've proven yourself a hard worker and have cooperated 100% with me. So this freeze on salaries prevents me to take up the option as per contract. But, you just trust me and keep on going on the same basis as we have so far and as soon as I find a way, without getting in trouble with the Government, I will write you a better contract than the option calls for. All I ask of you is that you keep giving me gorgeous pictures like this one and I will do the rest.--

(From June 10 - 1943 - to Jan. 1st 1944 worked on same basis as first contract) $325.00 a month Mother & Sister came from South America.

$5000 put to my account etc. etc. (over)]

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Cosmetics bussiness - payment for drawings in Stock. Make lots o' money

Jan. 1st 1944. Feb 1st 1944
Received cheque for $1000.00 as a monthly salary. Surprised went to S.s office to express same and be elucidated. - My wife and I.
Smart "Now that your mother & sister were here I realize that you've had all that extra expense and responsibility that why I am making it possible for you to have 1000. every month to take care of everything until I get around to figuring just how I can write a more lucrative contract that will bring you around 28,000 a year. In the mean time if you want extra money, just come to me and Uncle Dave'll give it to you. I just don't want to deprive yourself of anything, but concentrate assiduously on your work.

June 1st 1944
Went to L.A. to look out house over. Put his sister's apt. at our disposal - Sister offered $10,000. for home [[underlined]] $10,000

[[J.W.?]] Kansas trip.
6
First limits of pressure.
"Smart and myself just delivered last two 1946 Cal. pics. Smart "As you've probably noticed, I'm changing make up of mag and will have to ask you for two single pages Varga Girls for each issue henceforth." Surprised argued him out by painting too many cream puffs would turn customers. "You fellows conspiring behind my back? Well, two against one, I'm overruled! But I still think is a good idea"

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E. "Talk about retiring with $100,000 or more after the end of contract and take life easy - you know we own large state in Mississippi that will be the ideal spot for you. Who knows if you like it you can have it. (the state was located - get this: in "Boca Raton") haha!

[Underlined] June 10-1940 - Signed 1st contract in his office - D. Smart & myself alone.
comment "If your work clicks with the public your opportunities for earning money will be limitless, specially from advertisers who will be clamoring for your work. Wouldn't surprise me if you'd make $50,000 the first year - but I can guarantee you at least $25,000 - depending on how you go over with the public. All I can give you is the opportunity and advice in bussiness matters - but all depends entirely on your work. Your predecessor earned $250,000.00 when he left "Esquire" and there is no reason why you shouldn't match it or even surpass it. The work you did for Ziegfeld is exactly what I want for "Esq" - that is the classical Am Girl you glorified with pencil and brush.

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7[circled] August 1944.

[[underlined]] The house in the country. [[underlined]]

Oct. 1944
6 acres-$100000. House.
3 cars.

[[underlined]] 1945[[/underlined]]
April. 12 F.D.R death
Working midway 1946 Cal.
May. 10? - V.E Day __
May 18. Took car for repairs.
May 23. Sign contract - and pick'd up car.
-Finished 1946 Cal. [[star]] Talk about vacation - Sumart convinced me better take it in the Fall, in the meantime like a good boy why not knock off Cal 1947?
-Paper rationing. Manpower Shortage. Strikes!!!---
-Started 1947 Cal. --
End of June. Allowed B. Cards.
July. Working under pressure 1947 Cal. Told about having to put finish & playing cards in the hands of the engraver. by Jan. 1st 1946. -
"Discussion about soon having to go into production time, soon after vacation!"
August 45. Car stolen.

"Don't let this bad luck distract you from your work. I'll use personal influence to get you a new one in Detroit for your vacation. etc. etc.--

August 10(?)-V.J. Day-Gasoline ban off-

" 15(?) Ask for contract from my wife as we wanted to find out; why wasn't given to us when promised as we wished to know [[nov?]]

1st=Just how much are we going to benefit financially

2.=How much are we going to save-yearly

3.=How much cash could be count on progressivly yearly in order to buy home.

after interpretation I gave to the bonus of 1500- went immediately to see Smart to show how please we were with contract. ----

End of August-Car found

Nearing end of 1947 Cal. plus two extra for Jan & Feb. and-Smart ask for this extra effort for fear something might happen if we shouldn't get back from vacation in time ----deadline


Oct. Left on vacation.

Nov. 1st. Return from same. Immediate pressure for one a week.
Nov. - Finished two for Feb.- March  
Working on playing cards. (after long delay in Smart making up his mind).--

Dec. Left playing cards, half completed and plunged immediately on pics for, April and May.-working as in war-time day & night. Couldn't understand the rush!--

Dec. 15 Delivered April and May.
Dec. 20 Finish and delivered playing cards and showed pencil outlines for June For the first time since May 1945 Smart dropped the Mask of Pretense and set me straight about real meaning of contract.--curtains!--

I Fiduciary, leave it to me.
Promises on coming contract
" work ahead long vacation
Reid - so now you know what really happened in Smart's office in re contract. It is all there, specially page 8-9-10. Why the S.O.B. decided to cheat me no one knows:[underlined] but I do!! [underlined] I'd succeeded, too fast for Esq' and the publisher & Rat Smart couldn't "Take it!!!
FRED VARGAS
EDIFICIO OCONA 184
LIMA - PERU

