

*JOANNE GROWNEY*

**Looking for mathematics in Hedy Lamarr**

*All my six husbands married me for different reasons.*  
---Hedy Lamarr

Perhaps Hedy Lamarr married so often because six is a perfect number – the sum of all its proper divisors, “proper” meaning “less than six,” “divisor” meaning “a counting number that divides and leaves no remainder.”

After a perfect number of husbands, there is no remainder. Six is the smallest perfect number, the next is twenty-eight. And twenty-eight is too many husbands.

Author’s Note: Although not a mathematician, in addition to her acting career, Lamarr was also an inventor – see, for example, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hedy\\_Lamarr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hedy_Lamarr).