

Is THIRTY the Love? Deadline?

Elsie Davis holds a unique place in the hearts of her countrymen. She is one of the most popular entertainers in the world. Her early successes as star of "The Belle of New York," "The Fortune Teller," "The Duchess," "The Vanderbilt Cup," "The Dukes," and many other plays, were entirely eclipsed by the personal triumphs she secured when she undertook to write for the stage, manage it and star in it. During the war she provided the isolated men with such entertainment, such sparkling humor, that she endeared herself to them forever.

By **ELSIE JANIS**
I have never envied a philosopher his power to philosophize.
The greatest moments of my life have been the ones I could not understand.

And now after reading Mr. Durant's soul stirring statement that no man can love after thirty I feel a great sympathy not for all men over thirty, but for Mr. Durant.

I would like to take his hand in mine and ask him gently what happened to him when he was twenty-nine?

Or perhaps I should ask what did not happen to him that has made him choose thirty as the crucial age when men give up loving and start living? Because certainly most of the men I know who are labeled great lovers are over thirty—not much over—and if they have their way it will be years before they move on from what is known as the early thirties.

Is it possible that because they don't love they know how to love so well?

I can think of three men—if I'm not too conceited—who have been on my side of thirty.

And if these men did not love or at least feel all the symptoms, then I'm ready to hand over all the palms I've been lucky enough to collect for doing imitations for that trio.

They can divide them while I, with my pride in the dust, will be heard murmuring through my sob:

"They ain't done right by me, Ma'm! they was only lettin' on!"

I believe Mr. Durant really said men over thirty are incapable of falling in love.

Well! Maybe the men I have in mind now and certainly had in heart at different times, didn't fall—maybe they just strolled in. I can only say that their service was satisfactory and to me, in my utter ignorance of philosophy and its "appreciations," they seemed just as capable of being in love as if they had fallen or even been pushed into that delightful state.

Mr. Durant said by love he meant true devotion. Ah! now there's the catch, True Devotion!

To be devoted means, as I understand it, to devote one's time, attention, flowers, fruit, or what haven't you, to some one.

Certainly a man of a certain age and a more certain salary can do that better than a younger one.

But true? Now if by true Mr. Durant means absolute fidelity, then I'll agree that he is right, only I wouldn't set any age limit.

Don't misunderstand, I do not mean that all men are unfaithful, but if it is accepted that "As a man thinketh, so is he," then I believe true devotion, though much more talked about than the dodo bird, is just about as rare.

I have been asked whether I think a woman can fall in love after thirty.

Of course, it takes the average woman so long to reach thirty that she's apt to be tired from holding out both days, but being one whose years have been added up by experts who remember the date of my debut as a star along with the dates of the Johnstown flood, Chicago fire, Japanese earthquake and other catastrophes, and having very little chance of doing any subtle subterfuge, I am here to say that any woman who cannot fall in love after thirty ought to be psychoanalyzed, vaccinated or have her tonsils removed.

Practice makes perfect, and sometimes perfect bliss. To many women, love affairs under thirty can be classed as dress rehearsals.

Certainly after thirty both men and women demand more of love than in extreme youth, that divine period before co-ordination of mind and body exists. Please notice I do not mention the heart in the combination for I believe the heart is about the last organ to let us down.

There are surely men and women of sixty whose hearts still flutter at thoughtful attentions, kind words, and friendly smiles, but to love with the heart alone must be like trying to fly—plane possession only a rudder to guide it and wings to fly with it if it could only rise to the sky. My theory is that at eighteen the heart in its youthful enthusiasm leads here and there, the body following joyfully, the mind saying I should worry!—this is not my affair!

Then at about twenty-five, the body says to the heart, Pay a lot of attention to me, I won't always be as beautiful as I am. I'd like something definite. The heart says, Oh! come on, let's just browse along, it's such fun. And the mind says, It's about time I stepped in. These two are making a sap out of me.

Personally, I'm going to keep on falling in love just as long as I can and have one to rehearse with me. It may not be love but it certainly is extremely pleasant.

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Obituary

Mrs. Jennie (Little) Dart was born at Commerce, Oakland County, Michigan, June 1, 1849, and died at her home, 928 Thomas street, Grand Rapids, Mich., Tuesday, June 5, 1928.

Left motherless at two and one-half years of age, she was reared and reared as a daughter in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCracken of Farmington, Mich. She was given an excellent education and taught school in Farmington in her young womanhood. In her girlhood she united with the Farmington Methodist Church. From early youth she possessed a deep interest in the missionary work of her church, becoming a life member of the church missionary society while still in her teens.

She was married to Edgar S. Dart, in Farmington on Novem-

ber 7, 1872. The following spring they moved to a farm near Sparta. Here they resided until 1901, when they came to Grand Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. Dart became members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Sparta in 1873, and were actively interested in its work. On coming to Grand Rapids 27 years ago, they joined the Trinity Methodist Church, and have been loyal members here ever since.

She loved the church and deeply enjoyed its worship, its fellowship and its work. She was a charter member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union at Sparta, and very active in this organization at Grand Rapids. Until failing health made it impossible for her to continue in that service she was a member of the Board of Managers of the Brown Home for Aged Women on Fulton street.

She is survived by her husband, and one daughter, Mrs. Lewis N. Howard, and her family. Mr. and

Mrs. Dart had been married for nearly 56 years. The fact that they grew up together, in the same neighborhood, adds still other years of friendship to this long period of intimate love and fellowship.

Mrs. Dart was a beautiful example of symmetrical Christian character—a soul full of sweetness and light.

Funeral services were held at her late home June 8, 1928 at 2 p. m. Dr. Robert E. Brown, pastor of the Trinity Methodist Church officiating, after which her body was laid away in the beautiful Oak Hill Cemetery in Grand Rapids.

Idle people are naturally attracted to busy people. How they must envy them!

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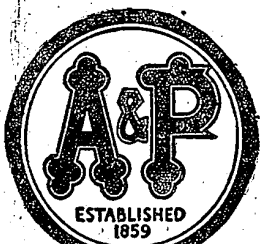
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