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INTERESTING

A Feature Page of Interest to Everyone

INSTRUCTIVE

Dorothy Dix

This Girl Should Get a Job and be Independent of Her Parents—Advice to Parents of a Selfish and Extravagant Son—The Young Wife Who Runs Home to Mother While Hubby Kisses Flappers.



DOROTHY DIX

DEAR MISS DIX—After graduating from high school, and completing a course in a business school, I should like very much to go to work in an office, as I am very ambitious to earn my own living, but my people take care of the books my father and brother use in their business. But that work requires only an hour or two of my time, and I could easily do it in my spare time after business.

My parents expect me to marry as soon as I am 21, but I do not think any one would ever care to have me. Will you tell me what to do? My parents and I will appreciate, and be guided by your advice.

ANNABELLE LEE.

ANSWER:

My earnest advice to you is to get a position at once and make yourself independent.

It is a curious thing how unjust most families are to their girls. They will keep a girl at home, making her do housework for which they give her no salary, and then feel that she is a burden on them, and that they are supporting her. They never regard her as being self-supporting, and she has no independent income and no money of her own. For this reason a girl is very foolish not to strike out for herself and acquire her own pay envelope, unless, of course, there is sickness, or some particular need that forces her to sacrifice herself for the good of her parents.

Your father and mother are altogether wrong in keeping you from going to work on the theory that you will marry when you are 21. Perhaps you will, perhaps you won't. Desirable husbands are scarce in these days, and not every girl is lucky enough to acquire one. If you are self-supporting, if you have something interesting to do, and are making a comfortable living for yourself, it is immaterial to you whether you get a husband or don't get one.

You do not have to marry just any man who comes along for the sake of acquiring a meal ticket. You can pick and choose, and wait until you find some man whom you really love and who is worth having.

There is the blessed privilege of the independent working girl, and it makes every one of them an heiress in her own right.

Our grandmothers, who had no way of getting their bread and butter except by mowing, had to take whatever offered in the shape of a husband. They might know a man to be drunken, immoral, vile tempered. He might be totally repulsive to them physically, but the lady to whom he popped the question had to say "yes" because her family wanted to get her married to get rid of her, and she had nowhere to go until she went into a home of her own.

But, thank God, all of that is changed now. The modern girl is no longer dependent on her parents. She can take care of herself as well as her father can take care of himself, and she can be choosy and take her time about marrying.

Surely your parents who have set the age of 21 for you to marry are not so foolish as to think that a girl should marry when she comes to the marrying age just to be married. It isn't a question of age. It is a matter of opportunity.

For a woman to be happily married is the best fate that can befall her, but for her to be unhappily married is the cruellest. Don't let them thrust this upon you. Get yourself a good job, and then you can wait for heaven to send you the right man along.

DOROTHY DIX.

DEAR MISS DIX—We have a son who is to be married in June. He makes a larger salary than his father does, but lives up to the last penny. Now he wants us to borrow money to finance him through getting married, buying a diamond ring for his sweetheart, renting and furnishing a house and paying the expenses of his wedding. Now, we have lived very economically and have worked hard, and are paying out for two or three pieces of property that we hoped would be a support for us in our old age. Should we go deeper in debt for him, or let him shoulder his responsibilities as we have done?

TWO PUZZLED PARENTS.

ANSWER:

I would urge you with all the earnestness of which I am capable to refuse to burden yourself with one cent of your son's debts. To do so under the circumstances will not only hurt you but injure him.

To begin with, no man has any right to get married until he has money enough to underwrite his own wedding, and certainly no man has any business giving a girl a diamond ring that he has to make his poor old mother and father pay for by sacrifice of the little comforts that they need. A diamond ring is no necessity to a legal and binding marriage. There are millions of happy and prosperous men in this country—some of whom have precious given their wives rings of pearls and turquoises and stomachers of precious stones—who never even thought of such an extravagance as a diamond ring when they were married.

Nor is there any excuse for your son, who is earning a good salary, not having saved enough money to rent his own house and buy his own furniture. That he has not done so shows that he has not had a proper sense of the responsibility he is undertaking in getting married, and he needs to have this forcibly brought home to him.

Therefore, the best thing you can do for him is to let him paddle his own canoe. Let him hustle for a place to live in, and save to deny himself to pay for the installments on the furniture, and it will be the making of both him and his wife.

If your son were not utterly selfish, he would not ask you to go in debt to give him money, and this should make you realize how little you can depend upon him to take care of you if you give him all you have, and are dependent on him in your old age.

No parents are so foolish as those who impoverish themselves for their children, because the son and daughter who will rob their old parents will begrudge them a support when they are too old to work and penniless. Keep your money. Don't prepare for yourself that most terrible of all fates, a dependent old age.

DOROTHY DIX.

DEAR DOROTHY DIX—I am 18, and married to a man, and I don't know whether I love him or not. Sometimes I think I do, sometimes I think I don't. We have only been married eight months, and when we quarrel and I get discouraged I go back home, and my husband has been coming and getting me, but lately he took a flapper out and kissed her. What am I to do? I trust him again? Do you think I love him?

PEGGY.

ANSWER:

Well, if I were you, I think I would give myself the benefit of the doubt, and decide that I did. I would try to convince myself and say that every day, in every way, I loved him better and better. You know a woman can think herself into anything, and so if you will just keep your mind fixed on loving your husband you can make him fill your little world, particularly if you go to work and try to make a good wife.

But if you keep on running home to mamma, like a cry baby, you needn't be surprised if he consoles himself by kissing flappers. Any man would do it.

DOROTHY DIX.

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The "Rifter" As A Goat Getter

