

IN THE LONG JAIL DAYS AND NIGHTS...

Mental storms rack N.Z. girl murderesses

BRILLIANCE OF JULIET HULME REVEALED IN WRITING

JULIET HULME and Pauline Parker, the extraordinary 16-year-old New Zealand schoolgirls who murdered Pauline's mother last June, are each on the verge of a delayed mental crisis.

The crisis could drive Juliet insane. It could plunge Pauline into such despair that she may attempt or commit suicide.

For the first time, these ill-fated victims of adolescent instability are coming to face a cold realisation of the enormity of their terrible crime.

Until now, each, in her own way, has been living in a world of fantasy in jail.

Juliet, who with an intelligence quotient of 179 has the mind of a genius, is on the brink of a tremendous act of contrition. In other words, the false walls of self justification that this beautiful girl has built in her mind are dissolving.

She has always realised that she would have to spend five, seven or perhaps more years in jail. But only in recent weeks has she started

to show an understanding of the terrible hurt she did herself — apart from anyone else — by helping batter Pauline's mother to death.

People who are trying to help her fear that, when it strikes her, the full impact of this may cause her mind to crack.

If she survives it they are positive she will develop into one of the most intellectually brilliant young women in the world.

The problem with Pauline Parker is different but no less complex.

Pauline, much less erudite than Juliet, is a sulky moody girl. Up to this week she stubbornly refused to take her position seriously.

She has convinced herself that within another six months everyone would forget the murder and she would be free to renew her association with Juliet. She has revealed this in her conversations and in the diary she has kept since her conviction.

In a letter she tried to smuggle to Juliet she said she "hoped to be with her very soon."

So this week prison of-

ficials took the drastic step of telling Pauline in gentle but very plain terms that she was de-luding herself and that she had no hope of release within five or seven years, if as soon as that.

Pauline burst into tears for the first time since her arrest.

Because they fear she may become depressed to the point of desperation, the authorities have taken every precaution possible to prevent the child making an attempt on her life.

Juliet and Pauline have had no word of each other since they were separated after their conviction on August 28.

Juliet is in Mt. Eden Jail, Auckland, one of the most forbidding, fortress-like jails in the world. Her daily associates are 27 women prisoners, including two other murderesses, drunks, thieves, and prostitutes.

Pauline is in semi-solitary confinement in an institution for delinquent girls 400 miles away in Wellington. The only peo-

By **MERTON WOODS** who went specially to New Zealand to investigate the Juliet Hulme - Pauline Parker case.

ple she sees —officially at least — are two wardresses and two women "official visitors."

In Auckland, three "official visitors" see Juliet every week. There are her only contact with the outside world.

But letters she receives from her mother in England keep her informed on what has happened to her family since they left New Zealand.

The letters reveal that her mother, who changed her name after the conviction of Juliet and Pauline to Hilda Perry and left New Zealand with William Perry, a British consulting engineer, is now back with Juliet's father, Professor Henry Hulme, one of the most eminent nuclear physicists in the world — the man who in 48 hours solved the first German magnetic mine that Britain captured alive in the last war.

The letters also reveal that William Perry, who before the murder lodged in the Hulmes' magnificent home in Christchurch when Professor Hulme was Rector of Canterbury University, again is lodging with Professor Hulme and his

wife, who now legally is known as Mrs. Perry.

Professor Hulme is receiving a very large salary at Cambridge University as one of the closest associates to Britain's top atomic expert, Sir William Penney. He is engaged in highly secret nuclear science research.

The unconventional association of Professor Hulme, his wife, and Perry dates from the Hulmes' participation in a marriage guidance bureau in Christchurch.

PROFESSOR HULME became director of the organisation and his wife an active helper.

The function of the organisation was to advise young people contemplating marriage, or couples facing the break-up of a marriage, on the pitfalls of matrimony.

To put the bureau on a proper business footing, Perry was brought out from England.

He arrived at Christchurch with his wife, but his arrival was to have a shattering effect on his own marriage and on the life of Professor Hulme and Mrs. Hulme.

Perry and his wife separated and Perry went to lodge with the Hulmes. In her diary, read at her trial, Juliet Hulme recorded that one night she had surprised her mother in bed with Perry.

