In Confidence by Flo



Readers desiring a personal reply can address Miss Flo, in care of this newspaper

THE NEW-FASHIONED GIRL

Dear Miss Flo:—What's the matter with this new generation anyway? I can do positively nothing with my young daughter, who is only nineteen years old. She never consults me about anything she wishes to do, and she defies me in everything. She has been away from home, attending a private school, for the last eight years, and I found upon her return that we were utter strangers. I tried to become acquainted with her, but she was always so frightfully polite and formal and self-confident that I could find nothing to say to her. You are always favoring the young. Will you please tell me whether or not I am old-fashioned and unreasonable in maintaining that my daughter should obey her parents?

A mother.

* * *

I favor neither age nor youth. But I'd like to induce a better understanding between parents and children. I'd like parents to know their children, and I want them to realize that the old method of dealing with them will not work in this day of the so-called flapper. I want them to know that they cannot adopt the high-handed methods of the stern parents of older generations.

Children today simply snap their fingers in their parents' faces when they are threatened with the punishment of past generations—the rod, the locked door, even when faced with being turned out of their home. These youngsters of today are not lacking in courage—regardless of what other shortcomings they might have. Some are unutterably sophisticated, and when mother and father make things too unpleasant at home they simply go somewhere else.

But can't you sense the pride and courage in that young defiant voice? Can't you understand that the voice is crying out the love of life in the soul of the reckless, sulky, courageous, independent child of yours? You are seeing only the hard young eyes, the bandolined, sleek bobbed hair, the carmined lips of the modern girl. You cannot see, behind that rebellious exterior, REAL YOUTH—twentieth century model, yes—but underneath it all, the youth that is as fine and sweet as the youth of any other generation. If you'll look, you'll find it.

Curiously enough—and perhaps it is because they are so wise for their years, you will always find them open to reason. And because being a good sport is virtually their religion—their code—they respond quickly to fair play. So while it is fatal for parents to be too strict with their children, the children will meet them more than half way if they see the parents are willing to come the other half of the way.

Remember that she has spent her most impressionable years of her life away from you, and her tastes, her habits, her points of view, her understanding of life, such as she has, have been formed by her teachers and her schoolmates. No doubt she is finding it just as difficult to know you, who probably regard her as yet a child, who must obey you implicitly and without question. Perhaps you believe that you must still keep the ridiculous pose of infallibility, and that you should never admit to having been guilty of any of the follies of youth.

Show her by word and by deed that you are trying to know her—and remember, this is 1926—the emancipation that began with the war is going onward and onward. For the past seven years your daughter has been accustomed to much freedom. She cannot be expected to slip back into leading strings again, let you rule her existence, without a struggle.

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MR. AND MRS. SALLIE

(Continued from Page 7)

in a rage he was plainly moved inwardly by what he was saying. Without waiting for my reply, he continued:

"You girls of this generation lack courage, absolutely. You can't face any situation that isn't all honeysuckles and roses. Look at your ancestors! Those pioneer women who crossed the continent in those lean days of the covered wagon .Think of the deprivations they suffered and look at their spirit! It was the women behind the men that kept them going and made them fit for their shining achivements. Here I'm asking my wife to live simply in a comfortable bungalow with me and you'd think I'd asked you to share a life of abject misery. The trouble with you, Sallie, is that you've been in the lime-light so long that any normal perspective you might have had, is blinded—your view-point of Life is out of focus. You're pouting now because you can't be the leading lady. You can't be anything, until I get on my feet but my wife. Do you understand that, Sallie?" His voice gained in emotion, "the help-mate of a working man, a doer, a common, ordinary go-getter. If you wish to remain with me under those conditions and act pleasantly about it you can make me very happy, if not, then there is only one other course that is open. You may return to your father until I can woo you back with a fortune."

I started to reply. What my answer would have been, I do not know but woman-like I suppose I would have attempted to defend my position. However, he silenced me before the opening words had been uttered.

"No, I don't want you to decide in a hurry. This is a serious and vital moment in our lives, Sallie, and I want you to think it over. I'm going out for a walk and when I return you can give me your decision."

(Don't miss Sallies's Answer Next Week!)

the Judge's Josh



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