CABLE IMMEDIATELY NEWS OF CONDITION FATHER. WRITE DETAILS. DELBOY GAVE ME FIRST NEWS OF ACCIDENT. ALBERTO.
Your letter of Feb. 24 received and I pass to review its contents. I will follow your precautionary suggestion of photog. each pic. before it leaves my studio this for my record and as to enable you to copyright them. You understand, of course, that some pics are bought outright, as they are ordered for one specific purpose, for instance the Skating... they'll use it [strikeout] only [strikeout] advertising the show only and have no resell value, say for, stockings dresses, etc., etc. I understand they copyright the drawing [strikeout] so their [strikeout] to protect themselves so that another competitor show couldn't "swipe" it. As for Vargas Girl drawings of that is a different matter. Here, we'll copyright them in our name. - As for the H. deal I am sure we all know now where we stand, we were shoved behind the 8th Ball and I hope that from now on till doomsday we will accept [double underlined] nothing, that isn't down in black and white. It's too sad honest people cannot rely anymore on a "gent.'s word" In this connection would it be possible for you to get the Shepp to come clean and honestly state what the [underlined] real and true [underlined] position of Gaines is in relation to the Varga [[Ent?]!] and Varga Cal? It seems to me this gent is taking more and more commanding and demanding attitude in the present setup, without previous consultation or discussion. I hear he even threatened on day to get Phil and himself on a place to come out here to give me fish wives tales about Harry's lack of cooperation etc. etc. Good thing you stopped him as he would have gotten more than a frigid reception from the Vargas'. I also would like it broken down in black and white, exactly how many how many calendars are to be printed.

A. Newstand - B. Desk. C. Wall. D Playing Gaines seems to have remarked that the [[Nevalaw?]!] Smart put out last year was a flop - too many returns and consequently he would not print more than 200,000 of ours. The power of the Varga signature is overwhelmingly evident in the fact that Smart tried and did pull a fast one by publishing my pictures without my name - accordingly the public took the position no Vargas name, no Varga Cal. in other words no signature signified - the nigger in the wood pile and didn't buy. I tried it myself by asking for a V. Cal - so they showed me a Esquire Cal: 'here you are" - I replied "where is V" signature" - they said this is a V. ca. even without his name, it's Varga's work" Anyway they went to great lengths not to loose a sale. Multiply this case that by several million customers and you get the pic [[?]!] focus of why the so called Esquire 1947 Cal. didn't sell so good. But the smart Mr. Gaines can't see beyond his longnette.
So I again rely upon you to use your persuasive powers to get this matter adjusted or clarified in a clear cut way.

Now we come to the piece de resistance: the Smart affair. We have read and reread and discussed pro and con everyday your notes in re this critical matter. It goes without saying it isn't very easy to my "abysmal" nature to think of "Uncle D." without the blood boiling in my veins. But since this case can only be settled by "due process of law" my personal feelings must be adjusted to the dictums of the Courts. Smart's hatchet man says the frères S. are burnt up over several pointed remarks in Judge Igoe's decision well, Igoe's eulogies of the Smart clan in the opening sentences of his decision made the hair in the back of my neck stand on end and my wife nearly passed out, particularly his opinion on who made the Varga Girl made me despair of ever finding justice in this world. Sprowe is entirely Correct - a great deal of feeling "exists" between S. and I - and it is all poison. Once bitten by a rat "in particular" - you become leary of rodents in general. So, Smart now wants to trade - appeal for appeal which we all agree is admirable, nay desirable provided:

A S. makes a $25,000 settlement. (You'll always be able to scale down to 10000 in horse trading)
B. We get all my drawings back, since C. He will have to agree not to publish any more Varga drawings - with or without name (This as you well remember is the very heart of my suit against him.).
An alternative to this settlement would be to ask for whatever "Varga products" he has on hand such a playing card, desk calendars, post cards etc to be given to us in lieu of cash. or $10,000.00 in moneys - and 15 V. products.
Of course knowing the rodent Smart, he'd rather throw the V. products into lake Michigan yet with his wellknown love for Mammon he might compromise our way - specially if we don't budge one iota in our determination to stop his publishing V. pics with or without signature, by going to the higher courts if necessary. In this connection it is very evident that the publicity accompanying each trip to the courts is most unfavorable to him while it helps infinitly to keep the Varga name in "The publics" mind. And this is hurting his business, you can bank on that. We are all very concious of the harrowing Consequences if we should loose our appeal

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while Smart is equally worried sick should he come out on the losing end. His pockets His bank accounts would be in for a gorgeous piece of carving. That is why - he came to us with an opening proposition.-

At this point and by this time you'll have surmised and concluded that we agree with your opinion of a settlement 100%. An attorney of your stature knows just how far to stretch the rubber band. So this is all show from now on in this odd version of the Merchant of Venice. You are the star - so lay them on the aisles.-

By the way you did not include the ^smart statement for 1946 due me - and let's not forget there is another one coming for 1947 - as the card and Varga products etc. are still on sale even without advertising, or under the phoney name of "Esquire Girl". All this details are important to a substantial settlement, I believe. Let us repeat then, we all have absolute confidence in your integrity and ability - whatever you accomplish will be to the best of our mutual interests, we just implore you not to be too soft and lenient with the Freres Smart until you wring down the curtain on the last act of this drama of greed and skulldugerie. I would ever have

[[end page]]

[[next page]]

present in my mind the arrogant and insulting attitude of "Uncles Dave and Alfred" in the opening days of the trial, every minute you are negotiating a settlement with that vermine and when it is all over - I'll be more than glad to forget they ever existed and to go on to better and bigger things. Believe me, the future is quite rosy and promising right now - even with the shadow of court proceedings hanging over our dealings - so you can just imagine what we can look forward to when it is all over.

