

CHAPTER III
COURTSHIP—FOR THE MAN

COURTSHIP FOR THE MAN

DEAR MADAM —

I would like you to give me good information or advice about girls so that I may talk to them I am lone my father and mother are dead over ten years and my sisters live in St Louis and Memphis

I am 27 years old not married I never go with girls Never talk with them nor call on them but one They never invite me to dance party I dont understand why This is my home town and I love it I do not want to go to City to find girls company

I do not want to ask town boys for advice as they put me in wrong way I would like to work out the problem myself

I do hope you will help me

J B

CHAPTER III

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Let them have a period of courtship for it is my desire and will that true love should forever precede marriage —*Brahma*

THE importance of courtship cannot be overemphasized. Wooing not only possesses its own beauty but it is a step that should never be neglected in the foundation of a happy marriage. It should not be looked upon as a troublesome preliminary encouraged only by custom and tradition but like infancy childhood and youth this period is a necessary and beautiful one in any well rounded developed life.

An ardent wooer is most apt to be a successful husband. A negligent thoughtless or careless wooer very often is unable to bring happiness to any woman.

Yet, skillful art to woo is not a God given gift showered upon some fortunate young men and denied to the rest. Nature has wisely provided normal and healthy young men with the

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rudiments of this art Given the necessary interest and ardor awakened by the process known as falling in love a young man need only use his intelligence eloquently to express this fine impulse

First of all he must recognize that thoughtlessness is the first barrier to love If he thinks only to satisfy his own wishes he can scarcely hope to awaken in his sweetheart enduring love The girl may be partially in love with this youth but if on repeated occasions she is hurt by unconcealed or ill concealed selfish acts she is bound to be disappointed

Thoughtlessness ordinarily takes the form of selfishness The successful wooer must therefore learn to think first of the wishes of his beloved and do all in his power to fulfill her hidden desires His early experiences in juvenile or adolescent courtship may form the basis of his experience in the all important role of marriage

Remember that games and sports of every kind develop the sense of good sportsmanship and fair play These are part of the foundations of behavior In mature life the rules of the game are essential also for the life of love

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Nevertheless, when the young man falls seriously in love, when the blind, imperious and driving grip of sex attraction holds him his early training in self control must help him to become its master and not its slave. This instinct is powerful. It seeks only its own satisfaction. It is a primitive, ferocious consuming force that so often drives the young lover to actions which would appear selfish. Many young men, fine fellows and admirable in all other fields of life, often fail to master this imperious instinct, thereby defeating their own purpose and happiness.

This is the real cause of so many elopements, runaway marriages, misalliances. Many are said to fall in love with a pretty face. Passion gets the upper hand, and they choose as a mate some girl manifestly unfitted by character, training and personality to become a life mate, although her very qualities might make her, by taste and temperament, a most suitable wife for some other man. Not all runaway marriages are failures, but like most reckless acts, the risk is great, and when one realizes that one may be gambling upon one's whole future happiness, the young man and the young woman, as well, should stop and think.

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before leaping into the unchartered sea of premature matrimony

Every marriage should be skillfully launched. The period of wooing is the wise provision of nature and custom by which both youth and girl are permitted to discover the hidden qualities in the character of the other qualities which mean infinitely more in the building and creating of married happiness than conventional skin deep beauty or handsomeness.

For the young man wooing must be a great adventure. It is a voyage of discovery and exploration. He discovers the hidden beauties in the character of the one he loves concealed behind the curtain of her modesty or even unknown to her. He discovers her innocent whims her buried wishes. Then by compliments little gifts or thoughtful acts he brings to her attention by a series of surprises the results of this voyage.

Long before physical love between them is possible there may be a psychic or spiritual communion between two young persons. This psychic prelude is absolutely necessary as a prerequisite for successful love making on a physical plane. Psychic and spiritual unity is

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essential—otherwise love would remain on the level of a physiological function

Inhibited and restrained by the false restrictions of so called polite society too many repressed young men take up the task of love-making in too tame and effete a style Faint heart ne er won fair lady says the old adage

I have perhaps over emphasized the danger of becoming a slave to passion but one must not forget that there must be passion There must be an imperious driving force in back of all wooing It should never be permitted to sink to the boresome fulfillment of a certain number of weekly or monthly calls tiresome restrained participation in ordinary social functions Romance to live must not be caged in the atmosphere of tame domesticity, nor deprived of the opportunity to soar

To the young man therefore who would woo successfully I urge these suggestions

First Dramatize your love

Second Carry into action the generous impulses inspired and awakened by your beloved

Third Be aggressive It is the role of love to act be fearless but at the same time be chivalrous for aggressiveness without respect is brutal and offensive

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But this does not mean that the lover should not act out his ardor. When I counsel you to dramatize your love I mean that instead of seeking satisfaction in reveries, day dreams, or morbid fancies, you should seek to awaken and hold the interest of the girl of your heart by a continuous series of surprises, unexpected meetings, gifts, tokens, and evidences that indicate to her that she is uppermost and supreme in your thoughts.

Many young lovers today are too likely to assume that they can easily hold the interest of the girl they love. They take too much for granted. This is the reason so many love affairs die a slow, lingering death. The youth may be able to arouse the interest of a girl, but how long can he hold it?

