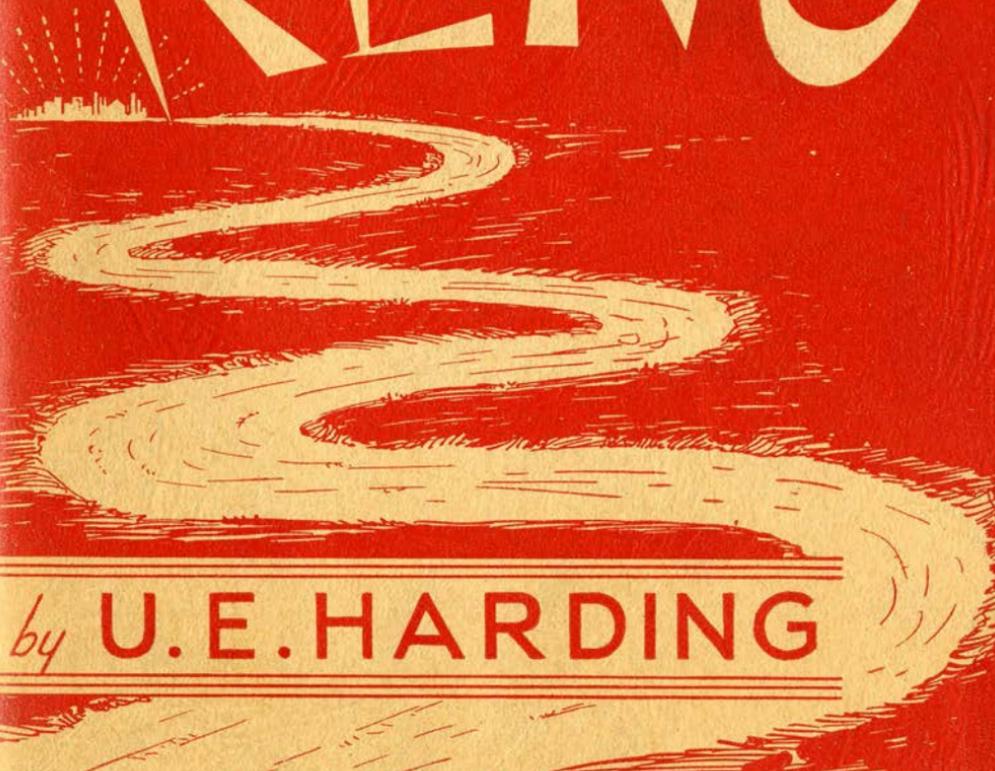


25
ROADS *to*

RENO



by U.E. HARDING

ROADS TO RENO

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

ROADS TO RENO

BY THE AUTHOR



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OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Movie Mad America

After the Ball

Liquor Mad America, etc.

ROADS TO RENO

by

U. E. HARDING

Evangelist



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BY E. A. HANCOCK

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Eight Forty-seven Ottawa Avenue
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DEDICATION

To my only sister, Mrs. John V. Williams of Mitchell, Indiana, who with her faithful husband has reared a large family and maintained a typical American home, this book is affectionately dedicated.

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Detours Around Reno

Rule 1: FIFTY-FIFTY.

Make your marriage a fifty-fifty proposition.

Do not give and not be willing to take.

Put it on the give-and-take basis.

Do not be the one who does all the giving and expect the partner to do all the taking.

Chapter 1

THE FAMILY BREAKDOWN

American society today is characterized by a breakdown of the family. The family is the heart of the nation's life. As the family goes, so goes society. The social structure rises or falls with the fate of the home. We cannot build a permanent national life without building a steadfast home as its foundation.

What happens around the fireside will chart the route of tomorrow's manners and morals. The tragedy of 1943 is that there is no fireside family life left. Home is becoming a mere convenience. Johnny hangs his hat at home only when there is no other place to hang it. Sue parks herself at home only when there is nothing else to do. Dad comes home to eat, and Mother makes the club the center of her life.

"What is a home?" asks the average person.

"A hat rack," replies the boy. "A bedroom," answers the girl. "A drudgery between club activities," says the mother. "Somewhere to go when there isn't anything on at the office, the golf club or the movie," retorts the man.

"And are you married for life?"

"Married for life! I should say not. I took him on the trial basis. If we don't click, we will have the wedding *Reno-vated*," declares a young bride flippantly.

"Just because we walked down the church aisle together is no sign that we took each other on as a permanent tie-up," says the twenty-year-old lad, just married last week.

Family life has come in for more ridicule during the past decade than ever before. The heart of the nation's life is rapidly being eaten away by these current attitudes toward married life.

