

# Why Can't the Movie Be More Like the Book?

A best-selling novelist  
learns the answer from

some Hollywood experts  
—including an  
uncannily clever  
Marlon Brando

By **EUGENE BURDICK**

Coauthor of "The Ugly American" and "Fail-Safe"



**N**O ONE IS CERTAIN when Hollywood got the idea of making movies out of books. Whenever it was, it started one of the most persistent nonviolent wars of modern times.

Literary warriors as powerful as Hemingway and Faulkner have salied forth to Hollywood armed with sound books and high enthusiasm—and emerged from the fray with shaking nerves and palsied hands.

Early in the movie negotiations for the sale of our book, *The Ugly American*, William Lederer and I were approached by a character who epitomized the classic idea of a Hollywood movie studio's front-office representative. He wore Italian silk suits, white-on-white shirts, and a Dunhill cigar in his mouth. He drank martinis of imported English gin. He swore vilely, but he called Lederer and me "darling." He looked like a hood from central casting. He was perfect.

He held a copy of *The Ugly American* in his hand. "I haven't read it," he said around the cigar. "Somebody else does that. But 'they' like it—a little." Then, sensing he had gone too far, he hefted the book again. "Now remember, lover boys, if we buy it, we got one rule: forget art, we're in the entertainment business."

We didn't sell to his front office, but I always liked his frankness. Not that we considered *The Ugly American* high art; we had written it in

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## The Real Secret of SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

Advice on how to be happily married was never so freely available as it is today.

Marriage problems are openly discussed in newspaper columns and on the radio. Marriage advice is available from the man next door, who speaks from experience . . . and from the psychologist, whose views come from study and research. There is no topic . . . from etiquette to fidelity . . . on which advice and counsel are not available.

Yet with all this marriage education, the modern divorce rate continues at an appalling high!

This condition obviously is not due to ignorance of the so-called "facts of life." It cannot be attributed to economic problems, for good times have been repeatedly marked by a high divorce rate. Nor can it be blamed on the excuse of personal "incompatibility," which so often appears in divorce petitions.

These and other practical problems undoubtedly contribute to marriage conflicts. But the basic, fundamental cause of marriage failures goes deeper. It is the failure of many people to realize the true meaning of marriage . . . to recognize that it is a life-long union of a man and a woman . . . to see that its main purpose is the begetting and rearing of children.

In Catholic eyes, marriage is, first of all, a contract which . . . as with all contracts . . . must be governed by justice. A purely sentimental and physical attraction between a man and a woman, which is not permeated by a sense of duty to each other and to God, is not the love upon which enduring homes are built.

But the Catholic Church teaches that marriage must be what God

meant it to be . . . and He made it not only a contract—but a Sacrament.

When the marriage of a man and a woman is a Sacrament, they receive title to all the divine helps necessary to overcome the disappointments and difficulties of domestic life. They are thus better able to overcome personality differences . . . better able to deal justly with each other . . . better able to understand the many practical problems of living together.

Marriage is not a strictly private affair. It is the concern of the whole community. It is the special concern of the Church, which is charged with safeguarding this Sacrament. That is why the Catholic Church strives to impress the true nature of marriage upon all who hear its voice.

Whether you are already married . . . or just thinking about it . . . you will be helped by a pamphlet we will send you explaining the true nature of marriage and the blessings that come from a proper understanding of the married state. Write for free copy. Nobody will call on you. Ask for Pamphlet No. FM-19.

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## MENTAL ILLNESS IS NO LONGER HOPELESS!

Today thousands of mentally sick people are recovering. Now we can face with courage and hope the task of saving not thousands, but hundreds of thousands; not just some of the victims of mental illness but all. Support your mental health association and its program of medical research.