

THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS

"To-day 21st June 1948 is the longest day of the year and the weather is glorious. Shall we have lunch outside?" Sheila said to her husband.

Audrey their 18 year old daughter came downstairs and burst into tears when she saw them, "I'm going to have a baby and I'm terrified."

"You're what? How can you be? Gavin and you have been best friends for years. I can't believe it. My God what will we do? The disgrace and gossip will be unbearable."

"It's not Gavin's baby. It's Jim's and he doesn't want to get married. What can I do?" and she burst into tears again.

"Jim is 30 and has taken advantage of you. I'll kill him for this," her father shouted.

"What about Gavin. You've known him all your life and he always hoped you would marry him. He's so steady and reliable." Sheila said.

"Gavin doesn't know and he'll despise me when I tell him. We're just good friends but he is so boring. I could never marry him. Jim is fabulous and fun to be with. He takes me out in his car on a Sunday and we have either a picnic or lunch somewhere. We go dancing and it's so exciting. He's also very handsome and I love him so much." Audrey replied.

"Well it's apparent he doesn't love you when he doesn't want to marry you. He's a Jack the Lad. You're better off without him because he'll surely desert you for other women."

"You must decide if you could marry Gavin. However he may not want to marry you when you're having another man's baby.. The finger will always be pointed at it if you keep it without being married. Poor little mite."

Sheila said "My Mother used to say to me when I had doubts about what to do. Better the evil you know than the evil you don't. It's your decision but whatever you choose it will affect the rest of your life."

"Which is the lesser of the two evils. Marry someone you like very much but don't love or have the baby adopted? There isn't much choice is there?"

Stella Rutherford.