

Woman's Realm :- Social and Personal :- Fashions :- Literature

Dorothy Dix Letter Box

Disillusioned Wife Will Find Greater Happiness if She Overlooks Husband's One Lapse From Grace — Should Conceit in a Boy be Overlooked? — Rose-Petal Pete is Disconcerted to Find His Love-making Taken Seriously

Dear Miss Dix—I am a woman past 50. Have been married more than thirty years. When we married my husband had just \$5 in his pocket, but we worked together, saved and have prospered. About a year ago I found some letters that a woman had written my husband telling of an affair between them. This almost killed me, to think that the husband I had loved so had deceived me, but he denies everything. Says he loves only me and wants me to stay with him, but I feel that I can never trust him again and that my love for him is dead. What must I do? Shall I leave him, or spend the balance of my life this way? Would I be happier away from him? If he would confess everything and ask me to forgive him, I would feel so much better, but he denies everything. Tell me what to do.



Answer:

No one can tell you what to do, poor, disillusioned wife. That is a matter that your own heart must settle, but I do urge you to try to look upon your husband's sidestepping with as lenient an eye as possible, and to believe that he has very likely not been a knave but a fool, and that when he says that there has been nothing between him and the woman except a little flirtation, he is telling you the truth.

Heaven knows why, but middle age is the age of indiscretion with men. It is then when a man who has pulled steadily in double harness for twenty-five or thirty years goes suddenly coltish and kicks over the traces. It is then that a man loses all caution in dealing with women and becomes the easy prey of any gold-digger who happens along. It is then that men write ashine letters that they sign "Laddie Boy" and that their lawyers have to buy back a great price. It is then that men who really adore their wives and think them the greatest and only women in the world get into silly flirtations that break their wives' hearts.

And it is then that a wise woman overworks her funnybone instead of her ear ducts and buys her a ticket to Europe instead of Reno. For all of this is just a passing phase with her husband and if she will give him time he will get over it and come back repentant and more devoted than ever to mother. For it doesn't take long for the man to find out that this sudden renewal of youth was a false alarm and that he isn't a boy again, but the same old man with the same old rheumatism and the same old necessity to watch his diet, and that he wheezes when he dances and can't go the pace with youth.

And he finds out that the pretty little flappers bore him to death and he hasn't anything to talk to them about, as he has with ma, with whom he has the memories of a lifetime. And, in spite of all their flatteries and cajoleries, he can't help suspecting the women who always have their hands in his pocketbook and contrasting them with the faithful old wife who worked and saved and pinched pennies to save for him.

I am not denying that it is a hard thing for any woman, and especially a woman who looks in the glass and sees herself grown fat and grizzled and middle-aged, to find out that her husband has been philandering around with another woman, no matter even if he has just been nibbling at forbidden fruit without making a meal of it. But if she could only see it as it so often is, just a middle-aged fling, and laugh it off instead of making a tragedy of it, it would be so much better for her as well as for him.

Because after a woman has loved a man for thirty years, and lived with him in peace and harmony all that time, he has become so much a part of her life that she has no life without him, and if she divorces him it leaves her as maimed as if she had lopped off an arm or a leg.

Why, she hasn't had a thought since her wedding day that hasn't been centered around him. She hasn't had a hope or an inspiration that was not for him. She hasn't cooked a meal that wasn't built around what he liked to eat. She hasn't bought a dress or a hat without considering his taste more than her own.

He has been her sun and moon and stars, and any life without him has no meaning. What would be the use of getting up a good dinner if he was not there to eat it. What pleasure in a pretty frock, if he was not to see it? What would she have to think about it she were not planning for him?

Then anger soon dies down, and the woman who has had a long, happy married life, but who has divorced her husband because he has stumbled off the straight and narrow path in his middle age, begins to remember a thousand kindnesses, a thousand tenderesses, all the sympathy and consideration he has shown her in their many years together.

The time he went without a new suit to buy her some new trinket she craved. The nights he sat by her bed when she was ill. The generous way he took in her mother when her father died. The way he took her in his arms when their first baby was born. Little coffins they wept over together. A lot on the credit side of the ledger to balance one bad entry on the debit.

So there you are in this very common situation in which a middle-aged man fancies himself a boy again and tries to see if he has lost his old technique in love-making. Or when some adventuress gets hold of him and plays him for a sucker. Hard on the wife. Bitter hard. There will be the flavor of aloes in her mouth as long as she lives, but life will be gall and wormwood to her if she divorces her husband.

Far better and far happier for her if she treats him as she used to do her bad little boys when they played truant, and just spanks him and kisses him and forgives him and forgets it. DOROTHY DIX.

Dear Miss Dix—Would you overlook the fault of conceit in a boy if you liked him? ANTONIA.

