

IS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY FOR A WIFE?

By Roy B. Parker

"She's been around and knows the ropes. Now she's ready to settle down. She'll make some man a fine wife." So goes an observation often heard these days, and usually about a gal who's got around, threw her weight and curves about and made quite a splash for news and gossip.

To sum things up, she's had her fun from life and at the same time majored in the important subject of "experience". Does such a gal make a sincere, honest, devoted wife in comparison to the home-bred, close-to-the-fireside gal who has spent nearly all her life under parental wings, and awaits her Lochinvar in chaste estate. Such a girl is unacquainted with Life's devious paths, unseen dangers and crushing frustrations. Is she the safer bet for wifely material and the ideal home companion?

The woman with experience has dipped into the various levels of life and though she may be somewhat mortally scarred and physically shopworn, many times she has proven a safe bet for the finest kind of wifehood. She is a good and game sport and knows how to accept life and how to take it on the chin without whimpering and complaining. She has learned that no man is perfect and therefore she accepts her man as he is . . . and loves him. Having turned her back on the unsavory things of life, she is spiritually prepared to do good and shoot straight. Of course there are exceptions where the lures of the Past prove too strong and a woman may be tempted into her old ways once more. But if she has really made up her mind to live straight she will prove a straight shooter and a joy in more than a few ways to the guy who has won her affection.

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LIBRARY CLASS—A popular class in the Johnson C. Smith in Charlotte, N. C., is one in Library Science, taught by the University Librarian, T. L. Gunn (extreme right). Shown in the picture above are members of the class for the current session.

Marriage Romance Up To You And Person On Whom You Bet When He Or She Became Mate

Fate determines the amount of romance you will have in your marriage. But your own knowledge and understanding of romance determine your fate.

Romance in marriage depends upon you and upon the person on whom you bet your life when you married.

In order to keep romance in your marriage, you need to understand the difference between romance before and after a wedding. Some married people are most unhappy because they expected romance in marriage to be exactly like that with which they entered it.

They are doomed to miss romance because of their own expectations. When they fell in love they were caught up and whirled upon dizzy flights of fantasy through rainbow clouds of romantic illusion.

The little time which they could spend together sparked imagination and conjured up ecstatic dreams. Sex urges, which drive toward mating, are blocked for many good reasons in our society. This restriction inflates the power of attraction just as standing in front of a bakery tantalizes the appetite of a hungry person and enhances the anticipation of dining.

When you married, you moved into an intimacy of acquaintance which dissipated much of the dream and confronted you with a "down to earth" husband or wife.

Sex hunger was satisfied. That portion of romance which depends upon dreams and restraining of sex disappeared. The fading away of this part of prematrimonial romance has been interpreted by many as the dying out of love and the passing of romance.

You can keep romance in

your marriage if you understand that what you keep is mostly what you create as you go along, and not just what you had back yonder somewhere.

If you are successful in the general run of ordinary day-to-day getting along and can make your marriage a long story of love filled with enough reassurance to balance the anxiety, enough gladness to chase away the gloom, enough excitement to counteract the drudgery, the adventure of your marriage will be your romance.

Your fate is a happy one if your love for your husband or wife is free of jealousy which characterizes childish or even adolescent love. If you find yourself always thinking about what you can do or say to make your husband or wife happy, your destiny will be full of romance because your love has grown beyond its youthful self-centeredness. You can contribute toward the fulfillment and enrichment of your loved one's life. It isn't a matter of luck, as so many believe.

If both of you have that sort of love for each other. Romance is guaranteed with such loving and such living.

You can keep romance in your marriage if your sex life is an expression of mature love. People who love exploitatively use sex exploitatively. Some people indulge in sex for its own satisfaction, and love has nothing to do with it. If sex is sought on an animal level, nothing but animal returns can be expected.

Other threats to romance, as sex is involved in it, are ignorance and unhealthy attitudes and feelings. Ideas that sex is low and beastly, vulgar and nasty, and sinful will prevent adjustment according to the Creator's plan. Mix deceit and

thoughtlessness, lack of respect, and sex for its own sake—and romance, if not marriage itself, may be doomed.

If this physical and spiritual relationship, which is the most intimate of human communication, serves to convey love with all the finer resources of personality supporting it, a couple may know romance that would be impossible under any other circumstances.

Mix with the feelings of tender affection the idea that sex is a part of God's plan, clean if we are clean. Add sympathy and understanding, courtesy and trust, passion tempered with respect — and contact of bodies may but symbolize the merging of spirits in a oneness that will color romance with rainbows and stars.

You can keep romance in your marriage if you realize that you married quite a flock of relatives along with the lucky one who married you.

You have long since learned that these relatives do not love you in quite the same manner as the person whom you married loves you. In such a case, nothing works quite so well as treating in-laws as if they were not relatives, but valued friends. Some relatives are just that.

But it is easy to take things for granted, and make assumptions which can be misinterpreted as taking advantage, ignoring the common courtesies and disregarding the rights of others when no such things is intended. We want our relatives to feel freer with us and we assume that they want us to feel free with them.

The best insurance for happy relationships is in being more careful and considerate than with people in general.