

Don't Give Up

By Suzy Hopkins

We all learn to compromise or else we leave in our wake sore feelings, lost friends and relatives, bitter spouses. Who wants that?

As children we learn to negotiate, to get what we want, since temper tantrums don't work after we pass the age of four years old.

With our girlfriends we bartered for everything – make up, clothes, double dates, and the answers to the math final. Of course they always got something they wanted – your old boyfriend, the skirt your father said he would kill you if he saw you wearing it again, the candy you are not supposed to have. Where would we have been without them as we grew up?

Husbands are harder to get to reach a compromise but they get better at it as time goes on. They learn, as you have by now, that stubborn demands never work in the long run.

Bosses mostly don't compromise so you end up sneaking around like you did when your parents were unyielding. Your parents learned and you can hope the bosses will also, especially if you work for the State where you can't get fired unless you kill your boss or embezzle money.

I have realized that you don't break a horse to the saddle, you reach an understanding.

Life *is* a compromise if you want to live peacefully, happily and successfully.