Marriage was once sacred; the wedding ring was a symbol

of two hearts bound together eternally in love. Today the wedding ring is something to be discarded when "hubby isn't along."

The moral life of our nation is lower than it has ever been. It is estimated by reliable judges of juvenile cases, doctors and directors of sociological surveys that ninety per cent of all men have known sex life with a woman before they married, and that fifty per cent of all women entered into premarital relationships.

Sex was once territory to be explored after the wedding ceremony. Today the average courting couple knows as much about sex as those who have been married twenty years.

Low morals have contributed to this family breakdown. Sexual knowledge in youth, learned from the older girl who has given herself to some man, or from an older boy who is "in the know," soon becomes immorality before marriage.

The current attitude is this: *Why tie yourself to a man for life when you can get everything marriage means without the wedding ring?*

Where is the nation heading? France is the answer. It has long been known that the marriage bond did not exclude adultery with other married persons of the opposite sex. As a result the French nation has been shamefully disgraced.

Hollywood is teaching our girls to say, "One man is not enough for a woman."

From this springs naught but broken families — families crushed on the rocks of divorce.

Detours Around Reno

Rule 2: CHECK-UP RATHER THAN SMASH-UP.

Face every problem squarely.

Sit down with your mate and check-up on your marital difficulties.

Iron out the wrinkles.

Patch up the squabbles.

Heal the sore before it becomes a permanent wound.

Chapter 2

MORALS IN THE MODERN MANNER

This family breakdown is not a chance "happen-so." At its basis is the deterioration of moral standards and codes of right living which have been fundamental to our national life.

Personal emancipation is the root of this trouble. Men and women are crying, "We're free . . . gloriously . . . ignominiously free!" As a result they have become shamefully immoral.

In this current tempo of immorality Hollywood is teaching youth and age alike that one man is not enough for any woman. This pernicious view has permeated current magazines, novels, and movies.

Underlying this is the fact that immorality is on the increase among unmarried couples. The girl who tries a half dozen men before marriage will not be likely to settle down to one after the wedding.

It takes more than a wedding ceremony to change human nature, and to eradicate the urge for immorality which was born before the marriage was solemnized.

It is smart (in the divorcee circles) to say, "*There are no fallen women!*" This is the cry that is being heard on a thousand hills across the nation.

"What about the rescue homes?" you ask these people.

"Oh, they just got caught." With a shrug of their shoulders they throw off this age-old stigma of immorality, which once left the unfortunate woman with a child who bore no father's name.

Another thing which gives birth to this spewing volcano of modern immorality is the fact that on every hand people are saying, "*Sex is free.*"

"*Love on the sly*" is undermining the basis upon which

the American home has been established. "Go with one man steady," the girls are saying to each other, "but get your love life anywhere you desire."

"*Love and don't tell*," Hollywood and the elite are saying to the nation. "What friend hubby doesn't know," they say, "won't hurt him, for he has a sweetie tucked away in some downtown apartment."

Modern couples walk down the aisle with their fingers crossed. If the marriage is not successful, the wedding can be annulled, the marriage *Reno*-vated.

You retort, "You are going too far!"

Pick up virtually any magazine in the more modern vein which pictures divorce and courtship, and see for yourself what many contemporary writers are giving to the unsuspecting public.

Now do you wonder why so few marriages are successful?

Everything is in favor of destroying the home. It is easier to do today than it has been at any time during our history.

Today there is no stigma attached to divorce, and a divorcee can remarry as quickly or more quickly than a person who has never broken his marriage vows.

When a preacher lifts his voice against the divorce evil (and few today do so), his members want to oust him and get a "more liberal-minded minister who is abreast of modern trends."

Detours Around Reno

Rule 3: COMPROMISE WITHOUT A FIGHT.

Do not fight.

Compromise.

It takes two to make a battle.

Chapter 3

"SPECIAL DELIVERY" DIVORCES

Yes, sir! It is true!

You can have your wedding *Reno-vated* by special delivery!

So you do not have the cash? Well, you do not need cash. Simply send a check for fifty dollars (and if times get hard, make it as low as ten dollars) to Juarez, Mexico, and the authorities will "special delivery" you a Mexican divorce!

No, you do not have to appear. Simply send the down payment. When the decree arrives, you will be free to marry again!

"Tut, tut," you whisper, "this is a wicked world!"

If you prefer, you can hop a plane for Reno and in six short weeks *the judge will rip off the wedding ring in exactly one minute!*

"Quickly done," you retort. Yes, but that is about the average time required to take the "Reno cure" for a hasty marriage!

