

come back, which he might never do. I had to stop crying and get going. Right?

I went first to New York for a week, with my friend and agent Ruth Aarons. I stayed at the Regency, saw friends and went to the theater. Then I took off for Sun Valley. I got my good friend Betty Cantu to go with me. She and Ruth and everyone else worried themselves sick because I might break a leg, but I skiied when I was a teenager and it all came back very easily. I knew that the exercise and the out-of-doors would be good for me. So was going to Disneyland for a weekend with the kids. So was a trip to Mexico I took with Ruth.

There was no point to the separation unless I was going to see what life without Jack was like. At first, my phone didn't ring every minute. But there were some dear sweet guys I've known in the business for years who did call and did take me to lovely places. Friends gave dinner parties and invited me. I found myself having a whirl, just like a girl at college. It was exciting and it was fun.

There was no tension when Jack and

I were together, and we often were. He came to the house, of course, to see the boys. The boys understood because we'd leveled with them. We told them that we still loved each other, but weren't sure if we could live together.

The whole point for each of us was to find out who we were, what we wanted and if we still wanted each other. Within three months, we really knew. Jack just kept coming home more and more frequently. He was the one who made the move, and that was nice, especially for such a stubborn guy. He really is a paradox, this man, stubborn and yet the most sentimental, gianthearted human being I've ever known. He loves harder, stronger and gives more than any one. Of course I love him. I can't stand men who are boring or who are lacking in a sense of humor. Come right down to it, all the things that attract me in a man, Jack has. The men I dated were charming, but Jack has a way of making almost anyone else . . . well, he has a life quality that's fascinating.

We never announced a reconciliation.

It's just been a gradual happening. We didn't even have to explain it to the children, they saw. We discovered many things in the time Jack was away, and we're not clinging to our marriage out of any habit; it's out of an honest commitment. We discovered that you don't just fall out of love, and that life isn't as lovely alone. Please God, we may make it work.

Joanne Carson: I'm going through a frightening but growing experience right now. Rearranging a life. I'm just beginning to understand why divorce is

so painful.

When you awaken and the one you love is not there, it's like being hit over the head with the saying, "I don't love you." It isn't the moving out of the house that hurts, it isn't because you don't talk to him every day. It's the meaning. I don't love you is the meaning. I tell myself that it's all over and done. Life with Johnny didn't work out. It was a wonderful marriage, but it didn't work out.

Ten years of falling in love. It isn't easy to fall out. When someone you love no longer loves you, you feel worthless. You have no value because he has said he doesn't want you around—not in actual words, but in ways. It's a devastating thing to have a marriage break up. I know, I've talked to many others who feel as I do. It's like a death. It is a death, the death of a marriage.

I fought it. Oh, don't think I didn't fight, but you know when you are fighting a losing battle. You sense . . . a wall is there, you know the other person doesn't feel as you do and you're beating your head against a wall.

I'll never forget standing outside our apartment building with all my luggage; it was the same feeling I used to have on Sunday nights when I had to go back to the convent after meeting with my father on the weekends. It was very real to me-our life. I think of all the things. I miss most my relationship with the boys because that was something special. All four boys, Johnny, of course, and his sons, Chris, Ricky and Cory. (Cory, the youngest, is 19 now. He was seven when we married.) I was the one who helped them with their homework. went to movies with them, got them ready for camp and later for college, fed them, went through all the teenage problems with them and was their friend. Never their mother. They have a mother and they never lost touch.

It's very difficult in this day and age to be a woman. You have so many needs and wants and problems, we're in such a fluctuating point in time. First choose for me, if I had it, would be to lady at home, which is why I love mew TV program, "The VIPS." It's new TV program, "The VIPS." It's new TV program, the ladies in which is why I love mew TV program, the ladies in which is who it is the ladies at home, the ladies in which is who is the ladies in the ladies in the ladies at home, the ladies in the ladies in the ladies in the ladies in the ladies at home, the ladies in the ladies in the ladies in the ladies at home, the ladies in the ladies at home, the ladies in the ladies at home, the ladies in the ladies at home, the ladies in the ladies in the ladies at home, the ladies in the ladies at home, the ladies at home, the ladies at home, the ladies in the ladies at home, the ladies at ho

I want to share my thoughts feelings, my love. I have never been an actress, I have never been put on a performance. I am py being me, and on the show doing is communicating my friends who come on viewed, and my unknown

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