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English B2

1 February 2017

Single or Settling?

Finding a knight in shining armor may not be as easy as it seems in the fairytales we read and fantasized about as children, meaning settling may be the way to go.

Settling is something that Lori Gottlieb advocates for women to do in her article, “Marry Him! The Case for Settling for Mr. ‘Good Enough.’” Gottlieb writes, if a woman finds a man that would be a good father figure to her child, a good husband, and a good role model, why not just settle for him instead of holding out for “the one” and possibly not ever finding the perfect guy? Women should most definitely settle for a decent man when they find one, rather than risking the chance of losing him and never finding “Mr. Right.”

Growing up little girls are always told, “don’t settle” and to “be independent” and “achieve the greatness you possess.” Women have followed half of those guidelines. Women are much more successful now than they were when marrying one’s daughter to the neighbor’s son in exchange for a few goats was acceptable. The only issue is that independence comes with a price to pay. Starting a family as a single, hard-working woman may be difficult. Gottlieb states, “It’s one thing to settle for a subpar mate; it’s quite another to settle for a subpar father figure for my child” (Gottlieb). It is one thing to settle before a child and a completely different thing to settle after. Gottlieb’s main point is that settling when young increases one’s chances of finding a better option to settle for.

Leigh Anderson, author of, “Six Years Ago I Settled for Mr. ‘Good Enough.’ This Is What Happened,” has a different take on settling. At first, Anderson married a fun, easy-gong

man named Andy. She quickly realized that she made a mistake in settling for the first man she found. They had different dreams, different aspirations. She then met her current husband who, “within a month brought up his desire to get married and have children, as soon as possible” (Anderson). This spoke to Anderson. Their aspirations lined up and she hadn’t felt as though she was settling like she felt with Andy. Although settling didn't seem to work for Anderson, most women would be smart to settle and increase their chances of finding a man they are willing to live and build a family with. Settling would be a better decision economically speaking as well.

According to the book *Economics of the Undead* edited by Glen Whitman and James Dow, a book that explains the economics of a relationship through relationships of vampires and humans, it is stated that the most efficient way to find a mate is by finding the absolute lowest quality person that one would be willing to date or marry (Whitman 6). Then explore anyone that scores above this theoretical line. Once someone is found that reaches most of a person’s requirements, marry them. Holding out for a better option may be detrimental in the end.

Life only gets more hectic and complicated than it is currently, so find someone that is good enough to settle on, and settle. Cinderella said the glass slipper fit; she didn't say it was comfortable.

Word Count: 542

Works Cited

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