

INTERESTING

A Feature Page of Interest to Everyone

INSTRUCTIVE

Dorothy Dix

What Can A Man Do With A Wife Who Quits On Her Job, Who Takes All and Gives Nothing? Advice to a Young Girl on That Most Difficult of Problems: How To Be A Good Stepmother

DEAR MISS DIX—I am just an ordinary American business man, ambitious, a hard worker, successful enough to provide amply for my family, wanting a peaceful and happy home, a loving wife and children.

I married a girl who was unusually pretty and intelligent and with whom I was much in love. I have a very high ideal of the relationship that should exist between a husband and wife, and before we were married I talked over many times with my fiancée the various obligations of matrimony. She agreed with all my views. But no sooner were we married than I found that she was lazy, self-indulgent and selfish. She would lie about a morning while I got my own breakfast or went to work. When I returned in the evening, there would be no dinner prepared for me. She was willing to make no sacrifices for my business, and what success I have achieved has been in spite of her, not by her help. Worse still, she evaded motherhood, and regarded herself as a martyr when our one child came to us.

Our life together is a series of quarrels, which I feel to be bad for my little girl, now 8, whom I adore. I wonder if it would not be best for me to go away, and leave the mother and child, for the child's sake, even though it would break my heart to leave her, and I cannot bear that she should think her daddy a quitter. What do you think?

ANSWER: I think that the wife who takes all that her husband can give her and who gives back nothing in return is the most contemptible cheat in the world. She is lower in the scale than the "Moll" who picks a man's pockets on the streets, because she works inside of the law, and robs the one who trusts her and who is defenseless against her.

The woman who lures a man into marriage merely to get a meal ticket has no right to draw her skirts away from coquettish women. She is every bit as much of a grafter and just as dishonest as they are. Indeed, she is worse, because the poor man she tricks cannot say the price of his folly once he is done with it. He has to keep on paying for being a dupe as long as he lives.

And he pays with a broken heart, with wrecked illusions, with a disappointment that embitters his very soul.

There are, unhappily, too many women who regard marriage as a soft snap. You often hear business girls say that they are tired of work and want to get married, and what appears to be the theory that the wedding ceremony gives them license to sit down on the do-nothing stool the remainder of their lives.

They are keen enough about their husbands providing them with a good home, with pretty clothes and pleasures, but they do not feel that they are called upon to make any returns for these favors.

They take their husbands' money, but they do not make them comfortable homes. They not even take the trouble to see that they are properly fed and their clothes kept in order. They prefer Pomeranian pups to babies, and spend their time gadding the streets, haunting the movies and fighting over bargain counters.

Personally, I think that a man is foolish when he lets an overwrought sense of chivalry make him the perpetual victim of a grating wife. Fair play is fair play, and you have a right to demand it even in matrimony. So when a bridegroom finds that his bride is lying down on her job, and that she has no intention whatever of doing her part of the matrimonial partnership, I believe that he does wisely to dissolve the firm, then and there.

There are mighty few women so trifling and lazy that they wouldn't get up and get their husbands' breakfasts and see that they had a good dinner and a clean and orderly house to live in if they knew that they had either to make good or be chucked out of the door. It is because so many wives find that it is so easy to impose on a good man that they do it. And it is never too late to mend, poor unhappy husbands.

I will bet dollars to doughnuts that if you will just speak up, and have enough backbone to read the riot act to your wife, even at this late date, you can cure her. She doesn't want to lose a good home and a liberal bill payer and to have to go to work and support herself. And if you will just make her thoroughly understand that it is the divorce court for her unless she does her part, you won't have to get yourself another breakfast.

And your wife will love and respect you ten times more for pulling the cave man stuff on her than she does for your making a doormat of yourself for her to trample on.

But, in any case, don't think of leaving your little girl. A child who is unfortunate enough to have that kind of a mother has a double need of a father.

Her mother cannot teach her anything except to be a quitter and a shirker, because she is that herself. Her mother can never teach her to be anything but selfish, greedy, and grasping, because that is the sort of woman she is. And so she needs a father who can hold higher ideals before her, and teach her honor and honesty and how to live up to her contract and how to be a good sport.

