

IS DEANNA DURBIN IN LOVED AGAIN?

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DEANNA DURBIN says she isn't marrying this February, next February, or the February after—in fact, she isn't marrying for many years to come.

"Why should I hibernate again?" she said. "I hibernated all my life, and when I married Vaughn Paul, it wasn't any different. I was sheltered, everyone thought for me, and at the age of 19 I stepped from that cloistered girlhood into a marriage that gave me the same sort of protection. Every girl should be allowed to think for herself," said Universal's favorite actress.

"It wasn't Vaughn's fault or my fault that we failed to make a go of our marriage. He, too, was spoiled and an only child. If I'd had previous romances I might not have married the first man I was permitted to go out alone with and to see. That would have saved him unhappiness and saved me from a marriage that should never have taken place."

I had asked Deanna to come and see me for I'd heard rumors that she was going to marry Felix Jackson when his divorce was final in February and then later that she had transferred her affections to Robert Landry. I've been writing about motion pictures too long not to discount any rumors that come my way.

"Why should I marry?" she said. "I have my own home, my cook, my maid and my dog."

Then she went on to explain. I'm glad to have a chance

to talk with you, because when I got my divorce from Vaughn I didn't telephone you because the Navy frowns upon, publicity regarding their officers. Remember I told you first about our engagement, and again if I decide to marry, I'll tell you first."

Deanna's hair is much lighter than it was when she was a child. And I've never seen her so thin.

"Are you dieting?" I asked.

"Mercy, no!" she answered. "I hope to get back some of those pounds I've lost. I don't like thin women, and my voice is far too important to me to risk ruining it. I just worked so hard in my last picture. *Can't Help Singing*." I dropped 12 pounds—where, I don't know."

But I noticed Deanna was very careful not to eat any of the hors d'oeuvres I offered her.

"You didn't like *Christmas Holiday*," did you?" she asked.

"Well, I admit it was a shock to see you play a bad girl," I answered.

"Oh, I love all the controversy," she said. "And I think Felix Jackson was awfully smart instead of gradually changing me from a goody-good girl into a woman of the world by letting me make a complete break. I've never been so happy in any moment of my career as I am now, because I like the directors they're giving me—I like the suggestions and ideas Mr. Jackson has for me. I want to

play every sort of character—I want to do the things that Irene Dunne and Claudette Colbert do—I want to be a great comedienne—a motion picture actress as well as a singer. I want to be like Claudette Colbert in *'Since You Went Away*!'"

I started to laugh when she said that.

"Well, you will have to wait a little while before you play the mother of a 16-year-old girl," I told her. "That would make you exactly 6 years old when you had Jennifer Jones."

The one thing I noticed about Deanna is that she's become very positive. She knows what she wants, and she's no longer a frightened little girl.

My mind went back to the day she came to my house with Vaughn Paul to tell me of their engagement. She was a plump little girl wearing a red dress and her first mink coat. This Deanna—was a far cry from that little girl, but these children do grow up, and she's grown into a rarely intelligent young person.

She's been unfortunate, because so many rumors told about her have not been true.

"I don't mind rumors a bit," she said. "I laugh at them—they can talk all they want as long as I know the things they say are not true."

With these parting words, she left, promising to tell me if she really falls in love.

Now I hope Deanna won't get married before this is printed!