Both Mrs. Hulme and Perry denied this on oath.

While Perry was living at his home, Professor Hulme decided to leave Christchurch and take up the lucrative appointment at Cambridge, taking his wife, Juliet, and son Jonathan with him.

But Juliet and Pauline had formed an intense attachment for each other and Pauline wanted to go to England with Juliet.

They schemed and plotted and finally murdered Pauline's mother by battering her with a stocking-covered brick because she refused to let Pauline go.

Before they were tried, Professor Hulme left New Zealand with his son. After the trial Mrs. Hulme changed her name to Perry by deed poll and left with Perry.

The letters which Juliet receives from her family remind her of the catastrophe she has caused in their lives.

But up to now she has injured herself against such



PAULINE PARKER (left) and Juliet Hulme as they were during the hearing of their case in New Zealand, rather amused by it all.

scholastic and aesthetic more than anything else.

Juliet Hulme is probably as intellectually brilliant as anyone of her years anywhere in the world.

Despite this, in Mt. Eden Jail, she is treated like an ordinary prisoner.

She wears a blue denim frock and works five or six hours a day in the sewing room of the prison.

Her nails were long and beautifully manicured when she entered Mt. Eden Jail.

Her first day there, a prostitute clipped them short.

Now she works side by side with two other murderesses.

One is a plain, simple former farm servant who formed an overpowering secret passion for her handsome, wealthy employer, and as a result poisoned first his wife and later a woman relative who came to housekeep for him.

Not until after the murders did her employer learn of her passion for him.

Now, after seven years in jail, she is a harmless "trustee" who will perhaps help rather than contaminate Juliet Hulme.

But the other murderess in the jail is a vicious, crude woman, hardly a fit associate for anyone.

The petty women criminals, strangely enough, regard Juliet with a degree of awe and respect. They feel sorry for her and try to help her.

THIS then is the environment of this erudite, charming, fresh complexioned English girl with her flawless diction and grace of manner.

So far she has kept herself reserved and aloof in her relations with the other prisoners.

As a child who had never sewn at home, she has tackled the hard work of sewing shirts and dresses for jail prisoners and occupants of other institutions with a degree of enthusiasm.

As an outlet for her artistic nature, she has knitted for herself and for other prisoners and wardresses a few gay garments from a restricted amount of material the jail authorities allow

friends to send her. Now she is knitting small Christmas presents for her few close friends.

But in the solitude of her cell she has sought—and to some slight measure has found—escape in creative writing.

She has produced an extraordinary fictional long-short story—a sophisticated espionage mystery she has created out of her imagination, not one word of which has any bearing on her life in prison.

If she is an adolescent female Oscar Wilde at least so far her writings do not mirror the shame and melancholy that stamped Wilde's inspired *Ballad of Reading Jail* and *De Profundis*.

The brilliance of her short story has amazed literary men who have read it.

They rate it as equal to the work of a first-class writer of, say, 35 years of age.

It contains inconsistencies and inaccuracies but they are irrelevant to the drama of the story—stray details out of character such as guests at a dinner party drinking champagne and burgundy before dinner.

She is receiving the utmost sympathy, also, from prison officials, who find her a most likable girl.

In the words of one of them, she is a child who would "easily succumb" to the love and affection of a normal family life—in contrast to her former home environment, which was

tude up to now. But under the influence of her "official visitors" she is starting to see the brutal realities of her wilful act.

She is starting to realise, too, that as a result of it she has placed herself beyond the love and affection that a child of her years and nature must crave.

She is fortunate in that two of her "official visitors" are an alert sympathetic couple who have the advantage when they visit her of being not only educationists but former acquaintances.

This cultured man and his wife, and Juliet's third "visitor," the gracious middle-aged wife of an Auckland surgeon, have learned more from Juliet than all of the psychiatrists who have tried to probe into her mind.

She toyed with the psychiatrists because her intellect, if not her knowledge of worldly affairs, was greater than theirs. To her they were just "bug" doctors.

ESCAPE

"ALOOF"



JULIET HULME'S mother and William Perry as they passed through Sydney on their way to London.