Surely. Provided, of course, that he was not so egotistical that he was unendurable. No virtue that a boy could possibly have would atone for the boredom of having to listen to him eternally monologue about himself, about how great and wonderful he is, and how all the girls fall for him.

But a fair amount of self-conceit one can stand, provided it is offset by other good qualities. Indeed, conceit is sometimes a virtue, for we can only do what we think we can do and occasionally it is an incentive to a boy to live up to his own opinion of himself.

But why not do some missionary work in deflating his ego? DOROTHY DIX.

Dear Dorothy Dix—I am a man of 32 and have always told every girl I went out with that I loved her. Now a girl that I told that to believed me and wants me to settle down and marry her, which I don't want to do. I feel sorry for her and I haven't got the nerve to tell her that I don't care for her. What must I do? ROSE PETAL PETE.

Answer: I should think that a man who signs himself "Rose Petal Pete" would have imagination enough to cope with any situation, so I feel that any advice of mine is superfluous.

However, as you ask my opinion, I urge you to undeceive the girl at once as to your sentiments. Probably it won't astonish her or break her heart as much as you think it will. At any rate, don't marry a girl whom you don't love just because you haven't the courage to let her know you were kidding her. She would find it out soon enough after you were married and that would mean misery both for her and for you. DOROTHY DIX.

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Barbon's VANILLA

For The Cook

BAKED HALIBUT

Have Halibut 1½ or 2 inches in thickness. Place in pan and cover with milk. Cut fine, small onion and sprinkle over milk. Season with salt and pepper and dot with butter. Bake in moderate oven.

Broiled Oysters

Take largest oysters, clean, scald, drain, dry on a towel and dip each into softened butter till well coated and then in seasoned flour. Lay them on buttered broiler. Cook over clear coal until light brown. Serve on slices of thin buttered toast. If done by gas stove, lay toast under broiler to catch drip. Fine cracker crumbs may be used instead of flour. Oysters that have been breaded for frying are good broiled. Allow 6 oysters to a serving.

OYSTER STEW

One quart oysters, 1 cup liquor, ½ cup water, ½ teaspoon salt, ½ teaspoon pepper, 2 tablespoons butter, 1 tablespoon rolled cracker, ½ cup milk or cream.

Clean and pick over oysters as for oyster soup. Heat oyster liquor and water to boiling point, strain and add oysters. Heat until oysters grow plump and edges curl. Add seasonings, butter and cracker crumbs, add salted milk or cream before serving. Serves 6.

OYSTER PANCAKES

One dozen oysters, ½ cup oyster liquor, ½ cup milk, 1 egg beaten, 1 cup flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, ½ teaspoon salt, pepper.

Six oyster liquor with milk, add beaten egg, then stir in sifted, dry ingredients. Add oysters whole if small, chopped if large, and fry until brown. Serves 4.



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Canadian Cookery For Canadian Women

By Mari Moore. Specially contributed to the Guardian for Guardian Readers.

Party-Time is Here Again Starting With Halloween And Ghosts

Overhead from the kitchen when attending a little informal tea-party: "Hey Ma, when can I have a party? You're always having a bunch of women in." This from a tweedy sprout of a lad of school age.

Even though her mind was at the moment fully occupied with the important task of brewing tea, this smart little mother thought quickly and said "How would you like to invite everybody to a Halloween party?"

"Gee, that'll be keen! What will we have to eat?"

"Oh, dear, wait until I think about it."

See if some of the recipes we have been preparing for this occasion will help you to "think about it."

Couldn't you do things with gingerbread by using orange icing and licorice candy to trim it?

But there! I am putting the last things first when I have some game suggestions to give you and a new way to make a mask to tell you about.

Wail-Eyed Bill Mask

The mask is made from a shoe box, and by the way the fact that it is homemade might take away some of the glamor if it is to be used by one of your kiddies to wear for his Halloween prowling. So, a clever mother will promise "Wail-eyed Bill" to the one who has the best record at school that week, or for whatever good behaviour she wishes to reward, but will keep his identity a secret until the right to possess him has been won.

To get the measurement for making a "Wail-eyed Bill" mask, hold the shoe box before your face with one end resting on the top of your head. Mark it for length to a little below the chin. Mark again for the length of the nose and the eyes. It is not important where the mouth comes—in fact, the more awkward the better. Trim away the bottom of the box, leaving a rounded edge in front and straight edges under the ears.

With India Ink, or heavy charcoal crayon, make a heavy line of hair, cut in bangs along the top and long at the sides. Cut out slits for the eyes big enough to see well, and then enlarge them with crayon and make very long "Ella Cinders" eyelashes. Cut out a triangle big enough to allow the nose of the wearer to come through comfortably. Draw a big sideways grinning mouth with several teeth missing. Attach tapes at upper back corners.

