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There May Be No Second Time Around, Dearie

Many times you American women can learn things by hearing the other side of the story; and, my, how you can learn from this man's side of the story!

He has an honest complaint; and if the shoe pinches you, far better for you to try on another pair than to wait until you too get blistered. He writes: "What is it with

some women? What happens from the time a woman says 'I do' until she becomes the big-mouthed know-it-all? "I'm a successful businessman,

41, self-made, who worked like a demon for years to take care of my wife. I loved her as much as it was humanly possible to love. "While I was coming up and

gaining through many trials and pressures, my wife sued me for divorce-always at a crucial moment in my business worldseven times in nine years.

"Well, she finally wound up with a very healthy settlement, alimony, etc., after all kinds of

venomous tactics only a female can dream up and utilize.

"Sure enough, after a couple of years of freedom for her, now shc's worming up to me, but although I still love her I'm deluged with other women, all wanting to cook for me, sew and what have you. It turns my head, of course.

"I'm certainly not opposed to equality as such for some wom-en, but I believe it's becoming more and more the ruination of

many homes and families. "If you don't go along with their criticisms or directions, they jump the gun with an atti-tude of 'If you don't like it, buster, I'll get a divorce.' "If I could find just one wom-

an who would be by my side, not even behind me, by partner rather than boss, I'd have it made-R. C."

Well, I'm sure you'll be swamped with replies from des-perate women who all think they can fill the bill. Alas, few may; like your past mistake, even those will slip along the way somewhere.

The fault lies in two directions; one, as you say, the divorce laws, which are far too lenient in this country, and the other, the idea that if they don't succeed they'll try, try again—usually with the same hopeless results. As in the case of this man's

wife, many women have cried on my shoulder, wailing that if only they had a second chance at the men they gave up, how different

would it all be! But as I say to them, I say to you: second chances rarely come. If you have the first chance, work at it, because marriage is not a 50-50 thing but 90-10.

The biggest burden is your responsibility, because you have so much more intelligence, intuition, and guile. If you can't hold the first man you trapped, the odds are that you won't succeed in keeping the second one. (Distributed by Chronicle Features.)

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