

# ENDING ENGAGEMENT IS SURELY PREFERABLE TO BEING UNWANTED WIFE

—BY DOROTHY DIX—

Dear Miss Dix: In two months I'm going to marry a man who does not love me and who is going to marry me only because he feels it is his duty, after taking up four years of my life and keeping me from marrying anybody else. He hasn't told me he doesn't love me, and he is still good to me and as attentive as ever. But I know he has ceased to care for me and looks forward with dread to our wedding. There are times when he doesn't even talk to me. He just gets moody and sits and stares into space.

He tried several times to talk to me about breaking our engagement, but I just wouldn't listen because I couldn't bear the thought of losing him. If it wasn't for the humiliation, I would be tempted to run away; but he works in my father's office, all our furniture is paid for, and my family is making grand preparations for an elaborate wedding. What shall I do?

A.B.C.



Dorothy Dix

**ANSWER:** If you have any regard for your own future happiness or any pity for the man you are dragging to the altar against his will, you will break off this marriage and set your fiancee free, even if the wedding cake is already baked.

It may hurt your pride to have to admit that your prospective bridegroom was being forced by circumstances and his own sense of honor to marry you, but it will not be so humiliating to you as to go thru years of torture, knowing yourself an unloved wife whose husband has a contempt for her because she forced herself on him. You may dread the gossip that breaking off the marriage at the last moment will cause, but the little chatter about it will die down in a week or two.

Don't delude yourself into thinking that you can win your husband's love after marriage. It can't be done. Everything in marriage—the loss of personal freedom, the adapting himself to a woman's peculiarities, the enforced companionship, the million sacrifices that the domestic relationship involves—tends to separate a man from his wife rather than to draw him to her. So if there was nothing between you that fired his fancy before marriage and made him desire you, you will be still less attractive to him after marriage.

Don't think you can atone to this man, whom you are virtually coercing into marrying you, by lavishing your devotion on him. There is nothing more repulsive to us than the love we do not want, and nothing so burdensome as to have to keep up a pretense of affection where there is none, nothing so sickening as the kisses that are dust and ashes on our lips. Nor can you satisfy him by making him comfortable. You may feed his body, but his soul will be starving for what you cannot give.

Face the fact that if you marry a man who does not love you, you will ruin both of your lives, and let him go. You may be unhappy for a little while, but that will pass and you will escape the long years of misery of knowing you are an unwanted wife.

(Released by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)