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Smith Student Found Alive in Cellar

WELLESLEY, Aug. 26—Pretty [Pretty] Sylvia Plath, 20, brilliant writer and Smith College junior [junior], who had been missing since late Monday afternoon, was found unconscious in the basement of her own home at

26 Elmwood st., shortly after noon today.

The despondent girl's grandmother [grandmother], Mrs. Aurelia Schober, 66, was in the basement laundry [laundry] washing clothes when she heard moans.

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[Photograph of SP wearing necklace and jacket]

MISSING STUDENT, Sylvia Plath, 20, found in cellar of her home and taken to hospital.

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She called the girl's 18-year-brother, Warren, and he discovered [discovered] his sister hidden behind [behind] a carefully screened cellar [cellar] opening under the front porch of the house.

Police Chief Robert P. McBey [McBey] said that the girl had taken a jar of water, almost all of

which had been consumed, and a jar containing 48 sleeping pills with her into the off-basement hideout.

Some 40 of the sleeping pills

were gone when she was discovered.

She was rushed to the Newton-Wellesley [Newton] Hospital where she is recovering consciousness. Her condition is described as "semi-comatose." She is in no danger, hospital authorities said.

Chief McBey and a fellow officer [officer], who had been searching garages and buildings within a one block radius of the Plath home, crawled into the narrow opening and helped Warren bring his sister into the cellar.

"We searched that cellar Monday [Monday] night, or thought we did," McBey told the Globe. "Of course, there is a possibility that she might not have been there when we were. She had a blanket with her that was not reported as missing before she was found."

Chief McBey said the opening behind which Miss Plath had hidden [hidden] herself had been carefully screened. She had evidently replaced [replaced] bundles of firewood usually stored in the space.

The girl's mother, a Boston University [University] professor, told the Globe yesterday that she believed her daughter had become despondent over a temporary inability to turn out creative writing.

Miss Plath, a brilliant student, had been contributing poetry and fiction to national magazines the past several years.

In recent weeks, she had been experiencing difficulty in creating new works.

"She recently felt she was unworthy [unworthy] of the confidence held for her by the people she knew," Mrs. Plath said. "For some time she has been unable to write either fiction or her more recent love, poetry. Instead of regarding this as just an arid period that every writer faces at times, she believed something had happened to her mind; that it was unable to produce creatively any more."

Rev. William Rice, pastor of the local Unitarian Church, the girl's mother, brother, and grandmother were closeted with the girl immediately [immediately] after she was brought to the hospital.

The attractive girl, clad only in a strapless halter and abbreviated shorts, disappeared from her home at mid-afternoon Monday leaving a note for her mother stating that

she had gone for "a long walk"
and would return "tomorrow."

The family reported her as
"missing" shortly after 5 p. m.
Monday and said that she had
taken her handbag and a bottle
containing about 50 sleeping pills
with her.

Miss Plath had a slight bruise
over one eye when she was found.

Transcribed by Peter K. Steinberg, 11 September 2016.