

Marilyn Monroe tells:

"The Role I Most Wanted

to Play—MOTHER"



As the Arthur Millers bring their four-year marriage to a close, Marilyn reveals the frustrated wish for a child which haunted their relationship

By PEER J. OPPENHEIMER



Marilyn's love for children is quite apparent as she chats with a little boy on the set of "The Misfits."

MARILYN MONROE was nearly exhausted as the Reno, Nev., sun pushed the mercury up to 115 degrees, plaguing the cast and crew of "The Misfits."

Struggling to catch her breath, she noticed young Dennis Shaw, who plays James Barton's grandson in the movie. Beads of perspiration covered the boy's face as he tried to hold his own against the blazing desert sun. Marilyn's expressive eyes mirrored her concern as she hurried to Dennis' side, took his cap, and gently fanned him with it, ignoring the heat herself.

Although she is often unpredictable, Marilyn's action surprised many of her co-workers. They were even more amazed later at her response to a young fan who wanted to take her picture.

The lad approached the actress, aimed his camera at her, and asked if she would pose for him.

Marilyn—who has absolute approval over all pictures taken of her and goes over each one with a magnifying glass before releasing it—smiled, said "All right," and posed.

The boy looked at her wide-eyed, then turned and ran away—without taking the picture.

Had an adult, especially a professional photographer, sought Marilyn's picture, chances are she would not even have bothered to answer, but would have turned on her heel and stalked away.

With children, Marilyn is different. She loves kids. Before the recent breakup of her marriage to Arthur Miller, she keenly enjoyed playing with her stepchildren by Miller's first marriage, Bobby, 13, and Jane, 15. And on location, she always takes time to play with youngsters on the set.

Marilyn herself readily admits that she will do things for kids she wouldn't dream of doing for grownups. She frankly insists that there is no role—not even the most serious character in a Shakespearean drama—which could mean more to her than that of being a mother.

Twice she has been thwarted in her attempts to achieve motherhood.

The first time, in August, 1957, occurred just a few weeks after she had become pregnant. Marilyn was disappointed, of course, but was sure she would eventually bear a child. When she lost her second baby, however, Marilyn was severely shaken and developed a strong feeling of guilt.