

Till Death Do Us Apart: Marriage Is the True Terror To Walk Away or To Try Harder

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Abstract: ‘Till Death do us Apart’ is not just a single line but it holds millions of fights and misunderstands that should be fought, overcome and takes lots of understanding. Marriage is not just a human relationship. It takes dedication, love and trust to build. Lack of emotions and love will lead to a broken marriage leading to many other problems. Every marriage is not a happy one. Few swings in the ropes of compromises and sustaining power among any one of them or on both the sides. Exercise and time needs to be the main ingredient in a good marriage recipe.

Key Words: Marriage, Gone Girl, Broken Marriage, Female Fatale, Extramarital Affair

Introduction to Marriage

Marriage is not of human origin. It was God who coined the word ‘Marriage’ ‘Husband’ ‘Wife’ ‘Bridegroom’ and ‘Bride.’

At the present day, marriages are under attack by the lies of the world that emphasize on personal pleasure and personal satisfaction is the main goal in life. Selfish love embraces the lies of Satan and destroys the institution of marriages.

From sharing the life and living in harmony, today’s selfish love has brought us to a concept of merely two strangers sharing the same memory living under the name of ‘Married couple.’

Views and definition over marriage have been changing significantly. Sharing life with eternal love and affection, bound by love, bonding of soul and spirit, emotional and spiritual understanding have become those phrases of marriage which exist in a very few number. Legal and social problems with unloved individuals, status, money, lust, and hatred have become the key words to describe marriage.

Marriage should be changing, learning and growing old together.

What does Bible tell about Marriage?

The Holy Bible emphasizes the importance and a different perspective of marriage. It always suggests a healthy relationship and amazing values lead a happy life. God created the idea of marriage in the Garden of Eden when he found the loneliness of man is not suitable for him.

Husband and wife are equal before God (Ephesians 5:29-31, 1 Peter 3:7).

The woman was made out of a rib of Adam. She was neither taken from his head to rule over him nor from his legs for him to rule over her but from the bone closest to his heart to be loved and protected. This concept speaks about the equality in the instruction of marriage. Never men were superior nor the women played the victim card.

A Biblical marriage is a covenant of companionship where there is a loving relationship in a union between a man and a woman for a lifetime.

The ultimate aim of marriage should be complete understanding and reflect the love of God and His plans.

Concept of Marriage in Gone Girl

Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn is a physiological thriller with a page turning story line which shows some insight into the life and its problems when the marriage turns ultimately cold and takes a turn into a revengeful sociopath turn. This novel discusses the diverse concepts of marriage within the two main characters. Amy being the amazing revenge taker in this novel is married to the victim card Nick who is cornered and blasted to every inch by Amy for having an affair outside the marriage.

Both the point of views unfolds many truths and lies about each other. The confusion grows bigger and much bigger when there is a lack of communication and understanding between

the two souls. With the point of Nick, he grew distant with Amy when he had an affair with another girl outside his marriage. Amy finds his love is decreasing over time and being a strong character Amy couldn't take the pain of seeing her husband cheating on her. Amy aims to take revenge on Nick. Amy is one such role who will never stop at anything, she is one such daring and focused character on her revenge over her disloyal husband.

Till the last page of the novel, the confused atmosphere prevails among both the characters with their point of views.

Marriage and its difficulties – Amy and Nick as a couple fighting the marriage battle

Everything in marriage is not a smooth path to enjoy. Marriage takes time, emotion and respect to build. Compromises and artificial love will not work in a beautiful marriage relationship. Living with another individual who has completely different thoughts and ideas and adjusting to their lifestyle takes lots of patience. Over to patience, Love is the most important thing that makes a successful marriage. The usual problems should be avoided or fixed and found solutions to overcome with patience, love, understanding and a lot of effort from both the parties.

To discuss and effectively and analyze where Amy and Nick went wrong in their marriage life can be seen under the few serious plots of an unsuccessful marriage.

