

# PALO ALTO ODYSSEY

## ‘Not every woman is a baby machine’

**N**EWLYWED Christi was opposed to having children. “I’d be bored as a soccer mom,” she told her friend Tina.

“That’s hard to believe,” Tina replied. “I’d love to be a soccer mom. I can’t think of anything better.”

“Spare me,” said Christi. “Driving around in an SUV, dropping kids off, picking kids up? What kind of life is that?”

“A wonderful life,” said Tina. “My problem is I can’t find a decent guy to marry me. All I meet are the loopy losers and the serial Don Juans.”

“You can have mine,” Christi replied, referring to her tech billionaire husband JJ.

“What a terrible thing to say!” Tina exclaimed. “You have married the best guy ever!”

“Marriage isn’t everything it’s cracked up to be,” said Christi.

This is part 58 of a 72-part fictionalized serial appearing in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant with illustrations by Steve Curl.

“What’s wrong?” asked Tina.

“I just feel depressed all the time,” said Christi. “Like my life is over. Is this all there is? Getting up in the



**CHRISTI**

morning; watching the news; going to exercise class; having lunch; going to Skin Spirit; meeting JJ for dinner, when he’s in town.”

“That sounds like a fantastic life to me,” said Tina.

“You have everything. Everyone is jealous of you. All your friends think you hit the jackpot.”

“Then why am I depressed all the time?” said Christi.

“Look at the happy things,” said Tina. “Your wedding was so wonderful.”

“Planning the wedding gave me a reason to live for a year,” said Christi. “Now that the best day of my life is behind me, I am gloomy.”

“Having children would change that,” said Tina.

“Why does everyone say having children is a solution?” asked Christi. “If a woman has a problem, she’s told to have a baby. A baby might distract me, so it might seem like the problems went away; but problems don’t actually go away.”

“Don’t you hope to have children someday?” Tina asked.

“No,” said Christi. “Not every woman is a baby machine. Spending my life taking care of other people? That sounds like a nightmare.”

“With as much money as you and JJ

have,” said Tina, “You can hire people to do it for you.”

“Also,” Tina continued enthusiastically, “Listen to this! I just heard through the grapevine that they are going to be manufacturing robot nannies soon. Machines that are like substitute parents. They will be the electronic best friends for children, so parents don’t have to interact with their children if they don’t want to. You could get one of those.”

“You mean like an iPad with hands and feet?” Christi snorted.

“It’s a real jump in the technology,” said Tina. “It could help you.”

“Maybe,” said Christi. “I’ll think about it.”

“Palo Alto is such an amazing place,” said Tina. “You never know what is going to happen next. I love living on the cutting edge.”

**More tomorrow.**