Remember that the majority of girls, no matter how completely mistresses of themselves they may at first appear, are often filled with misgivings concerning their own attractiveness and desirability. Usually girls are more acutely aware of what they consider their bad points than they are conceited over their good points.

The adroit and intelligent lover must seek to reawaken in the girl a sense of her own value.

her own worthiness her own charm The wooer thus creates in his beloved a sense of self esteem and happiness He is creating a hitherto inexperienced elation a warmth which brings the color to the girl's cheeks an ecstasy which makes her eyes bright so that in brief love actually does work a strange miracle The girl in many cases, becomes almost as beautiful as the wooer believes her to be Love may cure as some have claimed, and it is no less certain that it brings a new beauty to the beloved

By such means as these the young woman is made conscious that she also possesses the mysterious power to inspire love to awaken desire By words looks glances half concealed the girl is brought by the adroit lover to the satisfying realization that her good points by far outnumber her defects Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder and the real wooer must awaken in his beloved the realization that she is charming and to him as desirable as she would like to be

The average girl is a Cinderella at heart The man who would be a successful wooer must re enact the rôle of the Prince

There is after all a poet hidden in the heart

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of every ardent wooer The poetry inspired by love need not always be expressed in words but the lover must aim to awaken the girl's latent interest in the infinite variety of the world increase her zest and enjoyment of life He must learn to invest the simplest everyday activities of living with a keener pleasure Under his magic spell life which heretofore may have been drab and monotonous to her takes on a more vivid color and beauty

A poor young man just starting in the great battle for a living and economic independence may here object that such a courtship may lead him into debt but this need not be so Costly gifts and expensive entertainments showered on a young girl are not necessary It is not the amount or the quantity of gifts that wins a girl's heart For unless they are the outward expression of a fine inner love, they can mean little to the girl who is worth winning

On the other hand the man in love finding economic barriers actually may be aided in his siege by being forced to develop ingenuity by planning innumerable inexpensive unexpected surprises even by adding a touch of

secrecy to his courtship and thus making it more of an adventure and more thrilling to both

I even go so far as to claim that love is often strengthened when confronted by obstacles For each obstacle overcome each obstruction surmounted increases the man's confidence in himself A prize lightly won is rarely highly valued

There are innumerable possibilities in gestures which the skillful wooer will make use of to express his thoughtfulness and ardor He will find out the favorite color the preferred perfume, the favorite flower of the girl he loves as well as all of her caprices and whims

So many men make the mistake of concerning themselves too exclusively with their own emotions their own instincts their own pleasures their own needs But the successful lover on the other hand concentrates all of his attention on the woman of his choice His whole effort in courtship is to awaken the woman he desires to the realization that she is essential to his well being as necessary as sunlight and fresh air To him she becomes a supreme being respected and worshipped With every word every gesture and act he

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aims to lift this love out of the realm of reality into that of romance or better still he transmutes her ordinary everyday world with the beauty of romance and love

And if he fail? If the girl whom he has selected as the object of his love be fickle or capricious or unable through some innate deficiency or restriction to reciprocate his ardor is all of love's labor lost? To this there is but one answer—No! There is profound truth in the saying 'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. To woo, seriously desperately ardently and dramatically—this in itself irrespective of the final outcome—victory or defeat—is one of life's most noble valuable and far reaching experiences

The great danger of the disappointed lover lies in the fact that he may succumb to the temptation of becoming a self pitying cynic concerning women. If he has courted her ardently adroitly skillfully tenderly and nevertheless is faced finally with defeat, this experience will notwithstanding have taught him much. It will have heightened and intensified his appreciation of the meaning of life. It will have taught him the significance of pain and defeat—great teachers both. But

the very ecstasy of the experience he has gone through the tonic effect of his enjoyment the increased zest he has felt in the simple every day pleasures of living will remain in the young man's memory They will remain long after the pain of defeat has been forgotten and it will be the memory of this first great love affair even if perchance it has not led to a happy marriage that will spur him on to new conquest make him a more ardent more skillful and inevitably a more successful husband

There are no set rules or regulations for courtship There are no signposts leading straight to the heart of a woman Each love must create anew the rules of life's great game It does not matter so much how difficult its rules are provided only that both play it fair and square on the level and above board

The young man will remember that the keenest pleasure is in the pursuit and let the young woman never forget that what is easily won is lightly prized

Courtship in conclusion must be adventurous daring exciting romantic The great danger in this day is not that it be too recklessly romantic but that it be too tamely

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accepted too anemic, too lifeless The woman pursuing the man passively accepting

Many love affairs die of inanition They never mature because of inhibitions restrictions suppressions and timid shames When you fall in love, put life and joy into that love Give yourself grandly to each stage of its journey Do not be afraid to take the plunge in matrimony when you are sure of your love

For love stimulates the whole glandular system releases into the body a fresh supply of energy breaks through the old inhibiting and hindering fears sweeps aside narrow prim and priggish ideas of life's values brings new spring to the step fresh color to the cheeks depth and sparkle to the eye Love taps an unsuspected and inexhaustible supply of energy which the young lover may convert into ambition and achievement That is why all the world loves a lover and that is why men and women must learn to remain in love even though married