

POPPING THE QUESTION 2

A 90-second monologue

By JANE CAFARELLA

Drama

PHOEBE, any age, tells Ben why she doesn't want to get married.

Spinster. Old Maid. Third Wheel. They don't scare me. They don't!

Bride. Wife. Mother – they terrify me!

I don't get it. All married women do is sit around griping about how their husbands don't help out...

How they bore them shitless or put them down or beat them up!

How they sacrifice their careers, their lives!

So why do they still say yes to the dress, the ring, the package?

Why is this normal? Why is this normalised? Idealised?

Like in that movie, *The Sound of Music*, when Maria, the heroine, marches down the aisle, the nuns sing, "How do you solve a problem like Maria"!

Maria was never the problem!

I don't want to be one of those women.

Call me selfish, but I don't want to be "we".

I want to be free...to explore the world – or maybe save it – on my own terms.

I don't want to give away my name, my body, my freedom.

I can buy my own dress.

I can buy my own ring.

I'm not scared.

Not yet.

Beat.

But thanks for asking!

175 words

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