

PALO ALTO ODYSSEY

Christi: Marriage is a form of hooking



CHRISTIE

MIRANDA sat on the sunny Ramona Street coffee shop patio, and listened to her niece Christi justify marrying an autistic tech billionaire whom she did not love.

“You baby boomers were spoiled,” said Christie. “It’s not going to be like that for me when I retire. The social security will be gone. The healthcare will be gone.”

Christi continued: “So marrying Jared, my autistic billionaire tech guy, as you so judgmentally call him, is a chance to secure a good life for myself. You can’t blame me for that.

“I feel like we’re devolving backwards into a medieval world,” said Miranda, repeating an earlier remark.

This is part 13 of a 24-part fictionalized serial appearing in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant with illustrations by Steve Curl.

“We are,” said Christi. “In the future, there is going to be a small over-class at the top of the pyramid, and a large under-class at the bottom of the pyramid. I want to be part of the over-class; not the under-class; if I have any choice in it.”

“So it’s made you a cynic about romance?” asked Miranda.

“I’m not a cynic, Aunt Miranda. I’m a realist. I wish the world were different, but it’s not. We young people in Palo Alto feel this pressure to be hyper-successful. And quite

frankly, that’s why so many of us are committing suicide.”

“It’s a vicious cycle,” said Miranda, “and it’s getting worse.”

“Things have changed,” said Christi. “It used to be that lack of education forced people into menial jobs. Now even people with college degrees end up in the lower class. And that is what parents in Palo Alto are so afraid of for their kids,” she continued. “That within a generation their children will fall into poverty. It’s already happening.”

“So marriage is your way out?” asked Miranda

“Yes,” said Christi. “But you make my marriage to Justin sound like it’s a form of hooking,” said Christi. “Maybe it is. But you’re the naive

one, Aunt Miranda. Marriage has always been an economic pact, and so it’s always been a form of hooking.”

Christi continued: “Your friends from India who are in an arranged marriage, and who are happy, in a marriage arranged by their parents. Isn’t that a pact where sex is part of an economic package? And isn’t it as old as time? Kings and princes arranging economic and political alliances within their families, by assigning children to marry this or that person.”

“That’s all I’m doing Aunt Miranda,” Christi concluded. “I’m being a realist. You’re just one of those naïve baby boomers, living in a your post-World War II, economic-boom fantasy world.”

More tomorrow.