[[Reid?]] - here ends the saga of the so called "Smart Freres." I know it will give a much better insight & understanding of the sinister conspiracy these two rodents had prepared for my "demise" from the public's eyes
under separate cover I am sending you all the material at hand for you to submit to Mr. Hughes. I hope it would be sufficient. With very best wishes and hoping to get together soon I am yours Vargas

[start page]

Dear Frank
I am immensely pleased by the news this morning, of Mr H Hughes being interested in producing "The Varga Girl."

I have for a long time a great admirer of his as a man and as an artist and for the magnificent way he fights for what he believes.

Way back in my Chicago days, then the Varga girl was beginning to take shape and my thoughts were focused on the Hollywood horizon. I came to the inevitable conclusion that the only way to properly introduce the Varga Girl to the screen would be thru the imagination and artistry of an independent producer such as Mr. H. Hughes, who handles one picture at a time giving the property due concentration and exploitation.

It also happens that under his egis scintillates Jane Russell - the brunette Varga Girl the real life pin-up of the males of the world. Jane in my humble opinion will find the perfect setting in this picture, as a beauty and talented actress. - to the discomfiture of the wisenheimers who see beyond their limited horizons.
The four friends sit themselves a ringside table - where they order the dinner - waiter leaves -

Bob - to Blundin  
Why do you always insist in sitting so close to the dance floor - we came to talk and listen - and here we can do neither!

Blundin  
You fellows could do the talking - but I want to look - The muchachas here are very beautiful - both gringas - and spanish - and since they "go" with the dinner like the wine - I want to be intoxicated by both - so the closer the better!

Jim  
OK, but don't act like a whirling dervish when the show starts. Try to restrain yourself - don't be loud!

Blundin  
Restrain myself! How can I sit here like a wooden Indian when the star attraction - Dolores - a gypsy-dancer and singer does her stuff - eh? Wait till you see her - and then answer!

Alberto  
Yes boys - when that Dolores - begins to sing and dance - even I can hardly restrain myself - Besides we have all evening to gab - and what I have to say is short and maybe to the point, - I hope.

Blundin  
Talk all you want professor - I don't listen with my eyes! The musicians glide in - tune their instruments while waiting for the leader and M.C. - he's both - to show up.

Alberto -  
Well - Boys - I have decided to take the plunge - to take art as a career - is what I mean. I'd rather paint pretty girls than eat - or drink - or sleep. It's in my blood I'd be most unhappy doing something else - even for a mint of monies and fatter pay. Give me A studio of my own here in the Village - a model or two - and enough materials and you can have the best job in N. York - even president of the Morgan Bank! With all my heart - I mean it!

Bob  
Deprived of all the aura of romance and glamour - fiction writers have clothed it with - as "a modus vivendi" - a way of making a living is a most precarious occupation - at its best - but - if you are happy painting - even hunger and want change your decision - I know, nor your courage - I hope, Al!

Alberto  
I couldn't have expressed myself better - than if I were Victor Hugo himself Bob! thanks - So there it is!
Jim
I couldn't add an iota to it - either - Alberto. - except a word of caution:
You're too naive, too "trust"y and if you don't improve in that department
you'll be in very hot waters - Someday, believe me.
Blundin
Even I - boys can say - Amen - to that.
- The orquestra breaks into the lively rpaso doble "El relicario" as
the[overwrite]some[overwrite] 8 girls - attired in gorgeous andalusian
Costumes file into the dance stage - in time with the melody
As this song ends they group themselves in a tableau
by the orquestra - all the lights are turned off - except
for the candles on the dining tables. Slowly the orquestra
breaks into Ravel's "Bolero" - after seven or eight bars
Dolores - appears in the center of a spotlight -
5.7 tall dark brown hair - (Margarite Chapman type)
her perfect figure is completely covered from the neck
down in a tight fitting black nylon - leotard except for a
ruffled train - andalusian fashion, in flamingo red satin
trailing behind - on her shoulders - a tiny bolero with
ruffled epaulettes of same color and material - red
satin high heeled pumps - complete the costume. her hair
coiffed - parted in the middle and slicked back - spanish
fashion - is crowned with an enormous golden spanish
comb, behind her left ear - a red rose -
\[(Cid Charisse)]
Jim whispers -
Brother, brother, brother ^[[will you look at]] that [[strikethrough]]
[[strikethrough]] figure!
Bob - whispers -
"[Yea, I'm all eyes.]] What a girl! I am sorry now I didn't keep up my
spanish lessons in school - I've cheated myself!
A. "What makes you say that, Bob!"
Bob. "Think what I could say to her ^[[if and]] when I meet her slinging
spanish like you fellows - maybe I could
go far - with a dish like that."
Blundin - That's mine - I saw her first - shsh! besides
what do know about artistas - gringo?
Alberto - "You don't have to be an artist to admire
that gorgeous Dolores - but only an artist
can paint her - specially a latin - and do her
justice.
Bob - Say that's a dandy idea - there's your first
model - to begin your career with!
Alberto - "Diablos! - yes! .... but"
Jim "There you go with your - ifs and buts" You've
got to learn to assert yourself - and there no
more propicious time than - now!
Alberto Meaning?
Introduce yourself - period! the rest is easy
You ask her to pose for you - "[[she'll say yes-]] very simple!

