Family Council

Adele K.—He forces me to watch wrestling on TV.

Irwin K. She never sits with me. She's just stubborn.

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Adele K. Can you imagine a man making his wife sit on his lap and look at two gorillas gouging each other's eyes out?

I'm a sensitive person and when those monsters start pulling each other's hair out I feel it! I tried sitting through a TV wrestling match just once because I wanted to be a pal to my husband, be companionable for a change. But all that slamming and jabbing made me ill.

The funny part is that my friends all envy me because my husband is so home-loving and has so many interests. Most of them complain that they must think up things to do to amuse their husbands and pass the time, like play cards or checkers or tennis. "Adele's husband," they say, "can entertain himself and she's free to do what she wants."

They don't know the truth. Anything he's interested in, he says he can't enjoy unless I'm interested too. I'm interested in being left alone. He can't understand that.

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Irwin K.—There's nothing worse than a closed mind. I've tried to show my wife that wrestling isn't just a matter of brute force. There's a lot of skill and strategy involved. If she'd only study the grips and follow those fellows from week-to-week, she'd get interested too.

But it seems all I have to do is like something and she'll automatically hate it. She won't even give me a chance to show her why these things appeal to me. Sometimes, when she runs the other way instead of joining me, I feel she's running from me, not the wrestling.

And it's not just wrestling. When I want her to see my tomato plants and watch me transplant them from my small pots to the back yard, she runs. It's the same when I'm developing pictures in our dark room. I'd like her to get the thrill of watching the picture appear.

If she loves me and wants to be a pal, she's not doing much to show it. She's being narrow-minded and stubborn.

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The Council: "Look and let look" should be the slogan in this home. No matter how close people are they still see things with different eyes And when it comes to blood-letting in the name of "sports," people polarize into those who delight in it and those who abhor it. In the case of the K.'s, the two poles got married!

Mr. K.'s desire is heighten his own pleasure in wrestling by sharing it with his wife is natural. But forcing her to look is making it all the more distasteful to her. She's thankful for eyelids which can shut it out and legs which can carry her away.

And Mrs. K.'s small-scale "desertion" doesn't bespeak a lack of affection for her husband. It stems from resentment over his complete disregard of her tastes, her preferences, her hobbies.

What Mr. K. calls stubborness is really a protest against being clamped into a mold selected by her husband. She might be more willing to examine the mold if (1) she could go in and out of it easily and (2) she could build a mold of her own.

We suggest to Mrs. K., however, that she peek in on her husband's activities, especially since he not only invites her to, but urges it. There is no wholesome human activity that's really dull and boring. The more eagerness and curiosity you bring to it, the more fascinating detail you discover.

All around you see couples doing things together—bowling, painting, dancing, studying languages, playing musical instruments—where before only one of them was interested in the pursuit. That's the essence of a good marriage—enlarging the scope of life for each other.

The day may well come for the K.'s when Adele watches a wrestling match while Irwin watches the cake in the oven.

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