

Q: But what if we want to raise a family?

A: These days, it's no big deal to get a divorce, it's even a fairly respectable thing to do in many instances. But there's really no way to chain yourself to another human being like makin' babies. Just because you two can push aside your doubts (as to whether your genes really are important for all of humanity or that you're little future privileged first world munchkin won't be a burden to this sad, overpopulated planet) doesn't mean you need to get married.

Q: What if we really love each other and want to take vows?

A: So take vows if you want to. Promise all kinds of crap to each other. But do you really need to make all your friends and family buy fancy clothes, shoes, airplane tickets, presents, and then stand around and watch you two gush gooey and excessively optimistic expectations of each other?

Don't get MARRIED

THERE ARE ONLY A COUPLE OF GOOD REASONS ANYONE SHOULD GET HITCHED

- getting to live in another country
- getting at an inheritance or fund
- if it's a good front for some kind of sketchy or illegal activity

PEOPLE OFTEN FEEL THE NEED TO GET MARRIED, BUT FOR DUMB REASONS

- so they can finally: live together/ start their adult life/ have sex/ make babies
- they feel it's the only logical next step for two people in a LTR
- they must profess undying love for each other in front of everyone
- or - they're so in love their brains have turned to mush (it happens)

LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE PRESSURED INTO GETTING MARRIED BY:

- all their friends are getting married
- their parents
- their religion
- fear of being alone
- being proposed to

Oh god! She's not happy! What if she says no in front of everyone?

Oh fuck! What can I say?

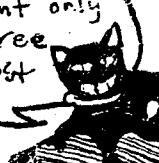


AVOIDING MARRIAGE SHOULD ENABLE YOU TO AVOID SEVERAL POSSIBLE LIFE-LONG DISASTERS

- Realizing you're 83 and have been climbing into bed every night with someone you've hated for the past 45 years
- Working 50 hours a week at age 59 because you're still paying off the house, cars, and all those college educations
- putting off doing anything important to raise a couple of brats who hate you, only to die in a minivan crash
- losing touch with all the amazing people that make you happy to be alive when your spouse gets a job and you've had to relocate to a suburb of Detroit

"But... I always thought I'd get married someday, I mean that's what everyone wants, right?"

No, silly. Smart humans want only happiness and experts agree that marriage makes most people miserable, boring and dependant.



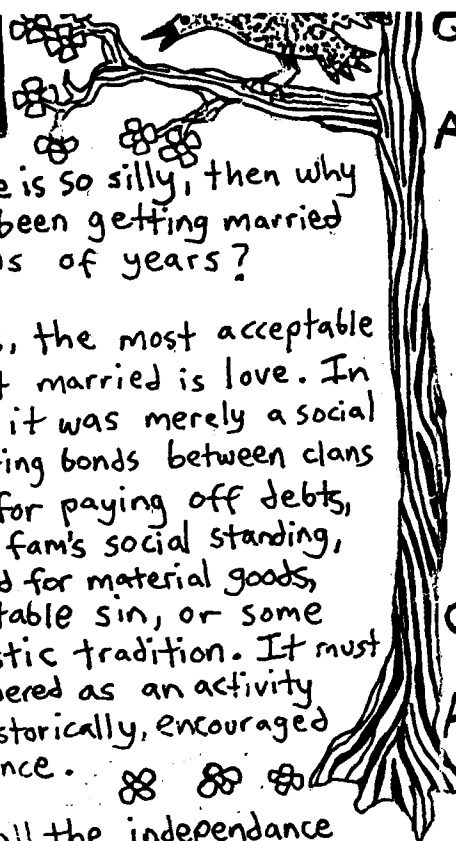
Q+A

Q: If marriage is so silly, then why have humans been getting married for thousands of years?

A: These days, the most acceptable reason to get married is love. In most cultures it was merely a social tool for creating bonds between clans or families, for paying off debts, increasing the fam's social standing, trading the kid for material goods, avoiding inevitable sin, or some goofy ritualistic tradition. It must also be considered as an activity which has, historically, encouraged male dominance.

Q: But with all the independence and equality women have these days, isn't marriage better than ever?

A: Well, according to some people, feminism has tainted marriage as it was once known. By encouraging women to seek their own careers, they are no longer dependant on the hubby for income or stability. While this in itself may help women avoid or break out of bad marriages, the real kicker is the individualistic views that feminism gave women, i.e.: Lulu's happiness is more important than any social or cultural responsibility. Additionally, women are usually the ones to initiate divorce. So, back to the question, marriage still sucks but divorce is better than ever!



Q: What if I'm sure she's the one I want to grow old with?

A: A lot of people enter marriage with a pathetic yearning for stability. To know their other half will be by their side into old age, to never have to attend social functions alone, to always wake up next to someone, to never need to make difficult decisions by yourself, to never be lonely, to always have a best friend, etc. Realistically, laying such expectations on anyone is setting yourself up for disappointment.

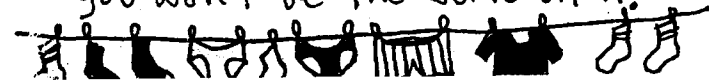
Q: What if we're sure we were meant for each other?



A: Come on! There's no master plan set up just for you two love birds! If you're so sure, why ya asking? No one with $\frac{1}{2}$ a brain wants their future to be pre-determined, that's the great thing about life... it's yours and you get to do what you decide.

Q: If we don't get married soon, I'm afraid he'll go and marry someone else!

A: A lot of people view marriage as the answer to the inevitable break-up. If he loves you, and you two want to continue on with things as they've been going, it'll all work out fine. If he does run off and marry someone, he probably just wanted some dumb bitch to do his laundry. At least you won't be the dumb bitch!



Q: I'm totally in love: What do I do now?

A: Fucking enjoy it! Since most marriages end in 2-3 years anyway, just enjoy your relationship while it lasts. Not to be pessimistic about the good ole' LTR, but studies show that most people fall in love 5-8 times in their life. So it's possible to have a different amazing lover each decade of your life. Why cheat yourself?

Q: We want to have an open marriage where we can pursue other people, Isn't that a good solution?

A: Of course monogamy is not ideal for lots of people, but what does getting married stand for if you acknowledge the need to allow others into your lives? Most people get married to live seperately from everyone else: to share a checkbook, a name, a one bedroom apartment, etc. If you have an open marriage, you'll most likely find someone who's cooler, more intelligent and a better fuck than your spouse, so why bother?

Q: What if this relationship is the only thing I've succeeded in my whole life?

A: You're doomed. If you're not secure in your beliefs, activities, and importance to the world, you can't really love and respect someone who thinks you're the best person ever.