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Blundin - Your guys are conspiring behind my back. You Jim! You're pushing our professor too fast - to suit me - So I'll meet Dolores first! I'll bet!
Alberto - It is a bet! -

The dance coming to an end - there's terrific applause the orchestra strikes - love song [[from Carmen]] (from strikethrough)] again [[strikethrough]] as Dolores leaves the stage as the chorus girls take possession of the floor in a routine on it - Alberto stealing a march on Blundin - who's absorbed in the chorus - and unseen by him, has followed Dolores close as she made her exit. He approaches the mgr. standing by the door leading to back stage, exchanges a couple of hushed words with him, who exclaims - "Aha! Un artista! Muy bien [[senor]] - go ahead -. - Close up - Alberto knocking at the door of typical dressing room - enters - when bided to. a maid is putting an enormous Spanish shawl on Dolores shoulders - Alberto: Thousand pardons - Senorita - for intruding Soy un artista peruano qui desearia tener el gran placer de pintarla, mis nombre es...... Dolores - laughing

I don't understand a word you are saying - it doesn't sound like spanish to me ^[[isn't it?] - I am ^[[so]] sorry - I [[strikethrough]] can [[strikethrough]] speak just plain English - I am American - you see!" Alberto: Oh! - and may I say that what I see is very very easy on the eyes? Allow me to introduce myself, I am Alberto Vargas - a peruvian artist.
D. - "Glad to meet you - my name is really Mary Jennings - Dolores is my stage name - you say you are an artist - a painter?" -
A. Yes Miss Jennings, and I simply want to ask you if you'll pose for me? - I need a model and in my humble opinion your face and figure are just what I am looking for -
D. You flatter me ^[[Senor Vargas]] - your ^[[request]] asking [[strikethrough]] me [[strikethrough]] so suddenly has caught me unawares. ^[[But]] If I should say - yes - what is the procedure? How do we go about it - You'll paint me here - or your studio -
A. North light is very essential to the artist - I am afraid it will have to be at my studio Miss Jennings!
D. I was afraid of that - you see I've never posed for an artist - ^[[before]] and from what ^[[we]] hear sometimes - about artists and their moods!.....
A. I can assure you Miss Jennings. I belong to the genuine school - of art - for art sake.
that is - I regard the female figure ^[[dressed or undressed]] - as something - may I say sacred - my sole anxiety is to put on canvass as true as I know how - the beauty my eyes - behold. As for my moods - I can truthfully state I have only one - I am the stoic type. When I paint [[strikethrough]] you [[strikethrough]] I am very impersonal! Maybe I'll never become famous - the right way - but they can't rule me out - for trying!

D. I see - I don't doubt your sincerity - and I am ^[[like]] very [[strikethrough]] pleased at [[strikethrough]] your frankness ^[[and may I add]] modestly. OK. it is a date, then.

A. Maybe it is corny - but I'll say it just the same "In the name of art - I thank you" Miss Jennings. - Allow me - my card - and phone number - call me at your convenience.

Bidding her a courteous good night he leaves his pulse racing madly - overwhelmed by the unexpected success of his daring act: introducing himself to the beautiful Dolores -

[end page]
"Au revoir!.. My Love

Adios mi Vida!

Half of thee- with me + lake
Half of me with Thee. I leave
Mourn me not- for we'll be
One again when next we meet
And thus remain forevermore"
Please accept this bit of inconsequence in appreciation for the intriguing and hilarious moments of happiness you've given us with your appearances in Tom Duggan's program - a circumstance which makes it imperative your return, God and your health granting, to the American scene. On T.V. from coast to coast.

With our best wishes best regards to Tom & Irving and our best wishes for your continuous good health - "nuestra casa es su casa"

Anna Mae @ A W Vargas
Jan 24 - 57

Dear Bob
I'm dropping you these few lines to inquire if there is anything wrong health wise with you - I hope not. but not having as yet received our answer to my letter of Jan. 13. keeps my wife and myself awondering.

I must tell you, I have finished cataloging and locating quite a number of old and valuable work of mine in re poststamp and I'll be ready as soon as I hear from you.