When the Juarez "special delivery" divorce mills began to collect \$45,000 a month from the American public, authorities in Reno said, "Let's make it as painless as can be to get *Reno-vated*." The result was a residence requirement of six weeks, and on any ground whatsoever the divorce can be granted.

That is how easy it is.

Then do you wonder that in 1937 for every five marriages in the United States there was one divorce?

There are now more than two million divorced persons in the nation. Every four years, at the current rate, a million persons are divorced. The rate is increasing.

Divorces swung up in number during the 1920's, and people said, "Prosperity is to blame for the increase."

Then during the terrible 1930's, the divorce rate climbed higher, and the wise men cried, "Poverty is feeding the divorce mills."

No, it was neither. The nation was *reaping what it had sown*. We have sown immorality. We have taught our courting youth to "*be naughty if you must, but do not get caught.*"

We are now reaping the whirlwind. At the present rate of increase in the number of divorces each year, in another twenty years half of the marriages will end in a *Reno-ation*.

It is time that we lifted our voices against this terrible evil, and instead of making it easier to get a divorce we must make it harder — almost impossible.

It is time for our ministers to teach the people that tragedy and heartache follow divorce. Our churches must take a firm stand against the evil.

We live in an age when moral standards are being torn down. The fact that the Bible says a thing is true means little to the unchurched person. Hence divorces are as common today in every community as they formerly were in sections of intense immorality.

Modern freedom, the doctrine of self-expression, the throwing off of restraints of a moral nature — all these factors give rise to the divorce evil.

Many homes that now seem safe against divorce will before five more years have passed head straight for Reno. If this menace threatens your home, *stop before you leap!*

Detours Around Reno

Rule 4: LAY OFF WHEN THE MATE LAYS IT ON.

When your mate is in a laying on mood, you must learn to keep still.

Never get angry and troublesome at the same time.

Make it (if it must be) just one at a time.

Chapter 4

WHY MARRIAGES GO WRONG

Investigations have shown many reasons why marriages go wrong. These causes are varied; but there are only a few of sufficient importance to demand attention. A marriage started wrongly will never succeed. On the other hand, a marriage may be started rightly and conditions develop which ruin it. Let us study some of these causes of wrecked homes.

Judge William Morgan lists six fundamental causes which result in divorces.

These are: (1) poverty; (2) neglect of women by husbands; (3) low mentality; (4) drink; (5) nagging; (6) improper sex mating.

Reverend John Benson, in charge of a social clinic in New York City, studies fourteen thousand cases of domestic trouble annually. His list of divorce causes is: (1) adultery; (2) trouble with relatives; (3) physical incompatibility; (4) female independence.

Rev. Ralph Ferris, director of the Domestic Relations Bureau in Detroit, has dealt with more than twenty thousand couples, and he lists the following causes of divorce:

(1) Hasty marriages based on physical attraction — and resultant quarrels when finances are low.

(2) Lack of religion — most people are not church attendants, even though they may belong to a church.

(3) Drink — and the usual conditions which follow.

(4) Uncontrolled temper — resulting in quarrels.

The causes of twenty thousand divorces were studied in Chicago and the following were given as the conditions producing the marital disaster: desertion; cruelty; adultery; drunkenness; crime; cruelty and drunkenness; cruelty and adultery; desertion and drunkenness; impotency; adultery and drunkenness; attempt to take life; bigamy.

These are given in the order of the greatest number occurring. Fifty per cent of these divorces were obtained because of desertion; twenty-seven per cent because of cruelty; twelve per cent because of adultery; and six per cent because of drunkenness.

At the root of these divorces is domestic discord of one type or another. Under the stress of such conditions the family disintegrates.

It is interesting to note that desertion leads the list as producing the most divorces. This is because among the poorer class of people the husband is unable to pay alimony; and when trouble arises, he walks off and leaves the family to shift for itself. In seventy-five per cent of these cases, the man deserts; the woman asks for a divorce. Adultery, the only Biblical grounds for divorce, is responsible for only twelve per cent of the separations.

Formerly a man and woman married for life; when difficulties arose, they quarreled and bore it. But with the new underlying philosophy of marriage, namely, convenience, when trouble arises they decide to have the marriage *Renovated*. Many couples today, so the experts inform us, discuss the question of possible inability to live together and they decide when that time comes they will divorce each other. Thus the groundwork for the divorce is already laid.

If you are considering a "trial" marriage, abandon the plan at once, for it can end only in disaster.

Detours Around Reno

Rule 5: END ALL QUARRELS IN A LOVE SEANCE.

