



At Thaliens' ball, Debbie sang with Marge Champion.

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my life has just begun

(Continued)

No doubt, I have become a lot more careful and more concerned about my family than ever before, which is only natural under the circumstances.

There has been a lot of speculation lately that I'm no longer the same Debbie Reynolds, that I've changed, turned more sophisticated, more worldly.

True, I can now afford to ask Helen Rose to design my clothes, although Mom still sews most of my wardrobe. My hair, I hope, looks better because I've had the benefit of one of the world's top stylists. And, of course, I've learned about make-up. But frankly, it annoys me when I'm told that I've changed as a person.

Except that I'm grown-up now—which shouldn't be surprising considering I'll be 28 on April 1, and am the mother of two children—I am basically the same person I've always been, with the same outlook toward life, people, and myself. The only big difference is that I've learned to look at the future instead of bemoaning the past.

In addition to my career, my family, and the Thaliens, there are many other things to look forward to in the years to come. I want to travel. This summer, I hope to spend at least a month in Nassau or Jamaica with my children and my parents.

I've discovered a new world of art. I don't know much about it yet, but I'm learning—by reading, by looking at paintings and sculptures, by starting an art collection of my own. I bought two paintings in Paris last year from a young French impressionist. I hope to add at least one or two paintings a year to my collection from now on.

SOME DAY I might even get married again. But right now I don't even have time to date much. When I do, it has to be done in such a way that it doesn't interfere with my time for Carrie and Todd.

My week ends and my evening meal hours are reserved for them. That sometimes complicates matters because, as far as I'm concerned, if a man doesn't appreciate my feelings he shouldn't ask me to go out.

Just the other day my date asked to pick me up at 7. I told him I couldn't possibly be ready till 9.

"But that's too late to eat!" he burst out.

"Then eat before," I came back.

"But I want to eat with you," he insisted.

"And I want to eat with my children!"

There was a long silence till he agreed to the arrangement. If he hadn't, and this has happened before, I wouldn't have seen him at all.

It's very simple with me in this respect: any man who doesn't understand that I'd rather be with my children than with him isn't the right man for me. It would never work out for me to become serious about him. Yet I'm sure that anyone who really loves me will understand that.

That's why I don't rule out marriage for my future, although right now I feel that a man's love would only complicate my life at a time when I have so many wonderful things ahead of me.



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