

WOMAN'S NEWS-FEATURES

Successful Business Girl Admits Failure in Love Game

Trouble Lies in Anxiety to Close Proposition—Too Practical to be Satisfied With Dreams and Romance Before Marriage Question is Approached

By MARTHA ALLEN.

MANY girls who have made good at business haven't made good in the game of love and I am one of them," declares Jane in her letter. "I have been working for eight years and I've made good so I can't see why I can't make good in other important things of life." Concentration on one job is bound to mean neglect for other things. Business girls are sometimes so very practical like Jane that it will be necessary to change if success is to be reached in the business of choosing or finding a life-partner. The main trouble is that these level-headed sensible girls are not content to dream awhile and be romantic before the great question of marriage is before them. As in their business dealings, they want to expedite matters, to close the deal. They are not willing to look first for just a friend, a companion, and perhaps later consider him as a prospective husband. They measure him up at the first meeting or two for his possibilities for a good husband. Study a man with the desire to help him and to offer him the best friendship of which you are capable. Make your attitude towards him a constructive one just as you would use in your business. You have been out in the world long enough to know values. Don't open your eyes on any man who might smile upon you. Make your choice and then build a friendship that will perhaps later turn into devotion and real love.

I purposely made my tone emphatic, and Lella uttered no demur. But I guessed that she was restive and I was as glad as I was surprised upon turning the key in the lock of the apartment hall door to find the living room door partly ajar, to sniff the odor of Dicky's favorite tobacco, and to find both Alfred and Dicky smoking as if their lives depended upon their finishing their cigars at a certain second.

Both men sprang to their feet but neither showed any surprise at our entrance. Instead Dicky said astonishingly:

"We thought you never were coming. We've been waiting an hour."

"But now did you know we were coming here instead of to the hospital?"

"Deduction, as practiced by a great mind, little one," Dicky answered airily. "My illustrious brother-in-law turned Alf out five minutes after they reached the hospital, and he, being lonesome telephoned me. I at once brought up the heavy artillery and inquired after the aviation corps."

"If you refer to us," I interrupted, drawing myself up in pretended dignified offense, and taking the cue of nonsense which Dicky had thrown to me, "I wish to announce right now that the attitude ascensions in our respective families are made by the masculine, not the feminine members."

"Listen to her, will you?" Dicky demanded dramatically of Alfred. "Where does she get that stuff? Anyway, madam, you interrupted me, but I suppose you want the conversation along strictly feminist lines. All right, then. Harriet's husband told Lella's husband to get to—Chicago—out of there, and Lella's husband told your husband that Katherine's husband's wife told him you were to keep—that you two were to clear up things and look up the house. Your husband, having been married to you for some time, knows that after any exertion, you simply must have your cup of tea in your special fashion, so—your husband told Lella's husband—"

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"Dicky!" I exclaimed dramatically. "If you say another word of that rigmorole, I shall call in the police reserves. If your deductive mind is working so smoothly, it's a wonder you wouldn't have had the tea kettle on for us. Come, Lella, let's leave these two by themselves. They're hopeless."

"Why do women marry?" Dicky sent the words after us in a squeaking falsetto, which brought a half-hearted laugh even from Lella. I realized, thankfully, that she had not noticed the slip of speech by which Dicky so nearly had betrayed Katherine's ruse to keep her away from the hospital.

"I wonder when we are to see mother," Lella asked worriedly as I started the cold water tap and filled the tea kettle.

"I fancy some time in the early evening," I answered. "Suppose we don't worry about it now. I wonder if those boys would like a cup of tea."

"I'll ask them," Lella volunteered and returned in a few seconds, looking a little more like her normal, cheery self.

"They said nothing doing in the tea line," she reported, "and Dicky issued instructions not to drink too much tea, for they are going to take us out to an early dinner before we go to the hospital. I feel like anything rather than going, but Alfred says I must, that I look like a ghost."

I gave an unconscious little sigh as I saw how quickly her drooping spirits had revived with the tonic of her husband's solicitude. She was so absolutely dependent upon him for her happiness, almost for her life. Would he ever fall her?

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