

WOMAN'S PAGE—MAGAZINE FEATURES

Girl Says No Chance to Win With Widow in Race

By MARTHA ALLEN.

WHY should girls stop in the race for attention when a widow, grass, or otherwise, comes into view? Perhaps the single girls are a bit lazy and fail to put forth the effort in winning the men. A young woman, unmarried, has written a letter of protest at the unfairness of a situation in which she and a widow were rivals.

"I might as well give up," she writes. "What chance has a single woman with a widow, anyway?"

There is no reason to believe that widows have more charm, patience, more virtues or more brains than a single girl. It may be that they have learned not to expect the impossible of a man.

The widow isn't so dangerous when you stop to figure out just what her method of self-salesmanship contains. If the girls who are still single would observe a bit and take a few things from some one with experience they would be ahead in the race with their youth and brightness. Probably the widows have learned to bury their dreams for an ideal man and ideal conditions of marriage. They perhaps realize a common sense version of the man as he is.

The young woman who wrote about her troubles explained that she expected the man who was courting her to remember her with flowers and candy upon occasion. But the widow asked for nothing and got everything, she said. The man should make every advance, this girl believed; he should compliment her on her new gown—do all the entertaining. The widow knows very well every man should do just these things to win a girl, but she knows best how to get this attention.

The best of men need a hint once in a while. A suggestion that is tactfully offered, and they will usually get this heavy co-operation from a widow. She isn't timid, is the widow with brains, but still she doesn't make it apparent that she has her heart set on a second marriage.

A widow knows that some men are a little selfish and forgetful; that they love to be made at ease and that after all they all have some good material in their makeup. A widow forgets a man's shortcomings. She is willing to make concessions and compromises and to help develop the perfection the man does possess. In short, the widow is willing to work for her success in the business of finding a mate.

Those "Cake-Eaters." Dear Miss Allen: What do you say to declaring war on these things commonly called "cake eaters"? Aren't they positively the most disgusting, murder-justifying things that walk? If a man would walk up and gently kill a "cake eater" the policemen wouldn't do a thing except to pat him on the back. Wouldn't it be nice if there were some way to rid a town of them? Most of them are holding down a clerk's job in a store instead of doing a man's work and

"This will do. Send us a waiter at once, please."

That he had slipped the man a generous tip I knew by the profoundly respectful gesture and prompt retreat of the table monarch. In his place there immediately appeared a waiter with menus and an order blank, while an omnibus went through the motions of his craft a few feet away.

Dicky turned to Harriet and me, expectantly.

"I want to be surprised," I said childishly. "Go ahead and order for me at least."

"For me, too," Harriet seconded. "But Edwin—"

She stopped, biting her lip, and I saw that she regretted betraying the supervision of her husband's diet which she was wont to exercise.

"The lid's off, Harriet," Dr. Braith-

waite said rebelliously. "I'm going to eat everything Dicky orders, no matter what the consequences."

"There won't be any consequences," Dicky retorted. "I'll have you know I hold a certificate as dietician from the best cooking school in the country," and our laugh at his absurdity covered Harriet's confusion, which was made up, I guessed, of apprehension and resentment in equal quantities.

That Dicky could be wisely thoughtful beneath his foolery I well knew, and I was not surprised at his dinner order, which, while it would have been approved by an epicure, held none of the dishes that from Harriet's lips Dicky and I had learned were taboo to Edwin's digestive peace. But from the tiny canapes to the special cheese which was to come with the coffee, the dinner promised

to be a gastronomic triumph, and when he had finished the order, we applauded him with softly clapping hands. But Harriet's eyes held gratitude.

I think that, her anxiety concerning her husband's physical welfare being allayed, she decided to throw off all other cares for the evening. At any rate she surprised me by the vivacity which embroidered her dignity as might jewels upon velvet, and by the apparent zest with which she entered into the gaiety of the evening, talking wittily, laughing appreciatively at Dicky's nonsense, even investing her stately dancing movements with a touch of modern extravagance.

"I haven't had so good a time in years," she said, as the coffee was served. Dicky had ordered the dinner in courses separated by intervals

of a half hour or longer that we might have leisure for dancing. Her husband looked at her with approving eyes.

"We ought to do this oftener," he said. "It would do us both good. We

stick pretty close to a professional schedule, Harriet and I."

"Why don't you retire?" Dicky asked with the bluntness of a favored relative. "You surely don't need to make any more money, and you've earned a long rest and play spell, if anybody ever has."

A shadow crossed Edwin Braithwaite's mobile, expressive face, and I saw it reflected in his wife's eyes.

"A rest isn't what I want," he said, and the subconscious mournfulness in his voice spoiled the rest of the evening for me and haunted me for hours after we left the restaurant and went home to the apartment. For I knew from Harriet's remorseful confidence to me what it was that he wanted and now never could have—the companionship of children of his own.

Adele Garrison "My Husband's Love"

For a Time Dr. Braithwaite Forgot. "They've changed the management here," Dicky said as he led the way into the restaurant with Harriet and Edwin followed with me. "I don't know the new people, but they tell me it's quite amusing, and the food is good—will be for a week or two," cynically.

"It's always a safe bet to follow the trail of a new broom," his brother-in-law commented, and then we found ourselves in a brilliantly lighted and strikingly decorated room with open space, where, early as it was, a few people were dancing. A man whose manner conveyed the mixture of ingratiating deference and monarchical authority possessed only by headwaiters and department store

walkers advanced toward us, and I saw his small eyes flicker rapidly, appreciatively over our party.

"A table for four," said Dicky, when he and Edwin had appeared an importunate boy with the delivery of their hats, coats and sticks, "where we can see well, but not too near the center of things."

The man bowed with the ready acquiescence which Dicky always manages to elicit from his lik. "Ah! yes, I have exactly what monsieur wishes, the view without the so much contact. This way, please."

He led us to a table which indeed was in an ideal location for our wishes—but Dicky hesitated for several seconds before saying with a touch of loftiness:

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