1. One self (selfishness)

One self, self-respect, individual, selfishness and importance of oneself among the other partner is what always does not work with marriage. Adjusting nature and understanding will play the first aid for this problem. Being selfish will make things worse between the couple. Here in this novel, Amy focuses on her feeling and insecurities. The first solution that will pop up at this situation will be a good talk with the partner and try to find a solution for their feelings. There were chances that she could have had an open talk with her spouse which did not pop out in Amy's mind. According to Amy, after witnessing her husband cheating on her had nothing to do with a normal talk. Rather than having a cool conversation she had her way to show that she was quite unhappy with Nick's behavior. Without the involvement in the

good communication, the couple will fall apart from the other self-creating a great gap that shows no chance to be filled over time.

When seen on Nick's side, as a husband he was bound to read his wife's mind and emotional ups and downs. Rather than being a loyal husband to his wife, he was happily enjoying another life outside. Here is clear cut he has no idea when Amy fall apart from him. He was so selfish into himself that he has no time to look up to his wife's emotional changes. And on the D-day when she disappears he was left with no clue to start connecting the dots. He was clearly unaware of his wife's actions. Nick was lacking in the understanding part along with playing a bad partner.

2. Lack of emotional intimacy

When there is no respect for emotions, there is no point in staying in the relationship. This also covers the respect and emotional swings. Marriage is not about a man versus woman. It's more about a man and a woman. Their effort to stay in the constitution of a marriage. When there is a lack of respect and understanding the marriage will end terribly wrong. One such marriage will be a miserable mess for both the individuals and the family in many aspects.

Lack of emotional intimacy peeps in through two loop holes – a) Lack of respect b) Lack of understanding capability

a) Respect

Respect must be a key in any relationship without losing the self-respect. Here when we take Amy in the part of giving respect to Nick, she never did disrespect him. While taking the revenge into the consideration, Amy did not respect Nick's career, his reputation, and his name in the society. She made Nick cut a sorry picture and a person so cruel who could even kill his own wife. This was completely an indirect disrespect.

When Nick is taken into consideration he was not having a huge respect for her emotions. He already built a new empire for his feelings and was happy with in a bubble. If he could have noticed her emotions, if he could have noticed few changes in her behavior, then it would not have taken so long for Nick to find her. While Amy was carving for attention and love, Nick was busy attending another girl in his life.

There was no respect for each other in this relationship. These are few factors that prove a bad marriage. They just stood two entire different empires under the same roof. Amy was way too cruel to respect Nick and Nick, on the other hand, was way too busy with his secretive life to respect Amy as his wife.

b) Lack of understanding capability

Lack of understanding capability includes the lack of maturity and having egoistic problems too. The major reason Nick and Amy fall apart was, there was no communication and there were zero chances of reading the emotions of the other partner. There was a lack of healthy communication. Communication is not the one confined to taking over the kitchen counter. The communication includes the reading capability of emotional behavior, bodily changes and other small vibes that highlight that the partner is not happy or satisfied with one's deeds and actions.

Nick was a disloyal husband. He was past the level of understanding and caring. Amy who was left behind alone had dangerous thoughts. Unwanted evil thoughts filled the place where Nick was supposed to fill thoughts with love and care.

When it comes to understanding each other both Nick and Amy stay with a scoreboard screaming 'ZERO'

3. Maturity

At least either one of the partners has to be mature enough to change the other or adjust. When both the individuals have no tolerance for each other there won't be any marriage working between them. Maturity and tolerance go hand in hand. When there is maturity there will be tolerance enough to accept the other individual's nature.

Maturity not only shows a well-matured word which they utter but it also includes decisions in a critical situation. There should be a critical thinking mind when it comes to marriage. At any cost, the aim should be saving the marriage instead of finding a way out of the relationship. Once any one of the couples starts seeking the way out of the marriage the other one has no reason to stick to an unhealthy relationship.

Marriage is not a field that needs risk but a lot of trusts. Without trust in the other partner, nothing will go on the right path. Offering trust and making the trust to stay between a couple is much more important as love to play a connection card in a marriage.

