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BY GERALD MORALES MON MAY 12, 2014

# Can Being a Female Breadwinner Lead to Divorce?



## Solutions to prevent a marriage from failing

Relationship expert and author, [April Masini](#) explained, “Being a female breadwinner can lead to divorce when that role is incompatible to both people in the relationship. For instance, if a woman always dreamed of staying home and raising children, but has to become the breadwinner because her husband cannot or will not find employment, she may become disenchanted with her marriage and her disappointment will lead to a rift that becomes resentment that grows into arguing, fighting and divorce. Or, a man may become so depressed that he isn’t doing what he wants to be doing, finds that leaving the marriage will solve the problem.”

Communication is key. Couples should discuss a budget and define clear goals. While financial goals should be part of the discussion, personal goals should also be a focus. Working together to build a happy and financially solid future through regular, open conversations will set the tone and help strengthen the relationship.

## April’s advice

Here are some tips from April for restoring balance to marriages where perceived inequity exists:

**Do the math. Calculate what you’re NOT paying for!** It’s easy to count dollars that are income, but it’s a lot harder to estimate the dollar value that would result if a stay at home parent opted out of home and childcare. Consider the cost of maid service, laundry service, childcare, an assistant to do shopping and cooking, and then calculate the cost of a stay at home parent. When you add up what you’re saving because a stay at home parent is providing service you’d otherwise have to pay for, you may better understand that that spouse has a monetary value you didn’t realize before.

**When you’re passed the baton, take it.** Most spouses have times in their lives when they can’t do what they’ve been doing. They have have an illness, an accident, a family

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complication, a pregnancy — or any number of other “life interruptions”. If you’re the spouse who’s life is not directly affected by the illness or the car accident, pick up the slack. You may have to step out of your comfort zone and take a second job or pick up some part time work — even if it’s not something you’re proud of — just to help out the family budget. This is the stuff that builds character, and will win devotion from your spouse. It’s easy to make ends meet when everything is going swimmingly, but when the chips are down, that’s when you see who you’ve really married.

**Practice graciousness, and tell your spouse, thank you for personal sacrifices made in the interest of relationship’s financial plan.** Too often, couples take each other for granted. Simply thanking a spouse for being a great bread winner, or the bigger earner, and making it possible for you to do or have what you do, will make that person feel less taken advantage of. The feeling of being taken advantage of, comes from being unappreciated, and simply thanking someone in a genuine and heartfelt way, can eliminate that. You can easily thank a spouse for sacrificing whatever it might be — a career to stay at home with kids, or a decision to give up a dream of writing poetry to sell insurance instead to support a home and two cars.

**Never miss the opportunity to give a good toast.** Complimenting your spouse in public, in a way that is charming and heartfelt, is a great to show you’re appreciative. You can’t put a price tag on the results you’ll get from letting the world know how much you appreciate a spouse’s value. So, don’t miss the opportunity to raise a glass in public and toast your spouse.

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