This mask is really effective and just as amusing for a grown up as for a child.

Games for kiddies' parties never seem to be a problem for they have not yet had their fill of bobbing for apples in a tub, listening to weird ghost stories, pulling taffy and all the time-honored Halloween stunts.

Halloween Hokus

Games for grown-ups worry us somewhat. But whether your crowd is a bridge playing one or not; no matter how sophisticated—their interest will be aroused over the hokus devised for this bridge game.

To put this stunt across successfully the hostess must have the help of a male member of the crowd, for he will be the "ghost." Guests are seated at their appointed

Halloween Supper Menus

Menu 1: Welsh rarebit; ice cream sandwiches; coffee.

Menu 2: Curried eggs and mushrooms in patty shells; orange ice; hot gingerbread; elder.

Menu 3: Toasted cheese rolls; rice olives; individual pumpkin pies; cocoa.

Halloween Light Refreshments

Menu 1: Goblin sandwiches; wit-

ed places and go about playing bridge seriously, just as if it were not a Halloween party at all.

Very shortly the hostess announces she has received a mysterious warning that they are to be visited by a ghost but she does not know when, so they might as well go ahead and play until it appears.

She must arrange to sit near the light switch so that when new hands are dealt and bid all round, she may suddenly switch off the lights and rap sharply three times and the ghost appears. If he is in his stocking feet he can step quickly into the midst of the crowd without being heard, then flood his head and shoulders with the light from a flash. The effect is quite startling.

He announces in sepulchral tones that unless each player forfeits his five best cards to the player at his right he will suffer eternal torture, the original bid to stand. He turns off the flash, makes a hasty exit, the hostess snaps on the lights, and the guests all tittering but a-flutter exchange cards as they are told. You can imagine their bewilderment when their well-laid plans for a three-diamond bid have to be worked out minus the diamonds.

After this hand has been played, the score must be kept, no matter how ridiculous.

The tension may be increased if the ghost from without produces weird moanings to herald his approach. Chams might be clanked.

Allow only a few hands to be played before adding up the scores when the ghost will suddenly appear again, announcing that to sum up his score each player will add the score of his partner to his own and subtract the score of his right hand opponent.

Other suggestions for the ghost to make that will add to the interest of the occasion are:

On one round, four cards are removed from the pack to be dealt, without any player knowing which are the missing cards. The hand will then be bid and played as in ordinary bridge.

In another hand each player must leave three cards on the table face down in front of him without having looked at them. The hand is bid and played as usual up to the three final tricks. Then every one can pick up his cards and finish the hand with this doubtful treasure. This always makes a speedy and exciting hand, with plenty of suspense right up to the end.

Halloween tallies and favors and prizes, of course, will be selected and with the foregoing suggestions as a start, you will doubtless devise many new tricks of your own to carry out the spirit of the party.

"We Want Food"

With gingerbread and Devil's Food cake a Halloween feast can be made to look quite spooky.

It would be worth while to purchase a sandwich or cookie cutter in the shape of a cat or witch—the effect is worth the trouble.

Ice Cream Sandwiches

Cut two and one half inch squares of chocolate cake about one half inch thick. Between two of these squares put a slice of orange ice cream. Decorate with section of fresh orange.

Curried Eggs and Mushrooms in Patty Shells

One tablespoon chopped onion, 2 tablespoons butter, 2 1-2 tablespoons flour, 1 cup water (or if canned mushrooms are used, use liquor from can with added water), 1 teaspoon curry powder 1-2 teaspoon salt; 1 1-2 cups mushrooms, 1 tablespoon butter, 1-2 cup cream, 3 hard-boiled eggs. Cook the onion in the

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ches face sponge cake; coffee.

Menu 2: Open face black cat sandwiches: orange sponge, chocolate popped corn balls; cocoa.

WELSH RAREBIT

One tablespoon butter, 1 teaspoon cornstarch; 1-2 cup thin cream; 1-2 pound soft mild cheese; cut in pieces, 1-4 teaspoon salt; 1-4 teaspoon mustard, shake of cayenne, toasted bread or crackers. Melt butter, blend in cornstarch and stir until mixed, then add gradually and stirring constantly the cream, and cook two minutes. Add cheese and stir until cheese is melted. Add seasonings and serve on toast points or toasted crackers. A rarebit should be smooth and of creamy consistency—1 stringy add one egg slightly beaten.

NO HURRY

Henry had been friendly with butter. Blend in flour and stir well. Add the water or mushroom liquor, and gradually add while stirring constantly until thick. Add the curry powder and salt and simmer for ten minutes. Add the mushrooms which have been slightly sauteed in butter and the chopped hard cooked eggs. Add cream and bring to boiling point before serving in patty shells.

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