No matter what your wife does, or how unhappy you are with her, it doesn't allow child.

DEAR MISS DIX—I am 23 years old, and about to marry a widower with small children. I want to be a good stepmother. Will you tell me how to begin so that my stepchildren will love me and take my advice? YVONNE.

ANSWER: I hope that you have thought long and well, Yvonne, before you marry a widower with little children, because there is no other than that of the stepmother. Nor is there any other career in which than that of the stepmother. Nor is there any other career in which a woman can do so much good or so much harm.

When God sends a woman children of her own, He sends with them that miraculous mother love that gives her inexhaustible patience with them, that makes her blind to their faults and deaf to their noise, and that causes her to see in their pranks high spirits instead of devilry. But, the stepmother has all to endure in children that the mother has. She has to put up with their mischief, with their dirt, with their disobedience, with all of the things they do that fret her nerves to fiddlesticks, and she has not the mother love to offset it.

One's own children are seldom grateful for the sacrifices their mother makes for them. Stepchildren are still less appreciative. One's own children resent control. Stepchildren rebel at it and consider themselves persecuted when they are only being corrected for their own good. And, in addition, stepchildren are always suspicious of the stepmother's motives.

So realize that you are going into no bed of roses when you take upon yourself vicarious motherhood. You will be pierced by many a thorn. Be sure of that.

As to winning the love of your little stepchildren, you can best do that by kindness and tenderness and justice.

Be fair with them. I think that children resent injustice more than anything else. And don't try to reform them all at once. Don't attempt to make them model children who are always clean, with their hair nicely combed and with manners that are the pink of perfection.

Most young mothers are full of theories that they work out on their first baby, but they learn how to slacken by the time the next two or three come along. But the danger of stepmothers is that they acquire a ready-made family all at once, and when they attempt to cut the children all over according to their own little pattern, trouble ensues.

Take your stepchildren easily. Make playthings out of them instead of problems, and they will love you and rise up and call you blessed when they are grown. DOROTHY DIX.

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America's "Best Dressed Woman" Exploits the Mode



By MME. LISBETH

STROLLING in Paris, the capital of fashion with a capital P, from the center Mrs. McLaughlin, who is the originator in this country of the bobbed hair fashion, is dressed in an afternoon frock of dull green satin, trimmed with navy blue. It has small handkerchief pockets, and a large dark blue traveling bag adds to the ensemble effect of the costume.

Fashion Fancies.

THIS SMART STREET FROCK IS OF SILK AND CLOTH



By MARIE BELMONT

Here is a practical frock to bridge the gap between summer and fall. It is of sheer silk and a very light cloth, the cloth forming the skirt, back of the blouse, and part of the sleeves. The silk forms the lower parts of the sleeves and the front of the blouse.

The skirt is box-pleated, and two pleated silk ties fall from the collar. There is a slight bloused effect above the snug belt.

Flapper Fanny Says



Be careful about how you fall for a girl.

CHAMOIS CLOTH

The high polish of the piano will benefit most from dry rubbing with a piece of chamouis cloth.

Menus for the Family

MENU HINT
Breakfast
Fruit Cup
Prepared Cereal with Milk or Cream
Sour Milk Grittle Cakes
Syrup
Coffee

Dinner
Baked Green Peppers
Baked Potatoes
Cabbage, Beet and Celery Salad,
Green Onions, Radishes, Olives
Berries
Cake
Hot Tea or Coffee

TODAY'S RECIPES
Fruit Cup—Cut cantaloupe and watermelon in dice, cool in refrigerator and serve in glass cups.

Baked Peppers—Cut off top of fresh green peppers and remove seeds. Boil in salted water five minutes, then drain and fill with finely chopped cooked chicken or veal, seasoned with parsley, onion and salt and pepper. Arrange in a buttered baking dish. Cover with a layer of meat with bits of butter scattered on top. Bake until peppers are tender. Remove carefully and slightly thicken gravy and pour over peppers.

