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Some men like dresses are good buys, but others are wisely left on the racks

Whether Dress or Mate—INVESTIGATE

by Dorothy Goeppinger

WILL it wear well? Does it fit? Can you see through it? Do you want to get married?

This is not a fashion forecast, and it's not an article on marriage. I'm merely going to point out some of the resemblances between men as prospective husbands, and dresses.

In order to play this little game, you have to substitute "George" for "it" in all the questions. The name substituted will, of course, vary in each individual's case. Now let us ponder over the first question.

Will it wear well? Ah, this is important. If George is the right kind of a dress, he will be strong and made of the best material available. He will be able to stand years of use, and rainy as well as sunny days. The threads that go to make up this material will be fine and closely woven to withstand wear and tear.

Does he fit? Look in the mirror. Be honest with yourself, or better still get your best friend to judge. However, most people resent the latter.

Now look—is it too tight? If it is you'll never be happy. I'm not speaking now of the poor man who can not afford to give you luxuries. I'm talking about the man who doesn't live according to his means. He is the man who keeps his wife's nose to the grindstone all day, and then grumbles when she would like to spend an evening at the movie, with maybe a sack of popcorn for good measure.

Is it too loose? I'm speaking about the happy-go-lucky man who's willing to give his wife everything she desires. He is the type who spends every cent of his salary, buys the best of foods, and sees every show in town. If this dress doesn't fit, which bought, it won't spontaneously change for you.

Can you see through it? If you can, and you deliberately buy it anyhow, you may have to wear a slip all your life to hide the faults from the public eye. Is he a bluffer, a faker, an ex-convict, or just a city slicker? Does he stretch, or can you believe anything he says? It might pay you to hold it up to the light before you take it. Many a person has been moonlight struck. Look at these black goblins in daylight, and you may be sold. Look over before you make up your mind and take it home. Otherwise you may find you have a dress on your hands that will never wear. You may attempt to return it, only to find that used goods will not be taken back. The chances are you'll just have to put it on the shelf.

Will it be as good next season as it is now? Does it possess basic qualities that will always make for satisfaction, or is it just a fad that will content you for the moment, but will become a bore within a year?

Does it suit your type? Is it suitable to appear at the Kentucky Derby, which you adore? Does it look equally well at home by the fireside—providing you like firesides? In other words, you should have interests in common.

Is it too old for you? There's plenty of time for old age. Don't bring it on voluntarily with a mature looking dress. Don't wear a dress for a 40-year-old woman, when you're 18. Too wide a difference in age yields diversified interests. An aged husband will be crawling between the covers at the same hour you'll want to be truckin' to Cab Calloway's swing music. You will either become prematurely old, or he will enter his senile childhood and make a fool of himself.

Do you know the manufacturer? A good company seldom produces a bad product. Likewise a good set of parents seldom produce a bad child. Even the most reliable companies, however, have been found once in awhile, to produce a "lemon." There is still no consumer's research formates. The laboratory experiments are still left up to you. Set your own standards.

Is it a permanent finish? Will that dressing which made the dress so attractive when you bought it, last? Will it come out in the wash (after you're married)? A good dress, as well as a fine man, never tries to represent itself falsely. There are many smoothies fooling the world on their outward appearance.

Does it fit your purse? If you're a poor girl you can't afford a $49 dress. The same applies to mating. A poor girl cannot afford to marry a rich man. She will either continue to live in poverty through habit, or she'll develop into one of those atrocious "newly rich" types. A rich girl, although she may swear on a stack of Bibles that she'll be content to live in one room with one meal a day, will find herself mighty crowded and hungry after while. It's unfortunate but many cases have proven this to be true. So it's wise to find someone who has lived under your same financial conditions.

Is it true blue? Will it fade if washed or exposed to sunlight? Be sure that financial distress will not "wash him up" and fade him into oblivion. Money is not that important. Will there be enough sunlight of success make him high hat, snooty and selfish?

Men like dresses should be chosen with care; some are good buys while others are best left on the rack.