Do not go to bed with a quarrel still standing.

Do not let the sun go down on your marital wrath.

Kiss after you quarrel.

For few quarrels can stand the love-warmth of a kiss.

Chapter 5

FAMILY TENSIONS

Let us study the matter of tensions within the family. Usually a married couple are in perfect agreement until some crisis arises, and then there is an explosion. Such explosions are the result of definite tensions.

No man will long endure *poor cooking!*

Wife, if you are a poor cook and do nothing about it, your marriage is headed for *Reno-vation!* Buy a cook book before anything else.

Check the orderliness of your home. Avoid marital disaster, clean the house.

Learn to be an excellent housekeeper, and you will discover that your wedding ring binds you and your husband together more tightly.

Don't go around looking as if a cyclone had struck you!

Before you married your man you were careful never to let him see you unless you were dressed at your best. Now you go around the house in an old kimono, with your hair in curlers. No wonder you are losing your hold on that husband!

Never let your husband see you at your worst! Be as careful to hold him as you were to get him!

But you ladies retort, "How about my husband?"

There is nothing more provoking to a woman than to find a man's dirty clothes, old shoes, cigarette butts thrown all over the place.

You say, "These are trivialities."

These are trivialities, but they are the biggest and most important details in your marriage. Such trivialities cause most women to "hie themselves off to Reno" or cause them to send the first letter to Juarez for a Mexican marriage disentanglement.

*You have the nagging habit, have you? Do you still expect the bonds of matrimony to hold? You nag about supper being too late and coffee for the breakfast being too cold. You nag about dirty shoes and each extra penny your wife spends. She nags about office interests and the little attention you pay her. You get up "jawing" and go to bed nagging, and in between you are wrought up to the *nth* degree, committing verbal suicide all day.*

You create an atmosphere of unrest and mental tension.

Not one thing is gained by nagging. You merely get in the nagging habit, and you lose your temper at the slightest provocation.

Are you tinged with jealousy?

Jealousy drives wedges between married partners which are likely to ruin another marriage. Study your home life. Check each action that causes friction. Then eliminate the source of trouble! This saves the cost of *Reno-vation!*

Detours Around Reno

Rule 6: DO NOT NAG.

Darlings who nag soon drive mates to some other darlings' arms.

Learn to hold your peace.

Do not bicker just for the fun of creating a stir.

Chapter 6

HOW TO LOSE YOUR WIFE

Here are some things to avoid if you want to hold your wife and your marriage intact.

Do not marry your office!

Of course you have to work; but that is no sign that you can literally be *tied* to your business so that you do not have a moment for your wife and family.

Mark this on your cuff: Most married women who jump over the connubial fence and make violent or petty love to other men confess, "My husband isn't interested in me any more."

You will lose your wife the moment you become more interested in your business than you are in her.

Do not take your wife for granted!

Tell your wife that you love her.

Do not be more considerate of other women than of your wife.

It took boxes of candy, bouquets of roses, trips to the beach, rides to the mountains, and a thousand little tenderesses to get your wife's consent to marry you.

Once you put the ring on her finger you forgot to continue your "*holding*" antics. The moment she begins to slip from your grasp, your home is headed for the rocks of divorce.

There are thousands of married women now looking for some other man to do for them what their husbands once did. The moment they find that man, there is either going to be illicit love on the sly or an outright divorce.

This is plain talk; but it is time we faced the facts. Consider the couples you know now who will marry this year. Five of them will marry, and before five years (ten at the longest) one of them will be divorced.

Two more of them will practice marital infidelity before ten years are passed — and in the end only one of the five men will remain true to his marriage vows of chastity. The percentage is a little higher for the women. With this new doctrine of equal rights, the single moral standard, freedom of both sexes, it is becoming increasingly easier for women as well as men to become morally unchaste after accepting a wedding ring.

Avoid mental bigamy!

Ask the knowing men how many married fellows are mental bigamists and they will tell you more than eighty per cent. "What is mental bigamy?" you say. "I do not understand." In plain street parlance, it is living with one woman and loving another.

Do not treat your wife as if she were your squaw.

You do not own her body and soul, so give her a little freedom. Do not expect her to be a slave. Do not give her an extra dime, and then ask a couple of weeks later: "What did you do with the last money I gave you?" Give her some freedom and respect her wishes.

Your marriage will wear longer if you watch your marital step!

Detours Around Reno

Rule 7: CONTROL YOUR CONVERSATION.

Do not spew and sputter all over the house.

Talk in subdued tones.

Do not clutter the conversation with rough language and uncouth expressions just to get the mate's goat.

