

Faith is buying only dresses with sleeves.
Faith is knowing you would like polygamy.
Faith is crying a little bit when your Bishop tells you that had you been
Eve you never would have eaten that apple.
Faith is dressing up and attending your ninety-ninthousandth M.I.A.
social.
Faith is not contracting spiritual pneumonia from the cosmic chill blast-
ing in from eternity.

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There is something to be remarked in coming home from a fairly satisfy-
ing Sunday School and a better than good Relief Society and instantly feel-
ing the need to play Peggy Lee's, "Is That All There Is?"

A CANDID AND UNCENSORED INTERVIEW WITH A MORMON CAREER GIRL

M. Karlynn Hinman

Q. Our readers are interested in knowing more about single professional
women in the Church. Tell us about your background.

A. I'm from a small Utah community. I went to college in Utah and
to graduate school in the east.

Q. What do you do with your spare time. Do you cook or sew for
example?

A. Don't you think that question is beside the point?

Q. Not at all. I'm sure our readers would like to know —

A. — that I'm a genuine Mormon woman? O.K. I'm not a freak. I
cook — make jam, bottle fruit on occasion, but I don't seem to get the right
spice balance in my Pakistani curries; commercial curry powder just isn't
proper. And I sew. I made both of my winter coats; they are lined, underlined,
and interlined; and I love to throw parties and entertain. I once gave a
surprise baby shower to which husbands and single men were invited. We
had a folk-rock band. Some friends of mine who happened to be in town
came by. And the oven caught fire and the refrigerator warmed instead of
cooled. It was a great party! But I wander. Let me guess: your next question
was going to be whether anybody had ever proposed to me.

Q. Well, this was to be a candid interview, but I wasn't quite going to
get that personal. Uh, has anyone?

A. I've left a trail of broken hearts across three — no four — continents.
It may interest you, though, that I have never had a proposal from a Mor-
mon. I am not certain of all that says, either about Mormon men or about
me. I think that it reflects the relatively young marriage age in the church
and the fact that Mormon men are guided to seek wives who fit into a par-
ticular mold. On the other hand, maybe I have chronic halitosis and my
best friends won't tell me.

Q. What about your childhood and home life?

A. I had a lovely childhood, and my parents encouraged me in my
career ideas. My mother returned to teaching when I was about four years
old. My father thought that was just fine, and he never felt any threat to

our home life. From what I can tell from talking with other women, I had a closer relationship with my father than most girls do, and I know that this helped to influence me to develop as much as I could professionally. I remember when I was about three my father decided to raise some pigs for the bacon. I went out to help build the pigpen. When he hammered the nails, his hammer left an indentation on the wood which I thought was like a ruffle or lace, so he made sure that he left hammer marks by all the nails. It's a little thing, but it always made me feel very happy to be with a father who understood a three-year-old's idea that pigs, like little girls, needed ruffles. I grew up feeling there was no contradiction between being a girl and developing to the fullest whatever talents I had.

Q. Do you think you'll marry?

A. Probably. It's a very great burden to break hearts all the time. Actually I prefer the company of men to that of most women. The most lasting and meaningful relationships I have had with people — particularly with men — have been where we both had deep intellectual curiosity. Few women are encouraged to explore the world of ideas, and I am happy in their company for only limited periods of time; the new rap groups are an even worse drag because of the ideas they think they explore. I prefer to be off doing something.

Q. Then you're not one of the bra-burning Fem-Lib People who —

A. You've been observing me closely enough to answer that question yourself.

A LETTER FROM THE WEST

Anonymous

I sat down to write for *Dialogue* on the position of the widow in the Church, but I could never get past the first sentence, which was: "There is no place for a widow in the Church unless she is willing to look resolutely and cheerfully toward the grave." I'll probably write such an article sometime, but it won't be now and it won't be for *Dialogue*.

The truth is I don't like being "single" again and yet it gives me a great deal of freedom and mobility which I love. I find my greatest joy in being a mother, the role I take most seriously and which has the most stabilizing influence in my life. So far as the Church is concerned, the mother who *must* work is regarded in a far different light from one who does it for other reasons.

I also think that so far as the Church is concerned a widow is in quite a different position from someone who has never married or from a divorced woman. It's not a position I like because it does carry with it a certain amount of pity and condescension, but on the other hand there is no feeling of censure, which I think the divorced and single often get, and my strong sense of identification with women who are married helps them to see me as a person rather than as a position — widow.

Although I can in no way explain it, my relationship with people who knew my husband has a different aspect to it than my relation with people who only see me alone. The best way I can describe it is to say that people who only know me, only know a part of me.