Both Amy and Nick lack in maturity and tolerance against each other. Considering Nick at the initial stage, he grew distant with his wife. He could have dealt it with much more maturity and could have been courageous enough to talk about his feelings with Amy. But Nick played a dumb husband by keeping his wife at dark and he was busy leading a life with another girl.

Nick was unhappy with Amy and he was having thoughts of getting a divorce. He never called for a divorce and he neither did discuss it with Amy. He never let know Amy with words about his discomfort with her and is living on her money. Wanting Amy to understand with his deeds was a bit too much of expectation.

Amy's nature was quite controlling and possessive which will not suit a woman according to the laws which are formulated by people. So, when Amy was taking an upper hand in their relationship, Nick was irked by this move. Nick was too much broken by this behavior of Amy over to that he has enough confidence to cheat and have never thought of having the much-wanted conversation with Amy to put away all sort of misunderstanding between them.

While Amy finding out her husband cheating on her, she dealt it with her way of taking revenge on Nick to show him a lesson for his actions. None of the partners had enough maturity to talk about their problems.

If there were a chance to get know about each other they could have been taken the aid of communications instead of finding ways to let out their frustration on other people outside their marriage life. Marriage needs effort and hard work from both the side to work. A perfect marriage is not finding a person who agrees to each and every move of you, instead, marriage is something where two different people come closer and find the way of loving and harmony in the even hard situation. The beauty of the marriage lies in understanding and the harmony maintained well between a couple like a well-tuned string instrument.

When Nick and Amy fall apart miserably

Nick and Amy are one incompatible married couple who are pushed to their limits to stay in a marriage without love and trust between them. For the better view, they can be told as a complete two strangers living in together under the name of the married couple. They lack in every mandatory part of a married life starting with trusting each other till the part they could play intimate soul mates.

There are five most important things that a marriage needs in dire but what Nick and Amy's did not have.

1. **Togetherness**

No special bonding can be seen in Nick and Amy's relationship. They were completely two distant individuals pushed together in a marriage life.

2. **Truthfulness**

Nick was the first person to bring a third person into their life and eventually Amy ended up with her ex-boyfriend. Cheating was the main card used by both the characters to show their aversion towards the relationship they share. It's much more into disrespecting the marriage life.

3. **Joint Finances**

There should be no 'YOU' and 'ME'/'I' in any relationship. Selfishness is the key to bring many more problems that can end up in parting ways. Here Nick clearly lives in Amy's amount for his living and he has a spawn thought that he is using 'His wife's amount for his living' There were no 'WE' and 'OUR' in Nick and Amy's life. This shows the selfishness and the lack of bonding in their relationship.

4. **Power of emotional touch**

Emotions were completely missing in Nick and Amy's life. There were fewer emotions expressed. Love, care, affection was replaced by lust, money, and revenge. Emotional intimacy is way too much different from physical intimacy. Emotional intimacy works with heart and soul.

5. **Patience and time**

Patience and time were outraged by revenge and unfaithfulness by both the characters at an equal level. Both the characters put in no effort for the marriage to work. Even they have no intention to stick up together they end up together in the novel with a relationship with hatred and control.

Conclusion

Marriage is a pure relationship shared by two special souls. Marriage is the only relationship that shares a huge amount of intimacy in emotions, heart and physical changes. No other worldly relationship shares this much amount of intimacy and understanding. When marriage life is considered there is no limit of the flowing emotions. It's a relationship that stays happy in finding the differences and working on them. A good marriage is not gifted, it is created. A good life is created by lots of compromises and understanding. It is built on trust and emotions. The most delicate relationship that shares the strongest bond than ever. There is no age to hold hands. In fact, growing old in love and harmony is one such divine feeling one can get through.

If there are hundreds of problems in marriage life there are millions of solutions to solve them. It takes time, maturity and trust to be built in the relationship to make it work. There is nothing great in choosing the right partner, there must also be efforts put in to be the right partner. Marriage is not a one-way relationship. It takes two hearts, twice the effort, twice the love and twice the happiness.

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