

selfish pride! She just always made the wrong decision. (Maria: So a little rundown of the movie in just a couple of sentences would be what?)—Pride, stubbornness, selfishness! (Maria: You said that in the movie you never saw so many people that were so proud & selfish & wrecked their own lives!)—Stubborn & self-righteous!

12. I agree with Don on that, he said it was a rather torturous & unpleasant movie, but it was certainly true to life! (Maria: And the only good person in there was a supposedly bad person.)—Exactly! The good people were the ones who were bad, & the bad one was the one who was really good. The supposedly bad person was the only good one & the supposedly good people were the bad ones!—A contradiction of people's usual assessments & appraisals of personality.

13. The religious were the most self-righteous & unforgiving & unmerciful! Even the old drunk had a few good traits & showed a little mercy. Maybe that's one of the secrets of the story, that he was giving the girl her own choice. He didn't force her or make her, but obviously he knew how to handle her, because if he'd told her to go, she would have probably stubbornly refused! But because he let her make her own choice, she had to do what she pleased. That's probably why she was that way, because he spoiled her, letting her always have her way. It's sort of surprising that he made a picture that honest!

14. (Maria: What was your question when you got that answer about being ill-starred, what were you asking?) How could anybody have so much trouble & make so many wrong decisions & be such a mess?—I just got "ill-starred"! (Maria: But that probably pertained more to all the misfortunes that she went through than what she actually did with them, don't you think? But even if she was ill-starred, she could have risen above it & not had to wallow in all that.)—Right, regardless, even if we're born under a sign that's not one of the best.

15. (Maria: Do you think some signs are really better signs than others?) Well, each one's got its purpose, I'm sure. The Lord's got purposes in each one & each one has certain strengths & each one has certain weaknesses, but it's what we do with the choices we make that matters. Some might say, "Why hast Thou

made me thus?" Well, He has made us thus, but He can help us, & make the best of it! Tess made the worst of it all the way through. She almost always did the wrong thing, almost like she was cursed from the beginning. Sometimes children suffer for the sins of their parents.

16. (Maria: But in her prayer when she was praying about the baby, she said, "I know I've done wrong, but have mercy on the baby." She asked for forgiveness, it was like she was admitting that it was her fault. Of course, I don't know if that was a sincere prayer, whether she really felt that way or not.) Honey, that kind of a prayer reminds me of this kind of a so-called confession: "I know I've done wrong, but..." or "I know I'm a problem & I want to do better..."

17. They mean it at the time, but they turn right around & keep on doing it! She knew she'd done wrong, but she kept right on doing it. If she knew she'd done wrong, why didn't she stop it? In a way, that kind of confession isn't even sincere or honest. It's only like, "Well, I know I've done wrong because you say I've done wrong, but all the time, down in my own heart, I know it's okay to chew gum & I was right about how many people were in the car" etc.

18. It's like when you're spanking a child & they say, "I'm sorry! I'm sorry I got caught! I'm sorry because you say I ought to be sorry, but I'm not really sorry!" It's pitiful! If he heard this, he would be hurt, especially, because he is the kind that is so sensitive & so easily hurt, & that shows how proud he is.

LIZ'S LETTER!

19. Some people are actually proud of being sensitive & think that being sensitive is a good thing! (Maria: You know how he took that Letter "The Secret" (No. 845) where you said we should be emotional & not intellectual & cold & cruel & calculating? Because he is so emotional, he took it that having spells & tantrums & hurt periods & everything is the kind of emotion you mean!) That's the worst kind of emotion! I was talking about love & being led by your heart, it wasn't talking about temper tantrums & little fits!