Chapter 7

SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

The steady rise in divorces is partially due to the fact that there is a steady rise in the number of youth who explore the intricacies of sex before they are married.

Ofttimes engaged youth practice fornication with each other before the ceremony, thinking that since they are soon to be married the act makes little difference. This lays the foundation for distrust after the wedding, for one or the other is likely to be of a jealous disposition and begin to suspect the other. Many innocent persons have thus been wrongly accused.

The fact remains that youth who commit fornication before marriage are more likely to be unfaithful to their partners after marriage, and thus lead the family sooner or later to a divorce.

Closely related to this are quick marriages. It used to be possible for young people to meet at a dance and get married immediately; but many states, realizing the dangers to society and the future home through such marriages, have passed laws requiring the announcement of marital intentions a few days before the ceremony can take place.

This gives those involved a few days in which to think of what they are about to do. As a result, thousands of marriage licenses are bought which are never used.

Homes that are not built on a definite knowledge of each other through a period of courtship are on a shaky foundation, and usually result in a marital disaster. If you will check through the divorces granted in any large city, you will discover that these "gin marriages," "dance hall marriages," "on-the-spur-of-the-moment marriages" are potent causes of family disorganization.

A "gin marriage" leads to a quicker Reno-vation!

Sex "before marriage brings marital distrust after the ceremony!"

There is more to marriage than a wedding ceremony. Underlying courtship is the basic fact of marriage as sex mating. If there is a mismating sexually, there is sure to be trouble in the future.

Adultery is many times condoned by one of the partners because of this fact. They are mismates on the sex score. There are more married women who are adulterous outside of the circle of the wedding ring because they are sexually mismated than for any other reason. They fail to find that satisfaction from their marriage, and seek this pleasure beyond the barriers which the ceremony establishes.

A sexually mismated marriage faces one of two ends: a quick Reno-vation or adultery on the sly.

There is no escaping this fact.

The attempt to put women on the single standard has been a tragedy, for men have always lived by the double standard, unless they have been genuinely Christian. Now that we have made women the equal of men, women want this sexual freedom as well as men. By declaring for the single standard of morals, we brought the women down to the low level of the male brute, instead of bringing the man up to the high level of woman's chastity.

Now we have a single standard. Both man and woman, so the moderns affirm, have a right to extramarital sex relations so long as neither knows that the other is unfaithful to him or her.

This is a tragic fact to face. It is one of the most important reasons for the current prevalency of divorce.

There is no bond to hold families together when both are free in their love and romantic attachments. What faces the nation?

The destiny of France! We must have either family purity or social decay through divorce!

Detours Around Reno

Rule 8: DO NOT BUILD A GIN MARRIAGE.

Keep your marriage strictly on the water-wagon basis.

Home cocktails? No!

Night clubs? Out!

Dance halls? No, Sir!

Gin and marriage will not mix.

Chapter 8

EXCHANGING MATES

"Hello, Bill, let us trade wives for the party tonight," Hank Robinson suggested to his friend, Bill Jackson (of course, the names, but not the facts, are fictitious).

"It is a go, old timer . . ."

Off went two married couples for the evening with traded partners. The event was innocent enough, merely a social gathering of friends, but the return was not so innocent, for Marge, Bill's wife, dropped a suggestion that she and Bill were not entirely happy together, and that Bill misunderstood her.

"Sometimes I wish things were different," she said, her blonde hair waving in the moonlight. "Bill doesn't seem to care," she complained, slipping a little closer to Hank.

Before the couple returned home, Hank suggested that they park on the roadside, "for it is not midnight yet." They parked for an hour's talk; and when they started on home, Marge asked Hank to call sometime "when we can be alone."

From this seemingly innocent night of fun with traded wives began a clandestine love affair between Marge and Hank which led at first to a few "off-the-record" calls at Marge's home when she was alone. (Hank was a salesman, whose time was his own.) The house calls were dangerous, so Marge said, and the result was a trip to a hotel, where they spent the day.

These trips increased, for Marge was willing to be loved; and Hank, declaring his love for his own wife, was also co-operative.

Bill became suspicious when Marge grew a bit cold toward him, for usually she had shown a different disposition. He set a friend checking on his wife's little trips in the

brown sedan, and the friend one day followed the car to the hotel.

Bill was furious and threatened divorce, but Marge said, "Who started it all?"

Since there were no children in Marge and Bill's home it made little difference, so they said, whether or not they divorced, but Hank and his wife had three little children. It was finally agreed among the four partners that the affair should be forgotten.

But was it?

