

FRIENDS FOR LIFE The story of Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan has been well publicized through the play The Miracle Worker. Anne Sullivan was born half blind and lost her mother at an early age and ended up in the poor house. Then surgery restored her sight at the Perkins Institute for the Blind and she devoted herself to the care of the blind. As 19-month-old child Helen Keller lost both her hearing and her sight. Anne Sullivan became her teacher and taught her to spell by touching and spelling on her hands. Under her tutelage Helen Keller rose to renown. Teacher and pupil remained inseparable for forty-nine years.

Time came when misfortune befell Anne Sullivan, who meanwhile had become Mrs. Macy -- she became blind. And now, turn about, Helen Keller taught her how to overcome the lack of sight. She schooled her former teacher as devotedly as she herself had been schooled. Finally Helen Keller stood at the deathbed of her other half. When it was all over, she said: "I pray for strength to endure the silent dark until she smiles upon me again." A marvelous drama in the darkness.

I looked for my soul but my soul I could not see.
I looked for my God but God eluded me.
I looked for a friend and then I found all three.

-Anonymous

QUEEN VICTORIA'S PRIME MINISTERS David Smith, author of The Friendless American Male, writes about Queen Victoria's impressions of her two most famous prime ministers. Of William Gladstone she said, "When I am with him, I feel I am with one of the most important leaders in the world." On the other hand, she confessed that when she was with Disraeli, he made her feel, "as if I am one of the most important leaders of the world." Gladstone provoked her admiration; Disraeli, like a friend, provided nurture.

TOOLS OF FRIENDSHIP On the other hand, the Southern Methodist Bulletin relates the following account: "Our rider lawnmower had broken down and I had been working fruitlessly trying to get it back together. Suddenly, my new neighbor appeared with a handful of tools. 'Can I give you a hand?' he asked. In 20 minutes he had the mower functioning beautifully. 'Say, what do you make with such a fine kit of tools?' I asked. He smiled broadly, 'Mostly friends, I'm available anytime.'"

Friendship is a strong and habitual inclination
in two persons to promote the good and happiness
of each other

-Joseph Addison

WHEN FRIENDS COME True friends visit us in prosperity only when invited, but in adversity they come without invitation.

We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed.
As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a
drop which makes it run over, so in a series of kindnesses
there is at last one that makes the heart run over.

-Samuel Johnson