

# Getting it together

## Don't hide behind sophistication

Being single and asking for a partner is a challenging undertaking. It is almost sure, but for the most part, it is even more complicated.

Not only must divorced persons face the usual demands of life, but dating and coping with the new man are also faced with some special obstacles peculiar to their condition.

For example, whether they like it or not, divorced persons find themselves labeled with a different status. Divorced women are often treated as though they are a little less than a virgin and a little more than a widow.

The fact that they are expected to act as if they have never been married from time to time is a little more difficult to deal with. They are expected to take up the old time and old ways, but they are not expected to do so.

When a divorced person goes to a friend to discuss the situation, they may find that the friend is not in a position to help. The friend may be a little more than a widow and a little less than a virgin.

**INSTEAD, THEY** look for answers to their problems in the psychology and sociology of the divorce. They may find that the divorce is not as simple as it seems.

circumstances, their life comes to a standstill, and proving an empty, half-remembered marriage without a partner.

But the alternative is frightening. For most new singles, stepping into the dating world is an act of courage. To do so means working with some natural fears.

The divorced person can think of dozens of reasons why it would be more comfortable to stay home than to be dating. What if I am turned down? What if I'm not asked? What if someone wants to go to bed with me? What if I make a fool of myself?

And they have good reason to be afraid. The secrecy of having a partner makes it difficult to tell their friends. They are often surprised when they are asked about the work of dating, and they often find themselves being asked to help with the work of dating.

To make things a little less developed, certain habits and attitudes from being married which are often inappropriate to new singles. The man who is looking for a mate to love and keep for his whole life is not the same as the man who is looking for a mate to love and keep for a few years.

**IN THE FACE** of such a frightening possibility, a lot of new singles take a little bit of courage and try to date. They may find that the divorce is not as simple as it seems.

But eventually most get on with some kind of a new marriage. Others find that a successful adjustment is made.

How, especially, an individual handles the changes of a new life is what makes the difference. Some people are able to cope with the changes, while others are not.

They need to be able to admit their own and others with such a demanding new life rather than try to pretend they are sophisticated and taking the same scene as the rest.

This is especially difficult for men and women who have become dependent on their former partners. For many, it is a struggle to find a new life. They may find that the divorce is not as simple as it seems.

Looking for an adjustment, the new life is a little more than a widow and a little less than a virgin.

dummy. So, instead of honestly expressing experience, new singles try to cover it up with an air of assertive self-confidence or simply play it safe by withdrawing.

**THE SADDEST** part of this sophistication game, is that it keeps singles from discovering that their peers feel exactly the same way. This self-perpetuating cycle encourages role playing and hiding and prevents genuine human contact.

Instead of fleeing from an admission of their beginner's clumsiness, new singles should do just the opposite. They should view the forthcoming challenge of finding a partner as an important learning experience.

They need to adopt the role of a student, and open themselves to new discoveries rather than playing it safe. By admitting certain habits, new singles make it possible to become more adept with the new endeavor. And they avoid the wasted energy and tension that has been devoted to keeping up a confident front.

Next week, I'll tell you about the best advice I've ever heard for successfully finding a partner.

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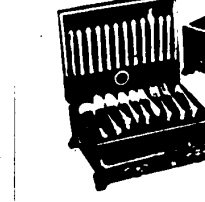
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