Bill and Marge began to quarrel; and the more Bill quarreled, the more Marge sought companionship outside of home.

This time it was another salesman. "Marge brought home more than she bargained for," Bill told the judge, who granted him a divorce on the grounds of "venereal disease."

Across this nation there are thousands of couples right now practicing this "innocent vice," as they say, of trading mates. Some trades are for an evening at a party, others for a dinner together, still others for the night at a hotel, and many for a week-end.

How do they end?

First, in suspicion, then in downright breaking of marital vows, and finally in divorce — unless, of course, the partners agree to live together in the bad tangle of manners, men and morals.

A married man or woman must act accordingly. The moment you agree with your husband or wife that such a trade is permissible, that instant you sow the seeds of marital discord which will result in divorce. Women are willing to be loved, once you break down their reserve, and all men are willing lovers.

Your best rule is: *However attractive the trade might seem to be, do not do it!* Do not tell your marriage problems to other men and women! Do not be the misunderstood husband or wife to any other man or woman!

Detours Around Reno

Rule 9: NEVER CUT MARRIAGE CORNERS.

Do not two-time your mate.

Never leap the marital fence.

Do not play up to slim-legged dames and blondes.

Do not play around with the Apollo-like salesman.

Adhere strictly to your "I Will's."

Chapter 9

NIGHT CLUBS AND DANCE HALLS

Every night club and dance hall is a *road to Reno!*

You cannot build a beautiful marriage on sex, lust, night club life, dancing and liquor.

Night clubs are established to break down moral restraints.

Night clubs and dance halls could not exist without liquor.

The married couples who try to build a permanent home on night clubs will soon be riding Reno's road to a divorce.

Many times, what a married man supposes to be an innocent evening spent dancing turns out to be an open invitation to find his sex life with another man's woman, for dancing tends to break down moral reserves. Out of twenty couples on a dance floor who know each other, a third of them will be on a hunting tour for someone to love outside the circle of the wedding ring.

The modern movie is closely related to marital disasters, for most movies portray an artificial type of life which makes one dissatisfied with his home and life. The girls are beautiful and the men are alluring, and as a result, many married couples become dissatisfied with their mates.

The husband compares his wife with the glamorous movie star and finds the movie star far superior. The wife looks at her John and compares him with the handsome movie star. The resultant dissatisfaction often starts the couple on a search for what they see depicted on the screen.

Movies dot every road to Reno!

Cocktail parties are invitations to a divorce. They may seem innocent enough in themselves, but they have ruined countless homes.

Cocktails at a party usually lead to more than cocktails, or a half-dozen cocktails, and the party ends as a drunken

orgy. Ofttimes in more elite circles these cocktail parties are thrown merely to create an environment where moral restraints can be lowered. Drunken partners care little and know less about what is going on around them or what they are doing.

A man and a woman under the influence of alcohol are amorous, and a person completely under the influence of liquor demands sexual gratification.

Abstinence from night clubs, dance halls and liquor is a detour around Reno.

Detours Around Reno

Rule 10: DO NOT STREAMLINE YOUR MARRIAGE.

Do not trade mates either on the level or on the sly.

Do not kid yourselves into believing "each is to be free to live his own love life."

Hold to the old rule — one man or one woman is enough for eternity.

Chapter 10

HOW TO BUILD A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

Every successful marriage is a *detour around Reno*. Fifty years ago most marriages were permanent. Thirty years ago one out of thirty took the "Reno cure" for a bad connubial tangle. Twenty years ago one out of seven headed straight for Reno. Ten years ago this percentage had reached the six point, but today it is virtually one out of five.

Fewer marriages today are successful than ever before. Study these rules and see what you may be able to do to strengthen your marriage.

Rule 1: *Make marriage a romance and not a drudgery.*

Give it love's extra touch — flowers, kind words, extra consideration. You must feed romance and marriage on love or *Reno will get you!*

Rule 2: *Marry the whole woman (or man)!*

Give your partner everything she wants. Make a place for her avocations, interests and outside activities. Do not confine her to the house twenty-four hours a day.

Rule 3: *Find the same pleasure in your love life with your wife or husband that you think the other man or woman would afford you.*

Encourage your wife to keep herself attractive. Reno will fade from your mind if you keep your wife dressed and groomed to compete with the other attractive women you meet in social and business relationships.

Rule 4: *Give your wife (or husband) love's extra share!*

When married partners grow cold toward each other, they are directing their marriage toward Reno. Be affectionate toward your partner.

You can make your marriage a prolonged honeymoon if you will take time for your wife's hobbies, amusements and interests.