Well Bob - we hope everything is O.K. with you and hoping to hear from you soon
I will have to leave my "Pugit"!
How! When! Where? and in whose care?
This dilemma scares me - ditto: the consequences......
Well Qui vivra verrra!
Well you've promised me a letter, we shall see what we shall see.
All love from 'A.M' and Pugit and all the family, we'll be at the airport with Xmas bells,

Litto Astrid [Assto?]
Eckener Strasse 2.
6900 Heidelberg, Germany

with hideous consequences. However I'll tell "My Ana" to watch over
you and all the "kids" who are on your trip!
Bring yourself home [[underlined]]safely [[underlined]] - is [[underlined]]
all [[underlined]] I wish as a present. We'll enjoy seeing the pics you've
taken during the trip and hearing your experiences over there.
As for me - I've been advised that 'My Book' will see the light of day in
the spring of next year and the publishers have asked that I be ready to
give interviews on T.V. ^[[etc]] at least in N.Y. Chicago, L.A. San
Francisco etc.- who knows I might be even "shipped" to London, Paris,
Berlin, South America etc. I've also had contacts [[strikethrough]] wit
[[strikethrough]] inside the Iron Curtain, Poland, and a Black Chief from
^[[Uganda]] East Africa! So, I'll be practicing my "diction" and wits for the
ordeal! Anyway this will be my last "Hurrah!" before I join my Ana! Ah!
but there is one fly in the ointment.
Dear [?],

I am glad to hear that everything is going A.O.K. with you and that you are beginning to think of going home for the Xmas turkey and dumplings, etc. but most [[important?]] you've had the chance to enlarge your knowledge of the people and countries in many [[?]] so different from home. All these experiences will make your "future writings" something more than a passing fancy!

By your [[count?]], I see you've been to Nice, Monte Carlo, etc. Must have a swell time there with your [[camera?]] and friends. Have you visited the Casino? If so, you [[just?]] put 1 dollar on number 9- rouge! and see what happens! No, I don't want to make a gambler out of you.

Now that your return home seems imminent- I am beginning to bite my nail again when I read almost daily in the paper that another plane has been highjacked somewhere in the world.
Dear John

it gives me great pleasure to let you know that I have been very fortunate to obtain your picture "Vodima Dolls", made while in the 3rd grade.

I admire specially, your wonderful sense of color and your imaginative rendering of design and I truly wish you would continue having an interest in art - either for earning money or for your own personal satisfaction.

with very best wishes

with my congratulations and sincere best wishes for your continued success,

I am cordially yours
behold on the stand and it is plenty gorgeous - believe me! yet all is strictly impersonal. I hope I haven't been a bore in trying to explain it all so badly - but I wanted you to know! _ _ _ _
You've done a good job of it, Mr. Varga.
Thank you - Miss Clift - now let's work.

Working swiftly - and with sure hand, he releases the dressing gown letting it fall in graceful folds from her shoulders - he places her tapering hand on the bare bosom - lifts her head slightly up brushing the copper-colored hair down her bare back and doubling her right leg tightly he stretches - full length the other - in a straight graceful undulating line from the hip to the high instep of her foot encased in a black satin mule. - Turning quickly towards the easel - grabs a sketching pad and furiously - without waisting a single stroke he deftly - draws the general outline of the pose - the complete silence - broken only by "Hansi" gayly chirping and singing in his cage - His "Girl" in the flesh - right up there six feet away - being instrumental in duplicating in line and form - on origin white paper - the vision - the dream - of long ago - into a reality of today. He felt indeed [[eschurantly??]] happy and very proud of himself - [[end page]]

[start page]

One hour later as soon as she departed after making the appointment for the next day to continue with the picture - he placed the sketch on the easel - and finally succumbing to the strain and conflicting emotions of the day he threw himself on the couch - on the very spot - [[strikethrough]] where [[strikethrough]] she occupied - while catching her breath after first putting Beethoven's "pastorale" on the victrola lit a cigarette & blowing ^[^smoke] rings toward the ceiling and somehow soon his trends of thought had carried him into the realm of dream and phantasie...

His easel - a blank canvas on it - stretches from the floor to the clouds - almost like a ladder - his fingers - nervously squeeze the colors out of the tubes - a dab of pink - ^[^1] a dab of white - ^[^2] then blue - ^[^3] then yellow - ^[^4] and flesh ^[^5] and black ^[^6] and amber, ^[^7] magenta - ^[^8] lime ^[^9] and vermillion - ^[^10] quickly - around the palette border - ice blue orange - turquoise are dubbed - a gush of wind blows the palette out of his hand - it falls twirling faster and faster into a void - he lunges after it - but the bars of a silver cage breaks his fall. Clutching the bars - his palette down there - ceases to fall [[now??]] expands larger and larger. - It's rising back now to meet his outstretched hands -

Alberto Vargas diary
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just a victim of a keyed up imagination, weather this was only 1 dream -
with his eyes open - he was having. Ah, yes - Love had nothing to do
with all this - he knew that - for he wasn’t in love with anyone - even
among his models - something his friends doubted very much indeed.
From the very start of his career he had steelied himself in the resolution
never to let sex - no matter how overwhelming the phisical attraction and
how [strike] emotions [[/strike]] torrent of emotions might break at the sight of the gorgeous creatures he was
painting - interfere with his determined climb up the ladder - Jacobs
ladder - "to the very top - or nothing" Max "[had]" said: Suddenly
[strike] Anna Mae’s [[/strike]] her voice yanked him
brusquely from his reverie: "I am ready now" - & appreciating his
courtesy - there was no "[longer]" apprehension in her voice
[strike] now [[/strike]]. As he turned - he saw her
standing - smiling by the model stand - her hands modestly clutching
the gown tightly around her voluptuous young, nervous figure. Her puckered
lips pressing close to the cage - where "Hans" the canary pet fluttered
gaily from perch to perch. Seeing her thus - tranquil - and relaxed - all
his fears - and surging emotions gave way to a complete
[strike] his nervous tension - his confused thoughts - vanished
as if a