Cabbage, Beet and Celery Salad—Chop cabbage, cooked beets and celery together in proportion desired. Mix with salad dressing. Select a firm cabbage, scoop out the center, forming a basket. Line with the above mixture.

Sponge Cake with Custard Filling—Four eggs, two cups sugar, two cups flour, one teaspoon baking powder, one teaspoon lemon extract, three-fourths cup boiling water. Beat eggs, yolks and whites separately, then add together. Add gradually the sugar, flour, baking powder and flavoring, and lastly the hot water gradually. Bake in large, round tin. When cold cut in half and put the following custard between:

Custard—Beat one egg and one-half cup sugar light. Two teaspoons of flour mixed with a little milk and one cup milk. Heat the milk and add the egg, sugar and flour and cook until thick. When cold put between cake.

THE RHYMING OPTIMIST

By Aline Michaelis

"What are the things which you cherish most of all Earth's vast store? Is it the beauty of pine, storm-tossed, is it a rock-strewn shore? Is it the grace of the stately ship fading away in space? Is it a smile on a loved one's lips, joy of a loved one's face? What are the things that you hold most dear out of a world of bliss? In the glow of the quickening year and the green of the spring-time's kiss? None of these things do I love so well it could be the first of all; rather the pines nor the ocean's spell nor the spring with its ardor in its gleam, my dreams do I hold most dear, dreams of their magic art bringing old seasons and far things near, keeping you close in my heart."

SEE-SAWING ON BROADWAY

NOTICE that half of Broadway and most of the rest of the town now wears those strapped Helen Wills oshades. The 5 and 10-cent stores report the sale running into the hundreds of thousands. The other day a motorist, arrested for speeding, wore one into court. "Take off your hat," thundered the judge. "That ain't a hat!" came back the prisoner. "Oh, isn't it?" purred the judge, fanning him for contempt. Which would seem to make it official. It is a hat!

STOPPED to watch "the world's largest building" rising at 4th Street and Madison. But even as this paragraph is written another "largest building" may be thrusting out its steel arms elsewhere. Yesterday it was the Woolworth. But the Wall Street section has long since had to kiss goodbye to its long enjoyed skyline frame. The chains of the "clock and sully" belt from 30th Street up now challenge it, while the new skyscraper apartments make one consider retreating out sleeping space in airplanes.

BOYISHLY bobbed girls at the summer symphony concerts at the Stadium. Lending over the concrete railing at the top of the 60-cent section and all but obscuring the stars of their claret. Few men are smoking. And those who are puffing poetically on long, curve-stemmed pipes.

A garish sign stares from a corner on Park Avenue in the upper Sixties, reading: "You won't miss \$5. This is a neighborhood in which apartment rentals run up to the ten thousands a year. The sign advertises a commodity that may be purchased for \$5 down and \$5 a month thereafter. Perhaps that's how so many people manage to live in the stiff rent belt.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER OBLIGED.

In London recently at a smart wedding the bridegroom kissed the bride just before entering the bridal carriage, for the accommodation of the newspaper photographers. One disconsolate newspaper man missed the "shot" and explaining his dilemma to the bridegroom, the latter readily assented to repeat the kiss to that the photographer would not be called on the carpet by his editor for missing the picture.

CARROTS

A teaspoon of sugar improves the flavor of carrots, if added when the water begins to boil.

SAVES A STAIN

Fruit acids will stain the finest porcelain table top, if allowed to stand. Always wipe up immediately with warm water.

A Thought

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.—John 15:13

THE most I can do for my friend is simply to be his friend. I have no wealth to bestow on him. If he knows that I am happy in loving him, he will want no other reward.—Thoreau

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McLean Hospital School of Nursing offers a three year course in the care and treatment of nervous and mental diseases, with affiliations that also offer training in medical, surgical and obstetrical work. Instruction consists of lectures and practical work on the wards. Board, room and laundry are furnished and an allowance of \$30 per month. This course is open to young women who have completed successfully one year of high school. Entrance in January and September. For information apply to the

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The high polish of the piano will benefit most from dry rubbing with a piece of chamouis cloth.