Rule 5: *Never permit yourself to be the "misunderstood husband or wife" by some other woman or man.*

Women married or single are natural sympathizers, and we men enjoy telling them our troubles.

The first step toward Reno comes when you begin to tell some other woman or man about your domestic troubles.

Rule 6: *Spend an equal amount on luxuries.*

If you spend a dollar, give your wife an extra dollar to spend on herself. Many marriages are wrecked because the husband demands money for his favorite hobbies, although he will not permit his wife to spend any extra money on the things she enjoys doing.

"Shoot square" with your wife. Men have taken privileges which they have denied their wives. Such a partnership spells Reno!

Detours Around Reno

Rule 11: DO NOT PANDER PETS.

That is, four-legged pets. (And do not pander two-legged pets either.)

A hubby on your lap will make your marriage outlast Reno far longer than a lap dog.

If you must go in for lap dogs, why not turn hubby into that brute?

Chapter 11

ROADS TO RENO

Is your marriage headed for *Reno*-vation?

This question is faced by everyone who sails the rough seas of matrimony. Some men look upon the ceremony as a copyright act, giving them final ownership of a woman. They are shocked by a trip to Reno.

If you would avoid a nuptial disaster, read the detour signs and head your marriage back to the smooth highway of romance. Get out your pencils and see if you are traveling these *roads to Reno!*

1. Do you "short-change" your partner on love?
2. Do you "love-strangle" your partner? ("Love-strangling" is the opposite of "short-changing.")
3. Do you fail to give your partner all of your emotional life?
4. Do you have "admiration-itis" for other women or men, but little for your own partner?
5. Are you emotionally inert toward your partner, emotionally dead?
6. Do you talk to your husband or wife about the men who "made" you or the women you "made" before marriage?
7. Are you "two-timing" your wife or husband?
8. Do you go out when you expect her (or him) to stay in?
9. Are your home mannerisms unhappy, which cause the partner to feel off-balance?
10. Do you look upon your wife as a squaw — or your husband as a slave?
11. Do you bark orders at your partner?
12. Are you an "I'm-agin'-it" partner, seeing only the negative?
13. Have you tantalized your partner until he or she is

ready to take a *Reno*-vation as the only way out of a bad tangle?

14. How long ago did you give your wife money she could consider her own?

15. Do you satisfy your own love desires and leave your wife to satisfy hers the best way she can?

16. Are you jealous of your partner, pouting when he or she does something which you do not like?

17. Are you a "homing pigeon" when your partner wants to be "on the go"?

18. Have you let romance slip out of your life by taking your partner for granted?

19. Is your marriage a challenge to better living?

20. Is your marriage life merely a *verbal duel*?

21. Do you blame your partner for failures instead of praising him or her for successes?

22. Do you assume any responsibility for misunderstandings and quarrels?

23. Do you look upon the wedding ceremony as a *welding* that can be cut at any time?

24. Are you a "battling Turk"?

Every negative answer to this "matrimonial quiz" puts you farther on the road to Reno!

Perhaps some couple now reading this book will take one of these Reno roads.

It is read and heed! . . . or ride and Reno-vate!

Marriage is a serious business to be undertaken as a life-time partnership, to be crowned with glory, honored by the presence of the Lord, and made successful by the tie that children bring.

Leave any Reno road on which you may be traveling and begin, with God's help, to build a truly successful marriage.

Detours Around Reno

Rule 12: CEMENT MARRIAGE WITH CHILDREN.

Children? Certainly.

Do not look upon your wife as a horse-owner does upon a mare.

Mate wisely and cautiously.

If you cannot have children, then adopt them.

Chapter 12

TEN STEPS FOR MARRIAGE ADJUSTMENT

So you are having marital trouble, are you? Does it look as if you are headed for Reno? Then let us consider a few simple rules which may save your marriage from divorce.

Face the question squarely and do not try to throw all the blame on your partner. Try to solve the difficulty, and see if there is not a way out. Any way is better than the Reno way.

Rule 1: *Do not harbor feelings of resentment.*

Do not hold any kind of grudge. What will be won by a divorce? Cannot an adjustment be made whereby the trouble will cease and love will reign instead? Face your problem squarely.

Rule 2: *Eliminate the things that antagonize.*

Have you been nagging? Then stop nagging. Pick up your clothes, clean up the house, buy a good cook book and start taking lessons in the art of cooking. Whatever the trouble is, get rid of it at once.

Rule 3: *Find ways to do things together joyfully.*

If what you do brings dissension, try to find new centers of interest on which you can concentrate with pleasure. Change your pastimes, alter your present emotional attitudes and look for happy-ending amusements and avocational interests.

