

# THE OTHER SIDE continued from page 9

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BRUNS: Would your parents have helped you to support the child?

EDNA: My parents wanted me to give the baby away. They would have helped me if I had brought it home, but I was under the impression they would sooner throw me out of the house.

BRUNS: Was this again a case of your parents worrying what the neighbours would say?

EDNA: That's the impression I got.

BRUNS: What about the adoption procedures in court in Toronto?

EDNA: All I can say is that when I went back to Toronto I wanted to keep the baby, but I knew in my own mind that the best thing for the child was to give it up.

BRUNS: What did the whole thing cost you?

EDNA: The home charged whatever you could afford, and since my father was in a good financial position he had to pay \$500 a month for me to stay there when I know for a fact there were other girls paying only \$10 to \$15 a month. They just managed to get us for whatever they could nail us to the wall for.

BRUNS: Have you have any sex relations since the child?

EDNA: Yes I have.

BRUNS: Do you practice any form of birth control now?

EDNA: I'm on the pill now. I just started the pill about two years ago, and up until that time my sexual relations with Clint (not his real name) were few and far between and we used no birth control devices at all, but I am on the pill now because I want to avoid going through something like that again.

BRUNS: How do you feel now about what has happened?

EDNA: I find that as I am getting older the experience is becoming more of a dream in some aspects, but the child herself is becoming more real to me with every day, with every year that passes. I wonder where she is and whose got her if they're taking good care of her.



BRUNS: If someone happened to bring that child into the room right now, what do you think would happen?

EDNA: That's hard to say. (pause) I believe that I would do anything in my power to get that child back now, because I'm ready now. But then that's what I have to pay for. I couldn't at this point, let her go again.

BRUNS: How does Clint feel about the fact that you did have another man's child?

EDNA: Clint knows the whole story, but he understands that for most of my pregnancy I was alone in the home, and even though the father did come to see me and the baby, he was not there through most of the waiting and consequently when I left the hospital I considered the child to be my baby. Clint understands this and accepts it. I have a picture of the baby and that picture has been printed indelibly on his mind as it is on mine.

BRUNS: Would you advise other girls to have the baby instead of an abortion?

EDNA: It would depend entirely upon the girl. I believe that uninformed and young as I was I was able to take the experience and learn from it. If the girl is even slightly emotionally insecure I wouldn't advise her to have the child. It's an experience that I am glad I went through. Not the end part: not the giving away, but going through it I met some people I wouldn't have otherwise have met. But I can't convince myself that it's worth going through for anybody who is not prepared to take the consequences; the mental part of going through it afterwards - that you have to give up a child which is yours. The moral being: if you don't know nothing, don't do nothing.

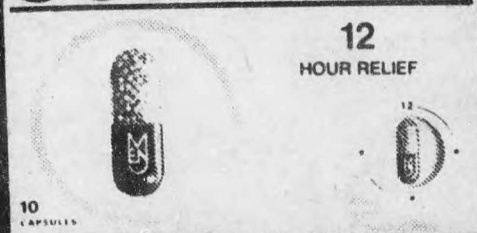
BRUNS: Would you say that the main reason you had to have the baby, was lack of proper sex education?

EDNA: Yes, absolutely. If I had known more about what to do to prevent pregnancy, and where to go and who to see if I did get pregnant the whole thing could have been avoided. Easily, right from the very beginning, but I had never been informed about anything. Sex education in my home was severely lacking. My mother managed to tell me about the menstrual cycle: and that very badly, and that was sum and total. Every thing else I learned from reading books - some pornography some informative which doesn't help much when you come down to the crunch.

BRUNS: Thank you.

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