

Are "Spite" Marriages Always Unhappy?

"I am willing to try it for a period of one year or a little more, but I know I do not care for you, can never learn to, and am aware that we are both making a serious mistake. Yet I cannot get the man I want, so will be unhappy anyway. I am warning you, though, not to expect too much from me." When a woman isn't in love she sometimes makes things miserable for the man she is tied to.

Spite Marriages as a Rule Do Not Pay, And There Is Always Misfortune Staggering in the Wake of the Ceremony, but this is the True Account of one "Spite" Marriage that Brought Happiness.

Clara Curtis was frank about it

and told Gene Armstrong exactly what to expect, and in that she did something that lifted her several notches in the estimation of her young husband-to-be without being conscious of it. She was in love with another man and the latter had



Pretty Mrs. Clara Curtis-Armstrong, the wife in the "spite" marriage.

just taken to wife her pretty rival, Murice Pixler, the belle of the town.

Clara had fought hard for Adam Waite, the colored physician she had fallen desperately in love with five years before she met Armstrong, but she had lost. Therefore, her marriage to Armstrong, a school teacher, was more of a "spite" affair than it was anything else.

The wedding took place and there was a crowd of fashionable people on hand to witness the nuptials. They knew—the majority of them, anyhow—that there was no love on the part of Clara, and they wished to see how she went through the ceremony. But you couldn't have told that this young society girl of proud parentage wasn't deeply in love with the groom. No, you couldn't have detected the truth if you had been a regular Sherlock Holmes. She was apparently as completely happy as if she had won the man who lived in her heart.

And they went to live in a big house on East Third Street, within two blocks of the Adam Waites, who, too, lived in a big house with brass ornaments on the ancient Colonial doors. Armstrong was as conveniently fixed as Waite, although he was a trifle younger, and he was fully as good looking.

Sometimes these families visited each other. There were social functions where a meeting was unavoidable, and they had come to look upon sociability as being the best way out of an unusual situation.

It was Armstrong who did this planning for the sake of his wife, because he figured that it would be better to let Clara see as much of the man she loved as was possible. It would perhaps lighten her burden.

There wasn't much harmony in Armstrong's house, although he sought ways and means of making things harmonious. For one thing, he set his mind against quarreling with his wife, and with all the strength of which he was capable he resolved to put down jealousy.

At first, this was difficult to do. Seeing the woman you love in the company of another man she loves isn't a pleasant occurrence and is apt to cause one no little discomfiture. Yet he managed this, knowing that it was better to keep Clara satisfied than to let her become discouraged. Consequently the matter drifted from day to day with no solution and no promise of one.

Of course, one could depend upon Murice's keeping the love-sick woman from seeing too much of her husband. A woman would be a fool to permit this to continue indefinitely, and Murice Waite was by no means a fool.

Armstrong prospered. Teaching school was a good profession, one that paid, and a young man with a brilliant mind was always assured of a successful future. Medicine, on the other hand, was crowded. It was a field where a man had a world of competition; so Waite did not prosper.

At the end of a year the small town was shocked to hear that the Adam Waites had agreed to separate. The town, moreover, was also shocked when they heard that the Waites had been unable to get along and that Murice accused her husband of beating her severely.

Murice was relentless when it narrowed down to exposing her husband, and without beating around the bush she told a reporter for the local paper the plain truth. Adam Waite drank, and he abused her, he struck her with his clenched fist, blacked her eyes and knocked out two teeth. She could prove this by her dentist.

And Adam was never satisfied. He had spent her money, had not made any of his own, to speak of, and had taken her jewelry to the city and sold it without asking her anything in regard to the matter.

On the whole, he had been, to say the least, so unbearably "cave-madish" that she couldn't live with him any longer. She had withheld her secret for a year, had taken his beatings and poundings without disclosing them simply because she didn't want people to know she had been foolish enough to marry a man like Adam Waite.

Then, following the separation, Waite turned his attentions to Clara. Whenever he could spare the time away from his office—his work didn't demand much of his time because there wasn't much work—he was with the other woman. He called

upon her and spent hours in her company to the chagrin of the friends of Armstrong who knew he was having an injustice dealt to him. They even, some of them, warned the school teacher.

"Then one day Armstrong walked home and found Waite there. He was dancing with Clara. So Armstrong dropped the gauntlet.

"You must either go with him," he expostulated, with the lines deepening in his face, "or stay with me. Make your choice!"

They stood there in the wine-red lounging room of the handsomely furnished house, looking at each other, puzzled, stricken with the gravity of the moment. Long shadows fell through the casement windows from the sun like slanting sword blades, streaking their profiles and lightening the gloom. It was a somber moment in a somber room.

Clara looked from Waite to Armstrong, then from her husband back to the man. Here was the old triangle, but always creating a new situation—the grim stalker in the lives of married men. Which man would be her choice?

A long table separated them. Armstrong stood on one side of it, Waite at one end, and Clara on the opposite side from her husband. The moments seemed many times longer than they actually were.

Then Clara turned to Armstrong and said softly:

"I have made a bitter mistake. And I am sorry. I realize now that I love you. If you'll let me stay with you I shall do everything in my power to pay you for the trouble I have caused. Forgive me and please keep me."

He took her in his arms and Waite left the house.

That was one "spite" marriage that paid.

When Love Steps In Does Wisdom Step Out?

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imitations that wouldn't bring fifty dollars.

Poor little idiot. But he couldn't help loving her. He went on loving her. His was the kind of love that never dies.

He even inserted an ad in the metropolitan papers east, west, north and south, in which he warned her that Joe's diamonds were not genuine, and asking her to come back. She couldn't fail to see his warning, he reasoned, if she ever looked at the papers, and she was a great reader.

She failed to return, however, and when he had given her up, Jason married another woman. He felt incomplete without a mate, and he needed help in his store. Just the same, though, he told a reporter who called on him not long ago that he had not recovered from his shock of five years ago. It had come as a shock to him—Carrie's leaving him for Joe's imitation diamonds.

Candy as a Self-Starter

The after effects of long-distance running have been carefully studied by those interested in athletics and dieting.

Several years ago, after the famous Boston Marathon run it was found that the physical exhaustion of the men was in exact proportion to the sugar content of the blood—those with the least sugar content being the most exhausted and vice versa.

The following year, the experiment

was made of feeding the same men a large amount of carbohydrates the day before the run, and candy during the run. The runners were directed to eat the candy just before the time when exhaustion had set in during the earlier run, on the theory that candy supplied before exhaustion began would replace the energy which had been used, and that no exhaustion would result.

The conclusion was borne out by the results. None who had been thus fed showed the exhaustion experienced the previous year, and all made better running time. One man who was not given the carbohydrate feeding or the candy was the only one who experienced exhaustion.

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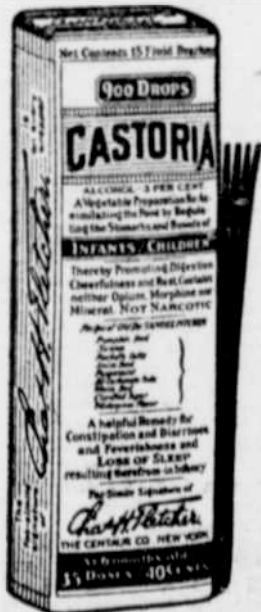
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