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

hand had brushed across his brow - lifting the veil of uncertitude.
"Allow me to show you the pose I have in mind [strike] Miss
Clift [[/strike]]" - he said helping her "[to climb] upon the model
stand and sitting her upon the stool - "Please just relax" he continued. -
Relaxation while posing is the very secret of helping [strike] me
[[/strike]] the artist to]] turn out a good picture "I think I know
what you mean" she replied - don't forget this is the first time - I am
doing this." "How is it you gringos say? "there is always a first time" no?"-
"Uhuh!" - they both laugh
I wish to confess though - and I hope you’ll understand - at this moment
- there on the model stand as Miss Clift you only exist "[to me purely]
as a name - [strike] for a girl[[/strike]] that is: my
eagerness in posing and painting you is extrictly - impersonal. You're the
lucky possessor of a beautiful face- a gorgeous torso- and voluptuous
legs - One in a million - I am not exagerating"-
"Maybe you’re handing me - the latin-line?"
"The only "lines" I know- you possess them!"
"I feel flattered." -
"To continue- then.- my only concern is to try and duplicate on canvass-
what my eyes behold

Alberto Vargas diary
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Smithsonian Institution Transcription Center, Archives of American Art
That's a statement that doesn't make sense. Suppose you be a little more explicit -- Mr. Varga - at your service - Senorita! You're a latin - I get it now! - You're what, "[we in America], the girls backstage call - handing me a line!" No - Miss Clift you're lost - because the picture of you in my mind - comes first - cigarette? Yes, thanks - [(the bussiness of the last coming first is a bit confusing)] - lights two cigarettes with one match handing hers - in deliberate fashion in order to gain time. [(strikethrough)] his words, to avoid to reveal his secret. [(So I'll try to explain)] You see - in order to paint you - as I want to I had to experiment - to practise so to speak - so I have used eleven girls - to be ready when the time came to achieve …my …er …I mean, [(my best)] [(strikethrough)] [(a dream)] [(strikethrough)] picture the [(the last one)] the perfect one of all! - Panicky at almost having "spilled the beans" and to hide his confusion - he nonchalantly sits astride the chair near her. "The girls told me how you work - and I admit - I was a bit reluctant at first - to come here - never having done this...before!" "You mean - the matter of posing - like them? he points at the 11 other pictures around the studio "Frankly - yes." "So the reports - more or less frighten you? "Uhuh - but not any more! I'll do - as they did - for Ziegfeld and the Follies - sake

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

I am relieved to hear you say so. "Now I Know I can proceed with my work!" He hastily rises and rushes to the easel - then turning towards her: "I beg your pardon - the dressing room upstairs - you'll find the things to wear - and as soon as you're ready - well proceed." - [(strikethrough)] While [(strikethrough)] pretending to get very busy with last minute preparations in order to hide his nervous exaltation - he follows with raptured eyes - her languorous movements as she climbs the stairs to the dressing room - until she disappears behind the screen [(strikethrough)] [(wher)] [(strikethrough)] over which the black chiffon and lace dressing gown is draped. After a few minutes - that to him, seemed [(like)] centuries - he hears her asking: her voice a little apprehensive [(coming from behind the screen]): This chiffon gown - and black stockings - is that all I am to wear? Is it necessary? really? "I am afraid - yes - the whole set of pictures [(has to)] [(strikethrough)] must [(strikethrough)] match! "I know - nevertheless I feel quite embarrassed - but if you [(underlined)] have [(underlined)] to paint me that way - I'll have to do it your way! I'm as embarrassed as you are Miss Clift - [(I assure)] in asking you, to do this for me - but I think you understand! "Well then - I am ready": she said as Alberto hears her footsteps advancing apprehensively to the head of the stairs - he politely turns toward the window - his gaze riveted on the street below - his heart pounding wildly against his breast - his mind in a turmoil of excitement and exultation - hardly knowing whether he [[end page]]
again - and here he is going thru it all over again only worse. For this time the Girl - whose face and figure he's carried in his mind and dreams since that day in the Louvre - in Paris - is about to appear in the flesh and blood - right here in this studio. Nervously he surveys his field of action. The easel the model stand, his canvass - the brushes - all clean and ready the palette. - everything in the appointed place and the light just right - then ^[[The buzzer[[breaking the silence]]] somewhat eases the tension and strangely enough he feels relaxed - as a swimmer relaxes - who's been suddenly heaved into a pool of oil - after battling the roaring waves in a stormy sea ----- A quick glance at his tie and working coat and smilingly opens the door: She says: "I had a hard time - getting up here - those rehearsals - you know. P'ew - climbing these stairs - I am all out of breath...... - Please do come in and sit down- here, this sofa is just the thing for you to catch your breath while I get fetch you a cup of tea. If you care? "No. Thanks [[overwritten on That'll be nice]] "[[you just the same]] - [[strikethrough]][thanks][[strikethrough]] Alberto gingerly helps her with her mink coat- which he hangs on a closet rack- while the red-head Venus- reclines amid the cushions covered couch, her gorgeous figure fairly bursting out of the tight fitting rehearsal costume: a white, long sleeved silk blouse, a dark green scarf [[strikethrough]] a [[strikethrough]] tied artist fashion around the collar, a knee length - pleated - black skirt - from which [[strikethrough]] emerge [[strikethrough]] the long nervous - perfectly contoured legs - fetchingly [[emerge]] encased in black silk stockings. and on her high arched well proportioned feet - tight fitting black satin pumps - complete the picture that met his [[strikethrough]] artist's startling eyes as he again approached ^[[the sofa]] and standing before her: "I am really very sorry that the landlord forgot to include an elevator to lead up to this - aviary! We artists are funny birds - we must have height and we must have - light.- but we never have the money - to enjoy the luxury of a penthouse - in Central Park - or Park Avenue - so we nest in the cold and hard to get at, attics of Greenwich Village the ones we can afford "sometimes, somehow"! "I really dont mind it a bit - the exercise is good for my figure."- "If you don't mind my saying so - your figure needs no improvement, Miss Clift."
"You really think so? or you're just flattering me."
"I have seen what these other girls have and I must confess - to me- you have it all over them"....... "Is that why - I am - the last to be called? Is it?
To be frank - yes - [[strikethrough]] Miss Clift [[strikethrough]].
Blundin - Dinner! I'm hungrier than ever now!
Alberto: Which reminds me - I haven't had a bite all day so let's raid
"Luigi's" again by the way of celebration
Of course you'll join us - Mary?
Mary "No thanks - I've got an important date, sorry I can't make a quartette tonight.
Blundin - Without Mimi - no Vie de Boheme! - So we change the play -
the three Musketeers - voila!
- As they arise to leave - fade out.

