



Getting Married

George Bernard Shaw

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There is no subject on which more dangerous nonsense is talked and thought than marriage. From Shaw we have a "marital" play of talk, not action -- but talk that seems to come from the best debating society; it's more of a dialogue than a play. But the talk is always stimulating and entertaining. Shaw is not concerned with marriage as an activity; he is focused on marriage as an institution.

Getting Married Details

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Author : George Bernard Shaw

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Sara says

This was out there and out dated, but interesting nonetheless. The first 40% is an essay by Shaw about English marriage in the early 1900's, in which he is more pro-divorce (as an option) than he is anti-marriage and overall he's pro-equal rights for women. His arguments were well crafted and the comparison of marriage then and now made for interesting self banter.

The last 60% of the book is the play about marriage which was solid and witty. I imagine it would be fun to see it performed.

Amal Shoeib says

Here are the parts thaT i REALLY LOVED

"The stupidity is only apparent: the service was really only an honest attempt to make the best of a commercial contract of property and slavery by subjecting it to some religious restraint and elevating it by some touch of poetry. But the actual result is that when two people are under the influence of the most violent, most insane, most delusive, and most transient of passions, they are required to swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal, and exhausting condition continuously until death do them part. And though of course nobody expects them to do anything so impossible and so unwholesome, yet the law that regulates their relations, and the public opinion that regulates that law, is actually founded on the assumption that the marriage vow is not only feasible but beautiful and holy, and that if they are false to it, they deserve no sympathy and no relief."

AND

"The truth which people seem to overlook in this matter is that the marriage ceremony is quite useless as a magic spell for changing in an instant the nature of the relations of two human beings to one another. If a man marries a woman after three weeks acquaintance, and the day after meets a woman he has known for twenty years, he finds, sometimes to his own irrational surprise and his wife's equally irrational indignation, that his wife is a stranger to him, and the other woman an old friend. Also, there is no hocus pocus that can possibly be devised with rings and veils and vows and benedictions that can fix either a man's or woman's affection for twenty minutes, much less twenty years. Even the most affectionate couples must have moments during which they are far more conscious of one another's faults than of one another's attractions. "

AND

"To a woman without property or marketable talent a husband is more necessary than a master to a dog. There is nothing more wounding to our sense of human dignity than the husband hunting that begins in every family when the daughters become marriageable; but it is inevitable under existing circumstances; and the parents who refuse to engage in it are bad parents, though they may be superior individuals. The cubs of a humane tigress would starve; and the daughters of women who cannot bring themselves to devote several years of their lives to the pursuit of sons-in-law often have to expatiate their mother's squeamishness by life-long celibacy and indigence. To ask a young man his intentions when you know he has no intentions, but is unable to deny that he has paid attentions; to threaten an action for breach of promise of marriage; to pretend that your daughter is a musician when she has with the greatest difficulty been coached into playing three

piano-forte pieces which she loathes; to use your own mature charms to attract men to the house when your daughters have no aptitude for that department of sport; to coach them, when they have, in the arts by which men can be led to compromise themselves; and to keep all the skeletons carefully locked up in the family cupboard until the prey is duly hunted down and bagged: all this is a mother's duty today; and a very revolting duty it is: one that disposes of the conventional assumption that it is in the faithful discharge of her home duties that a woman finds her self-respect. The truth is that family life will never be decent, much less ennobling, until this central horror of the dependence of women on men is done away with. At present it reduces the difference between marriage and prostitution to the difference between Trade Unionism and unorganized casual labor: a huge difference, no doubt, as to order and comfort, but not a difference in kind."

AND

"We may expect, then, that marriages which are maintained by economic pressure alone will dissolve when that pressure is removed; and as all the parties to them will certainly not accept a celibate life, the law must sanction the dissolution in order to prevent a recurrence of the scandal "

AND FINALLY!!

"it is clear that no marriage is any longer indissoluble; and the sensible thing to do then is to grant divorce whenever it is desired, without asking why."

Fabio says

I finished reading this book on 6/26/13, the same day two rulings in favor of same-sex marriage were issued by the supreme court of the United States. The fact that it would be impossible to bring up the questions and opinions raised by this hundred-year-old book in a public forum today without being lynched by the so-called progressive and the superficially tolerant is simultaneously amusing and depressing.

Wessam Ahmed says

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Osman Ali says

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There is truth to the premise that marriage will not change a person or the relations between two people, and that therefore everyone must realize, appreciate and embrace the 'normal pitch' that they operate at. That the

Mohamed Elymany says

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Khaled Al-Bahnsawy says

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Bassem Qoulta says

I liked that George could make me feel that I'm in the real word when I was reading it :)
and I liked the end because it's so logical to our human nature ..because the marriage is like this
equation $1+1=1$ Not 2 this is the Deep human feeling of marriage ...

Corvinus Maximilus says

This should be a title of a rap song ; “Who has more wit than George Bernard Shaw?” Whenever I read him I start to fantasize meeting him, we sit sipping tea in an Irish cottage. Where I shall stare at him in awe and absorb his essence in a totally creepy and science fiction way. This play was written in 1908 but is still so relevant, it is a witty analysis on different views on what marriage is or should be. He examines different types of marriages why some are successful and others end in divorce, the characters he chose are funny and very clever. You will find that there is one with whom you identify with; be it Leo the silly-clever one or Mrs. George with her outrageous yet perhaps a tad right minded view on marriage. I personally felt a kinship with Miss Grantham; she questions marriage and what women get out of it, she isn't sentimental about the subject. When faced with the question of love she retorts “Oh love! Have you no imagination?..” If you are planning on getting married; read this play. If you have questions about marriage; read this play. If you enjoy witty word play and hilarious characters; read this play.
