

The Diary of M.D.

"Since it's spring break we're going to the woman's shelter and help the Soup Sisters make soup today," Mom declared wearily rushing to get her purse from the closet.

"Ugh," I groaned. "Do I have to?"

Setting my iPod aside I reluctantly stomped out the door following my mom. During the drive, I complained "why I had to help? There's others who can do it."

After what felt like hours of chopping up carrots and onions for the soup, mom let me go explore. Bumping into several female residents, I finally snuck up the stairs, entering the dusty attic. I walked around curiously examining the old trinkets and cardboard boxes.

Inquisitively I opened the first box that appealed to me. Setting the broken lock on the floor I ruffled through the contents. I pulled out an antique tea cup, an old hair brush, a bundle of wrapped letters, dusty fabric, and a leather dairy with the initials M.D engraved on the front. I flipped through the aged diary and read.

July 17, 1931

Soon I am going to be a stunt rider in "His Destiny" which is one of the first Hollywood movies to take place in Calgary. I am so excited!

August 14, 1942

I am being shipped to England with the Canadian Woman's Army Corps. I will be an officer. I wish that more woman would get involved in this dreadful war.

Flipping to the next page I realized that this was a diary from the time of World War 2!

September 7, 1943

It's so unfair!!! Canada needs to help the Jews. We need to stand up for their rights! If I was in charge I would absolutely do something about it.

Intrigued I turned the pages and continued reading.

December 30, 1946

The war ended just last year and I was awarded the Order of the British Empire. It is a beautiful bronze medal hanging from a red and gray ribbon. I am getting into politics. I'm even running for the Alberta provincial election!

October 4, 1953

Tonight, is going to be special! I will be awarded the Honorary Doctorate from the University of Calgary.

Skipping though the pages I read on.

January 1, 1956

Although I wasn't voted in for the provincial election, I am excited to do my part as a City of Calgary alderman! I can hardly believe I'm the first female alderman.

"Anna, Anna, where are you?" my mother's voice echoed in the rafters. Hastily I flipped to the back of the book, hoping I would have enough time to read one more entry.

December 8, 1974

Today I was awarded the Order of CANADA! It looks like a poppy, except the petals are white. Inside the center a maple leaf is engraved, hanging from a white and red ribbon.

"Anna, where are you?" her mother called again.

"Coming mom. Just give me a minute," gently I put all the treasures back in the box. I raced down the stairs and saw my mother waiting for me.

"Come on, let's go home."

Dragging my feet, I began to walk to the car. Waving goodbye to the woman and children I announced aloud "I can't wait to come back!"

As we pulled away from the blue building I glanced back at the sign. It read Y.W.C.A Mary Dover House. "*Who could this M.D be?*" I thought puzzled. Suddenly everything added up! M.D stood for Mary Dover!

"Mom can I become a Soup Sister when I'm older?" I asked.

"Really? Sure dear!"

Staring out the window I thought about what I should do when I grow up. I want to contribute to my community by volunteering for local organizations. In the meantime, I will help the Soup Sisters and donate money to the Red Cross, I thought. Just like Mary Dover I want to contribute to my community.

www.glenbow.org/mavericks/english/war/mary_dover.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_Canada

www.ywcalgary.ca/programs/housing/

<https://historicalcalgary.wikispaces.com/Mary+Dover>

www.albertachampions.org/Champion/mary-dover-1905-1944

www.gettyimages.ca/photos/order-of-the-british-empirechangemakerbios.weebly.com/mary-doverby-taryn.html