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This Is Why

James C. Mitchell*

*Iowa State University

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Abstract

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YOU ask me why we have to wait. I tell you it's financially impossible and you immediately block that escape by quoting your annual income and asking why can't we. I tell you I want to finish school first and you accuse me of being selfish and narrowminded and you point out Pammel Court triumphantly as proof of other people's happiness. And why shouldn't we be happy? Your insistent queries force me to tell you the truth. I just don't want to marry you now. Again, the inevitable why.

But would you understand if I were to tell you why? Your complete little world of confidence and efficiency doesn't make room for the doubt and fears that plague my conscience. You tell me I'm too critical and cynical and I suppose you're right. But I can't just overlook the infirmities, and by so doing force them out of existence.

You refuse to acknowledge the possibility that I, too, might have a little quirk of annoying pride that prevents me from accepting your terms of financial security. Call me old-fashioned if you choose but please recognize the fact that I'm a man and you're a woman and for me to accept anything from you other than your love and honor, would be to violate the whole precedent of human relations since time began. But, you object, that will be only while I'm in school. Did it ever occur to you that perhaps I want to finish school on my own resources so that I can prove myself to you, as well as to myself? I'm delighted that you think me infallible but actually I haven't any idea what my capabilities or limitations are and it's only in being fair to you that I want to discover these abilities before I ask you to share my plight.

So be patient and reasonable and admit that it will be much better to wait. You will, won't you? What? *Why?*

—James C. Mitchell, Sci. Sr.