Three weeks have passed. Alberto has been working furiously - night and day - snatching cat naps now and then - consuming large quantities of black coffee to keep awake - 11 portraits have been finished. They all line the walls of the studio - some of the girls objected somewhat good naturally - about the silk opera stockings and chiffon bussiness, much to [strikethrough] Alberto [[strikethrough]] his embarrassment - now he's about to paint the last of the series - "his" red-head - a task he's purposely delayed as long as he could, giving himself experience to do his supreme job and time to gather courage. Any moment now [strikethrough] Anna Mae *[[Clift]] [[strikethrough]] she will be pressing that buzzer and the thrilling experience will begin to unfold. - Once before [strikethrough] in his [[strikethrough]] felt the emotional strain of anticipation - the first time Dolores came to pose for him - he thought then it would never happen
don't forget!

Jim - "And our pleasure + include us "[in it]" - or else!"
Blundin - Would you want to act like a peruvian Sultan with a seraglio of Beauties all to yourself? I am including myself in - wheather you like it or not. me and my guitars - for they shall have music!
Alberto - Whoa - fellows - what do you think I've been hired for - to work or play at my profession. I've got to deliver 12 painting [[strike-through]] as soon as [[strike-through]] the shortest time possible - I'm as nervous as a cat - with 12 kittens - haha! I still don't see how I'm going to do it, but it will be done. Besides - my eyes are riveted on the future!
Mary - The future? ah! I remember - now!
Alberto - Yes - all my friends are beginning to understand that "golden Jacobs ladder" - I am on my way up! So please you guys - dont trip me! dont ask me to have you around! - when I work - I work alone. I've got to have complete concentration! genuine aplication to they task *[ahead - I hope all this] - won't make you tab me as selfish - or philanderer - or what have you - would it.
Jim - O.K. lucky dog - we understand. Well let you extrictly alone - We'll make ourselves - Scarce!
Blundin - Diablos anyway - I am going to miss the mohamettan paradise, I've been dreaming about
Mary "What you said - Alberto, makes sense, to we all agree - Now - what comes next -
Mary "[[somewhat wistful]]: Congratulations on your success - Mr. Vargas [[strikethrough]] and [[strikethrough]] I hope all your dreams - come true!
Alberto Thanks - [[underlined]] Mary! [[underlined]] and I [[hope overwritten know]] they have
Mary - They must've [[strikethrough]] I know they have[[strikethrough]] - for you *[[just]]* broke the ice - and called me - Mary - - (laughs)
Blundin - But what about the other girls - for there were more than the red head you saw - [[strikethrough]] or you say [[strikethrough]]*[[and claim]]* she came out of a painting - tell us about the rest!
Jim: Right - you might at least leave the rest to us old pal - what about my favorites - the brunettes!
Blundin - Blondes - real gringas - are my special dish!
Alberto - The only thing that I can say is that if you trio wolves would sneak in there you'd drool you'd see the american girl at her best - the very *[[me?]]* plus . ultra in femenine pulchritude. Just wait till I put their faces - and and figures on canvass. This is going to be a labour of love. Mary. "Aha - we're speaking of love - already."
Blundin - I don't want to see your canvasses - I want to see the Girls!
Alberto Listen kids - it is true I came in here acting like a sunstroked [[strikethrough]] love sick calf. [[strikethrough]]*I haven't made much sense - giving vent to my pent up emotions. I'll admit my enthusiasm about - what I choose to call "my Girl" is a *[[bit]]* puzzling to you - but I assure - there is nothing person *[[in it]]* - In fact - I haven't event been introduced to any of the girls - that pleasure will be mine tomorrow
Well - beginning at the most important part - there she was - at the very end in the final row! -
Mary: "Who was where, and when?"
Jim: "Try to make a little more sense, maestro!"
Blundin: Like the crab walks - he talks - backwards!
Alberto. My girl. — a redhead! The most gorgeous creature I've ever lay eyes on - except in a painting - in the Louvre - in Paris! In fact there she stood in the flesh - My Girl!