Rule 4: *Hold your home together by children.*

I will tell you a cementing secret that never fails: a baby. If necessary, adopt a child. Children help to hold homes together.

Rule 5: *Understand your mate fairly.*

Because your mate is different from you, you assume you cannot live together. Try to look at life through his or her eyes. Do not assume that you are always right.

Rule 6: *Solve your problems through discussion.*

Sit down and talk over your problems; try to reach an equitable adjustment of the difficulties. You can solve most problems if you face them squarely.

Rule 7: *Look for things on which you can agree.*

There are many things on which you agree, so find them and emphasize them.

Rule 8: *Give up nonessentials.*

Eliminate the things that do not count. Give up as much as you expect your partner to surrender. Do not make a martyr out of yourself by assuming that you are giving up everything. Write down your problems and then decide what things each will surrender.

Rule 9: *Agree to forget the past and let each one have a share in the family's life — both work and pleasure.*

Rule 10: *Above everything else, put your entire family first.*

This is the surest *detour around Reno*. Put the family, its unity and interests, first. Emphasize the unity of interests. If there are children, it will be a crime to deprive them of a home or divide their love interests between parents who cannot live together.

One must remember that, though rules and the application of them may be helpful in building a successful marriage, there is one — and only one — foundation for happy and God-glorifying living: *salvation through the atoning blood of Christ*. Surrender your heart and life to the Lord, and pray earnestly for the constant guidance of the Holy Spirit in all relationships of life. Pray that Christ may enter your home. He will enter, and His presence will make it beautiful — a place of strength and inspiration.

Detours Around Reno

Courtship Rule:

COURT CHASTITY; MARRY PURITY.

Make the ring the condition of all sex intimacy.

Marry for love.

Live chastely and demand chastity in your mate.

Put God at the head of the coming home.

Chapter 13

SO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A BEAU?

Since most divorces start before marriage, rather than after, we could not afford to close without a few rules for young readers who are out on a "beau-hunt." Here are a few do's and do not's.

Do not court a person whom you would not be willing to marry.

Do not court on the sly a person whom you are ashamed to introduce to your parents.

Do not take a midnight ride with a young man or woman you would not take to church with you.

Do not let some man (or girl) talk you into being promiscuous with him (or her) with the promise that "we are going to get married anyway."

Do not go with a person whose background, religion, social circle, interests and nationality are far different from yours.

Do not fall in love with the first person that comes along. Go with more than one person. You might find out now that the one you first decided to choose as a life partner is not at all suited to you.

Widen your circle of acquaintances so that you can meet as many people of the opposite sex as possible. You are looking for a mate; and the wider your circle of friends, the more likely you will be to find one who is suited to you.

Do not marry merely to escape an unpleasant situation. Some young people say, "I'll marry the first person that comes along, just to get away from this." This is the surest road to Reno.

Do not judge the person you are about to marry on outward circumstances alone.

Do not marry simply because the boy has a long, slim automobile.

Do not marry unless your partner is willing to undergo a doctor's examination for venereal disease. (Remember that approximately one out of twenty now have this disease, and your mate might be that one!)

Do not marry the youth who bores you. If you are bored with courtship, what will married life bring? Nothing but Reno.

Do not marry a young person to reform him or her! If the other person smokes and you do not, do not marry thinking that he will stop after you are married.

If you marry a cigarette-smoking girl, there is no certainty that she will stop after she is married. The same is true of boys.

Do not marry the youth who touches a cocktail in any form. Do not take on as a life partner someone who drinks liquor.

Do not marry anyone whose essential habits, methods of finding recreation, pastimes and pleasures are essentially different from your own.

If you do not go to the movies, and your partner does, very likely he or she will win you to his position after marriage.

Do not marry the person who demands that you indulge in an objectionable practice "just this once," to please him.

Do not marry the youth who puts his or her mother or father before you. This often produces discord.

Do not marry for sex reasons alone, and above all do not experiment with sex before you marry.

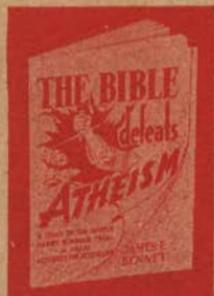
Do not marry the youth who asks you to live the married life on the sly before the ceremony is pronounced.

Marry a God-fearing youth whom you can love genuinely. Marry a churchgoing youth for whom you are willing to make any sacrifice. Marry the youth who believes in love and chastity.

Marry the youth who demands purity in you because he or she is pure.

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