

The Grass Is NOT Greener...

When troubles begin, some people decide to head for the hills. Too impatient to deal with the problems or confront their own shortcomings, they convince themselves that the grass will be greener on the other side of the fence. Little do they know just how wrong they really are. I'm hoping that you aren't one of those people.

Sure, starting out in a new relationship with a fresh face might be a lot of fun - in the beginning. But hey, so was the relationship you're in right now! Yes, you can look forward to dating and courtship, new experiences and a change of scenery. Maybe this person won't forget to change the toilet paper or take out the trash or when your birthday is, but let me assure you - they are far from perfect. And eventually, as the time passes and the new wears off, you'll find yourself in yet another relationship riddled with new troubles and new bad habits.

Suddenly, you'll find yourself right back at square one. But now you'll have two broken marriages under your belt and a great deal of emotional baggage.

If you've been considering heading for the hills and finding a new partner, let me share a few sobering statistics with you:

76% of second marriages fail within five years
87% of third marriages fail within five years
93% of fourth marriages wind up failing within five years

(Facts courtesy of the *Stepfamily Association of America* - 1997)

Compare that to the information released in a recent report by the CDC:

Only **43%** of first marriages wind up ending in separation or divorce within the first 15 years.

One in three (**33%**) first marriages will end within the first 10 years.

Only about one in five (**20%**) of all first marriages will end in divorce within the first five years.

(Facts courtesy of the Atlanta CDC – 2001)

Which boat would you rather be in? Do you really want to deal with the prospect of planning a new wedding every five years? Of filing for divorce every five years? Of hitting the dating scene over and over, only to find one more unfulfilling relationship after another?

Unless you're in a marriage where:

1. you're being abused
2. your husband is involved in illegal activity or
3. refuses to remain faithful to you

...you'd probably be better off investing your time fixing the marriage you're in.

Don't fall for the dangerous dream that you'll find greener pastures somewhere else. Sometimes what looks green and healthy from a distance turns out to be sick and weed infested closer up! Instead, spend your energy tending the soil in your own marriage.

Even the statistics say it will be a more solid investment of your time and effort...

Kathy Stafford, Relationship Coach

"I show singles how to get married and couples how to STAY married"

Do you want more from your relationship? Go to <http://www.dearkathy.com> for relationship articles, advice, and programs.

Do you go from one failed relationship to another? Do you want to find that special life partner? Get Kathy's new book, "Relationship Remorse: Mistakes Women Make When Shopping for a Man." and learn the right way to find a loving and committed life-partner. Order the book at <http://www.relationshipremorse.com>

Copyright © 2007 Kathy Stafford / dearkathy.com. All rights reserved.

