

Jack walks out, if I walk out, maybe it's the best thing, instead of trying to stay under the same roof feeling hostility. When Jack came back, our whole marriage was rekindled. We both felt better about ourselves, and liked each other more.

"I'm sorry our separation hit the newspapers like it did. And two days after there had been a big spread on me, saying how much I loved my work and my home. Well, all I can say is that disagreements haven't changed anything. I do love my work, I do love my husband, I do love my family."

Though professional jealousy has destroyed many showbusiness families, it certainly doesn't look like the Cassidy family is going to give way under such pressure. Shirley and Jack have come close to divorce but always, in the nick of time, their strong, enduring love for each other has brought them back together. Jealousy is a very powerful emotion, indeed—but love is even more powerful! It would take a lot more than career ups and downs to undermine the Cassidy mutual admiration society.

Every day more and more critics and showbiz execs are waking up to Jack Cassidy's wealth of talent. He's more in demand today than he was a year ago—and he will be more popular than ever a year from now. It's just a matter of time (and probably not very *much* time) until he becomes as publicly acclaimed as Shirley and David are. Now if Jack can just learn to respect himself as much as his wife and son do, it will be up hill from here on in! ■

ETHEL KENNEDY

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Divine Forgiveness! Whether they listened to her or not remains to be seen but, in any event, Ethel was so turned off by their attitudes that she decided to drop them."

An extreme action, perhaps, but normal if you consider Ethel's moral standards.

"She's a stickler for the highest, most unrepachable conduct," said Lawrence Tilton, one of Ethel's long-time friends and a former school-mate of hers. "When she was a teenager, she didn't go on as many dates as the other girls because she found much of the accepted behavior offensive."

The women's magazine described Ethel's reaction to the wife-swapping as follows: "In an era of relaxed standards of behavior, Ethel is considered prim, even naive. . . . Embarrassed by their boldness, she not only went out of her way to avoid them but she barely could bring herself to look at them."

And the Canadian news service added, "Perhaps the most unpleasant news for Ethel was what she found out much later, after she had terminated her relationship with the couples. It seems that an unscrupulous photographer had caught wind of the situation and gotten some pictures of them involved in, to put it mildly, compromising positions."

Blackmail! The suggestion of blackmail allegedly was present soon after Ethel turned her back on them!

When she learned of this, "she became more determined than ever to abide by her own rigid moral code."

"She never swears," stated a childhood

girlfriend who remains close to Ethel, "and she cannot stomach the profanity so freely used by many women and most men, including the Kennedy men. Bobby never swore in her presence if he could help it, though a word would slip out now and again and unfailingly be met by a disapproving frown from Ethel."

"Smutty stories turn her off completely; double-meaning wisecracks get a deadpan response—that is, if she gets the point at all, which is unlikely. She is thoroughly shocked by the wave of nudity of films and on the stage, and baffled by performers who are able to bare their bodies in public."

Rumors abound about the two couples. They supposedly approached her several times for help in view of the threat of blackmail hanging over them—partly in the form of advice, but mostly in the form of money. For all but the last overture she simply wasn't "around when they called or cabled or—in the case of letters—she tore these up and threw them in the nearest wastebasket."

But her patience was severely tried when one of the two husbands, seemingly acting as spokesman for the couples, kept persisting. A letter she wrote in reply was offered by the Canadian news service as follows:

"Even though you obviously do not, I feel it is important to maintain a standard of morality. For that reason I will no longer allow you to bother me. If you continue to attempt contacting me, I shall be forced to take whatever measures are necessary to protect my privacy and my family's well-being. If you are in difficulty, it is such for which you have only yourselves to blame."

The "measures" mentioned weren't dealt with specifically. But the news service suggested that these ranged from "blowing the whistle on them" to calling the police "and having them arrested."

A family source remarked, "She wasn't kidding, either. When Ethel declares that she will do something, there isn't anything in the world that will stop her."

Undoubtedly, the Kennedy family scandals have presented quite a dilemma to her. She has had to keep her own thoughts very much off-the-record even when her moral integrity was seriously and offensively compromised by other members of the Kennedy family.

As one of our sources pointed out, "it must be an ordeal for Ethel to be a Kennedy! Recent revelations about John F. and Bobby's relationships with Marilyn Monroe underline this fact."

Lawrence Tilton allegedly commented, "She knew about Bobby's fondness for Marilyn almost from the beginning. Marilyn used to call Bobby night-and-day. Ethel could hardly ignore *that*!"

What she didn't know, apparently, was that Jack Kennedy was involved, too—and instead of wife-swapping this time, there was a form of what you could call husband-swapping running wild.

French newspapers carried the following speculation not too long ago: "When you are a sister-in-law to Ted Kennedy, you *can't* be a stranger to marital scandals. Ted's caprices have been common knowledge among the Kennedys for years."

Ethel's moral sense has involved out of a deep religious feeling. She is devoutly Catho-

lic. Unlike Jackie who has been rumored as switching to Greek Orthodoxy, Ethel would never even remotely consider such a move in any manner, shape or form.

"For her, Catholicism is meaningful," we were told. "For her, it is a very real part of life."

Ethel's strict views tend to parallel Rose Kennedy's but not especially any of the others who feel that she can be excessively narrow-minded on a variety of subjects.

