

The Unhappy Beauties

By DICK KLEINER

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

NEW YORK (NEA)—The Big Dream of the American teen-aged girl (and her mother) is to grow up into a beautiful, glamorous star of the entertainment world. But this dream seems a bit tattered around the edges lately. Most of the evidence indicates that most of the beautiful, glamorous stars are an unhappy group of girls.

In 1939, three of the most beautiful and glamorous made front-page news with a varying crop of miseries:

Marilyn Monroe broke up with her husband, Arthur Miller. Brigitte Bardot attempted suicide.

Elizabeth Taylor suffered from a mysterious illness.

Marilyn, Brigitte and Liz are the personifications of The Big Dream. Liz has one of the most beautiful faces of modern times. Brigitte has a figure which is merely perfection. And Marilyn—well, Marilyn has everything.

You might think that what nature gave these three girls would be enough to guarantee them happiness.

But their case histories, collectively, include nine marriages. They have suffered from a collection of neurotic symptoms, such as strange noises in the head, nervous breakdowns, facial rashes, colitis, stomach cramps, compulsive lateness, compulsive eating, suicide attempts and brooding about suicide.

Undoubtedly, they have had spells of happiness, but by and large their personal experiences are not to be envied.

If this is The Big Dream, it is fit only for girls who have a lawyer and a psychiatrist in the family.

Mlle. Bardot is 23. She began her career as a model in Paris nine years ago. Even then, her figure and her magnetism were apparent to the naked eye, especially if it was a male eye. She once explained her figure by saying:

"I played tennis, danced and swam at a very early age."

Whatever the reason, she had it. And the French movie makers, who snapped her up after seeing her on a magazine cover, knew how best to display it. They rushed her into a series of implausible, poorly made films which had one thing in common—lavish helpings of Mlle. Bardot in the near-nude.

She made so much money that she turned down Hollywood's eager offers.

But, privately, she has run through two husbands, tried to kill herself, had a nervous breakdown and a bout of facial rash, all within the few years since she became an international star.

Miss Monroe has a different history. Her childhood years were tragic ones and it is amazing that she survived without losing her mind. Her only asset was her beauty, which was considerable. A California native, she drifted with the California tide—into films.

In the never-never land of Hollywood, it took a while for the impresarios to discover Marilyn. Actually, it was the public who spotted her first, writing in thousands of letters after she did a bit part. She became one of the biggest box-office draws of modern times. Her every pronouncement was front page news. She was a queen among queens.

But, privately, she has had three husbands, she had a nervous stammer, she complained of hearing strange noises in her head, she brooded about suicide, she suffered from chronic lateness.

Elizabeth Taylor was a child star. Even as a child, her face was a magical thing. Then, at the proper time, she developed a body to match. The end product was a female beyond comparison.

Quite sensibly, the movie makers recognized this gold mine and she easily became the outstanding

star among American cinema actresses. Her pictures were almost sure to return a handsome profit, chiefly because of her presence. Men and women alike just seemed to want to gaze at her.

But, privately, she is on her fourth husband, she has been through some unhappy romantic doings, she has had a nervous

breakdown, she has had colitis and stomach cramps (both diagnosed as nervous conditions), she's a compulsive eater and a compulsive jewelry collector.

The three, then, have everything a girl could decently want—plus a history of chronic unhappiness. The Big Dream has turned out to be a big nightmare.



LIZ TAYLOR and husband No. 4 had nothing to smile about at a London hospital where she was treated for a mysterious infection.

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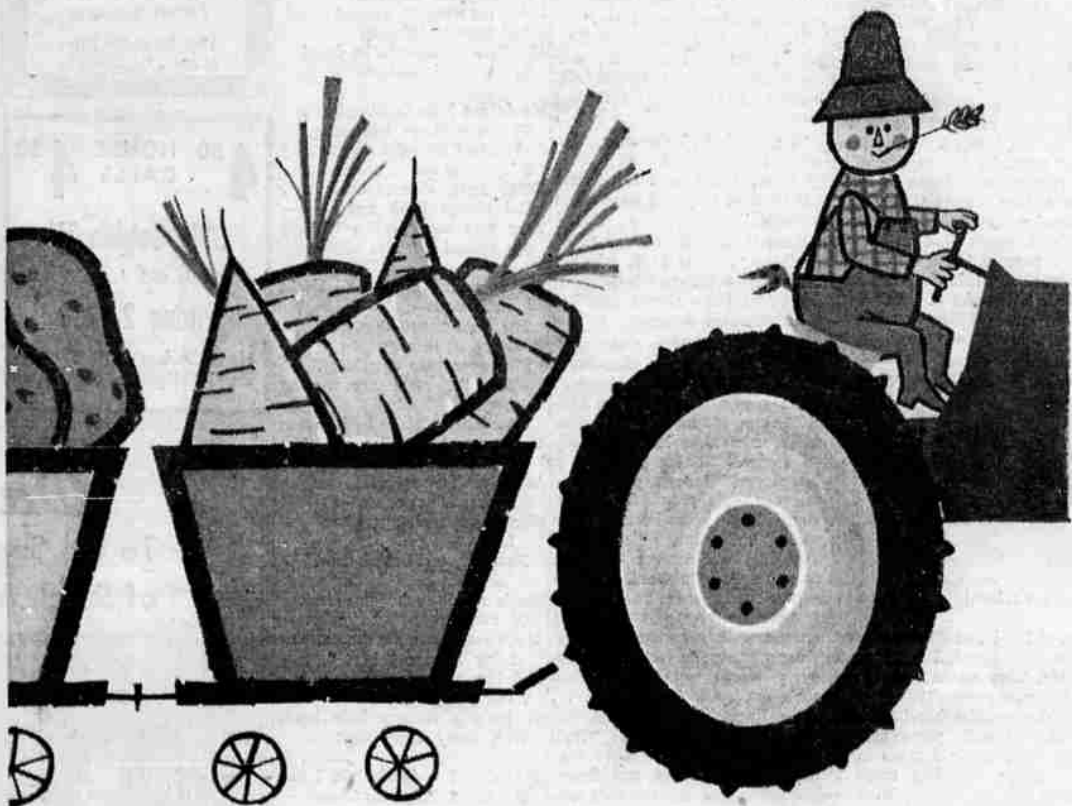
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