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Writing may be salvation from shame

When these errors were pointed out to Juliet she laughed and explained that where she wasn't sure how her characters should have behaved she drew on her imagination.

In addition, Juliet has composed poems in jail, scribbled pieces of sheer fantasy, airy, ephemeral verse of startling brilliance almost incomprehensible to the average mind. Some flash with sheer genius.

The people who are trying to help her are encouraging her to write.

They feel this outlet may be the salvation of her mind on the inevitable day when she "comes down to earth," and the full force of remorse and shame descend on her.

If her mind survives this turning point they feel they can stimulate her to work toward the goal of early release and to resist any contaminating influence of her jail environment.

If her mind holds, they envisage a course of university studies in perhaps languages or literature that may equip her to rise above the horror of twisted youthful passion and the stigma of atonement in jail, so that in early womanhood—and she should grow into a handsome woman—she can return to society, not to hide in shame, but perhaps in anonymity to take her place among the world's intellects.

emerges from the lonely, confused girl now in Mt. Eden Jail, this report will be a monumental document—clinical yet intensely human—of incalculable value to doctors who study the human mind.

One of the conditions of detention of Juliet Hulme and Pauline Parker was that because of the apparent unnatural nature of their association they be kept inviolably apart.

No word of each other

So far the authorities have succeeded in doing this. As far as they know the girls have had no word of each other since their separation.

Juliet, the stronger personality of the two, has taken this separation calmly, but she persists always in asking her "official visitors" about "Nina," although she well knows that if they had any news they would not tell her.

In retrospect, the authorities now take a more tolerant view of the nature of Juliet's association with Pauline.

During the trial, when the suggestive contents of their incredible diaries were blazoned forth to the whole world, there was an acceptance that their association was wholly unnatural.

But people who have studied the girls in jail now believe the only thing unnatural in their association was the intensity of their adolescent affection for one another.

What might have happened had the association continued unchecked, or had the girls succeeded in escaping detection for the murder of Mrs. Parker, of course, is something else.

But now the authorities believe that the question of sexual abnormality is the least of their worries in trying to save these girls for society.

As a matter of fact they

Study of diaries

At the moment there is no possibility of Juliet Hulme's writings in prison being published, not even under a pseudonym.

But the authorities are keeping everything she writes, particularly her prison diaries, and are examining them, because, quite frankly, at the moment they are groping to try to follow the workings of this girl's acutely developed mind.

No matter what the critical next few months hold for Juliet Hulme—whether for her the outcome is good or bad—her writings one day will be published in the form of a psychiatric report.

If a new Juliet Hulme

now regard Juliet Hulme as sexually immature.

Great as is the problem with Juliet Hulme, so is the task with Pauline Parker, the more earthy in this duo of disaster.

She is locked away in a modern establishment in Wellington.

Since her conviction she has had no communication with her father or sisters, who are still in Christchurch.

Although they have been free to visit her, or write to her, they have chosen not to do so.

Passage of time, of course, may mellow the attitude of her father, who, perhaps, above all others in this bleak tragedy was the most grievously hurt.

Up to the time the authorities told her with clear finality that she had no hope of early release or early reunion with Juliet, Pauline had less readily accepted the separation.

Smuggled out note

Recently she scribbled a note to Juliet and succeeded in passing it to another girl in the Wellington institution to be smuggled out to Juliet. The girl surrendered the note on her release.

Each week, from all over New Zealand and Australia, and even from abroad, scores of people, principally religious cranks, plain stickybeaks, and sometimes the sexually abnormal, write to the girls.

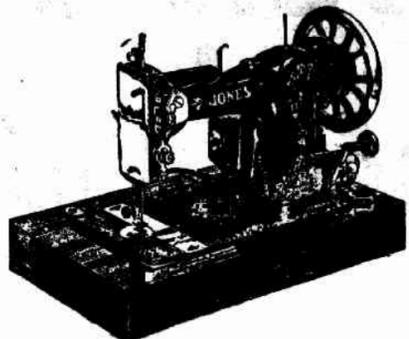
The prison authorities read all the letters and return them to the senders.

For the New Zealand authorities, Juliet Hulme and Pauline Parker pose an almost unique problem of punishment and reformation.

So far they appear to have undertaken their task with determination and wisdom.

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