Mary: "Your Girl? I never even suspected!....

Alberto: "Her name is, Ann Mae Clift - 5 feet 5 inches tall [blue eyes] - a figure - divine - long legs - trim ankles and stub nose - like - like a rose-button!

Jim: "And he's even got the vital statistics - this is serious - very serious - or he's just delirious!"

Blundin: "I better feel his pulse - maybe he needs a doctor!

Alberto: "The very minute she came on that Stage I just knew I'd found the american conception of My Girl - what a girl, - and right then and there I made up my mind to accept with pleasure Mr. Garfield's job. [even for free - if necessary] - the job of stepping in Kirshner's shoes I was so reluctant to accept when I saw him in his office this very morning. When he hired me on the spot - then took me back stage where he was selecting girls - for his next Follies - girls I am to paint
As we hear quick footsteps bouncing up the stairs coming across the outer hall towards the studio - Mary!

"That must be him - now! - as the door flies open this! - they all rush to meet Alberto - who exclaims between gasps - "Hiya, kids" I made it - I am in - I got it - and I ain't dreaming! Someone please pinch me - to make sure! Boy oh boy. What a day of days - Maxie was right - wow! Miss Jennings - allow me!" he kisses her hand. You mad guitarrist, come here! - embraces him

Put it there - James - my pal, old pal!" -

Mary - I fix you up a cup of tea while you tell us everything - and I mean everything - from the very beginning -

Alberto throws his portfolio on his desk and himself full length on the couch - whistling the refrain of "Pretty Baby" just ending on the phonograph

Jim. O.K. begin at the beginning

Blundin: And make it snappy - for - now that I am no longer worried - I am hungrier than ever

Mary - "Here you are - Sir!" Now, let's have it from the very beginning!"

Blundin: "Now he is a Sir - aha! Sir Joshua Reynolds! a gringo painter!
Dissolve into Alberts studio. it is 6 o'clock in the evening.
Mary - Jim - and Ihudin[] are sitted about conversing. Tea has been served by Mary. The victrola is playing a symphonic arrangement of "Pretty Baby".
Mary: "We've been here all afternoon waiting---"
Jim: And Alberto doesn't show up - its getting late."
Ihudin[] And I am getting hungry! - but I am admitting I feel more worried -- than hungry"
Mary. I hate to think about what might have happened to him if he was called on a wild goose chase, Jim!
Jim: Gen. these sulfuric latins - to them every small reverse is a tragedy! the smallest success Napoleon's Austerlitz!
Ihudin--"Bah! Don't worry about him -- he appears reticent--bashful--and easy to take advantage how you say? of or from--" --
Jim: "of--haberdasher"
Ihudin: Well--of--but when the pride is a little bit needed ---and we're pushed too far, you better start worrying About Kington or Garfield!
Our painter is tenacious!
Mary: I hope so--when you're up against an artist like Garfield--you've got to talk his language
[??] Alberto has sold himself--or rather his talent!
He must have--he just had to!..-
picture on the Louvre Wall! She's come to life. She up there on the stage in flesh and bone - et pluribus unum - He's found - The Dream Girl - and she's a reality - What in his subconscious mind hed never hope to find, is actually standing there not fifty feet away. Losing control of his emotion he exclaims as he rises to his feet and rushing toward Garfield he unceremoniously exclaims.

"Don't worry Mr. Garfield - I am going to paint these girls like they've never been painted before - if I have have to stay up all night every day of a month!

Garfield: "Say - what has gotten into you - Are you crazy?

Alberto: Yes. sir - like all artists - Thanks a million for bringing me up down here. Eureka - goodbye Mr. Garfield. rushing over to his seat pick hat and portfolio & exits.

Garfield to the secretary: These artists are tempermental or crazy - this one is both. - Tell Dan to take him in charge and see that he delivers what he promises - or else! then to the girls: From this moment on, you are Follies Girls - the cynosure of all eyes male and female - So watch your step - keep out of the newspapers headlines - I mean the unfavorable headlines - it is up to you Please report for rehearsals here when Bill the stage mgr. contacts you - very soon. Thanks for coming - You're dismissed for today!"
13.
Meanwhile Garfield proceeds with the routine at hand

June Cambridge v  Irene Ferguson v
Louise Perry v  Nancy Loftus v
Ann. Mae Clift-V

While the secretary using the same procedure of dismissing the girls not
chosen - Alberto has no idea whether the red-headed “gringa” has been
selected by Garfield until he hears her mention the name “Anna Mae
Clift”, and sees her standing a bit flustered and excited - being joined by
the rest of the chosen girls as the secretary says: “Girls-please step
closer to the footlights.” Mr. Garfield wishes to get a closer view of the
ensemble - thank you!” -

Alberto - to himself -
“She made it! - as I knew she would - this girls what a dream - Like my
yankee friends say: Mr. Garfield knows his stuff- he’s a genius!” - Then -
as Garfield stands up and silently like a true connoisseur surveys each
girl with apparent satisfaction - suddenly something clicks in Alberto’s
turbulent mind - this girls - together in a matchless row of Americana
beauty - and this girls - this redhead in particular - that is it: The Watteau
Girl - the girl in the
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