



Enduring Love

Finding 'The One' - and Keeping Them

Ann

Hello. I'm Ann. I'm 71 and I have been married to Owen for 50 years.

Owen

I'm Owen. I'm 84 years old and I've enjoyed marriage to Ann for 50 years.

Bex

Hi. I'm Bex and this is Emma and we've been together for 2 years and we are planning to get married.

Emma

I'm Emma. I've been with Bex for 2 years now and we are planning to get married next September.

John

My name is John. I'm 51 years old. I have known Elsa for 13 years and we have 3 lovely children.

Elsa

My name is Elsa and I have been married to John for the past 13 years and I am very happy to be with John.

Yusuf

Hi. I'm Yusuf. I'm married to Shazia and we've got 2 lovely kids together.

Shazia

Hi. My name is Shazia. I've been married to my husband Yusuf for 7 1/2 years. We have 2 wonderful children together and we also have a business together as well.

Steve

Hi. I'm Steve. I've been with Kirsty for the last 4 years. We've got a little boy called Alfie and we are in love.

Kirsty

Hi. My name is Kirsty and I've been with Steve for 4 years and this is our enduring love.

Enduring Love And Why It Works

Owen

We met one evening. I understood that my brother was having a visitor for a fortnight and it was going to be a young girl from Yorkshire and so with 2 friends, we bought a large bottle of cider and went over to view the goods and see what had come down from the North and as soon as we went in, the girl was sitting on the settee in the far corner and I know I thought well this looks as if it's the right person for me.

Ann

Owen was with 2 friends and they were both extremely good looking.

Owen

And I was the ugly duckling (laughing)

Ann

And he was the ugly one. But as soon as I saw Owen, I knew he was going to be the one I married and after 2 weeks staying with his brother and his wife, I went home and I said to my Mum - "Mum I have met the man I am going to marry" and she said "that's nice dear".

Yusuf

We met on match.com. So we were both looking for the right person and yeah used a dating website and met up via the web.

Shazia

Well I remember thinking I'm gonna meet this guy, I'll just it over and done with (laughing) and then he pleasantly surprised me cos he was just so nice and really well mannered and we were just going to have a drink and then we went out and had dinner. I just really enjoyed your company.

How did we know? I can't explain it.

Yusuf

For me, after the second date there was a strong feeling that yeah Shaz probably could be the one and that was after date two and that was based on I guess all the other girls I had dated before Shaz and not feeling that strongly about someone.

Shazia

How many?

Yusuf

Quite a few (laughing). Match.com got their money's worth. I got my money's worth, hmmm.

Shazia

Laughing.

Yusuf

I actually called my brother and said you know I've met this girl, second date and she could be the one.

Shazia

That's scary really. Isn't it?

John

There was definitely a chemistry and a lot of intrigue because I found Elsa quite eccentric in a very sort of interesting way and she was completely different to anybody I'd met before.

We actually went away to Holland about 5 weeks after meeting and that's when the relationship kind of cemented itself, where we would say that we were actually together.

Elsa

We were more tortoise like and the chemistry grew and grew more. As we say, slowly but surely, like the tortoise and the rabbit.

Kirsty

As soon as we got together and we had that first evening at the pub, we just didn't seem to bother going out after then did we?

Steve

No.

Kirsty

We just spent time at Steve's house and buy DVDs and have a Chinese and that would be it. The door would be shut and we would be there all weekend wouldn't we, pretty much?

Steve

Pretty much.

Kirsty

We didn't really need anybody else in our company to have a good time. I think that's how we knew there and then that we had summat, didn't we?

Steve

Yeah.

Kirsty

Cos we didn't care who else was around, mobiles was just there on the side and we didn't bother with them. We was just happy with each other weren't we?

Steve

Yeah pretty much. We didn't bother.

Kirsty

We didn't go out at all.

Bex

We met at our friends' barbecue and I didn't know very many people there so I took over DJ'ing and it turned out Emma was sat next to me so I started showing her how to DJ and I thought she was listening to me. I found out since that she wasn't, at all.

Emma

I did not have a clue (laughing).

Bex

Then you gave us a lift down to the club then and she just handed me her heels and her handbag and I thought, yep there we go. This is gonna happen (laugh)

Emma

When I walked in and I seen her sat there, like I felt something but I didn't know what it was so I just went and sat and I don't normally approach people either and I just went and sat next to you and just started drinking to you and started chatting.

Bex

It is weird. I knew there was something but at the time I would have said absolutely no way.

Emma

Laughing.

Bex

But there was something about her that I couldn't sort of stay away, so love at first sight, probably yeah (both laughing).

Owen

There's gotta be a big sexual attraction.

Ann

Chemistry. It's got to be that instant chemistry.

Owen

I've been looking for that.

Ann

Yeah.

Owen

For years.

Ann

And then I think it's very important especially as you get older to have a sense of humour, you've got to have a sense of humour, you've got to trust each other and you've got to communicate and apart from communicating you've got to be able to listen, haven't you?

Owen

Yes dear (both laughing).

Ann

So, some of those things....

Owen

That's the secret I'm told.

Ann

That's the secret.

Owen

Then I say "yes dear", if not, I say "coming", that's the other answer

Ann

And the biggy is forgiving one another.

Bex

I think it's mainly the equality we have in our relationship. We both respect each other. We both trust each other. It just works, it's really weird.

Emma

Yeah.

Bex

It's nothing compared to past relationships.

Emma

The biggest one for me is the honesty that we have for each other cos I've always hidden things with previous relationships. Missed bits of information out of a story or I've bought something and not told them. I know it's only little things but to me they tend to then.....

Bex

They build up.....

Emma

add up and we tell each other everything don't we?

Bex

Yep.

Shazia

I was just really comfortable in his company and I could just be me and he was just fun to be around. And also we realised that we wanted the same things in the future, we wanted to set up a business and we both wanted our children to grow up as Muslims and we both have grown up similarly in the same Muslim way so we had all of that and it was just easy.

Yusuf

Well love is a lot of things. I think fundamentally things like trust, honesty, security, belief in each other and respect is an important one.

Shazia

Yeah, huge respect for each other.

Yusuf

Yeah. You know I love Shazia for all of her strengths but at the same time where I have got weaknesses and Shaz has got weaknesses, I love her for those as well. That's what makes her who she is.

Shazia

What are my weaknesses? You don't need to answer that (laughs)

Emma

What did I say that we were - synchronised wasn't it?

Bex

Our friends catch us all the time like either coming out with the same word at the same time or like.....

Emma

It's freaky.

Bex

When we have been at a few weddings with our friends and music, a song comes on and we start doing the same dance moves and there like oh you practice that together and it's like no we didn't honestly!

Emma

The Mr and Mrs game

Bex

Yeah.

Emma

We get like all of them right.

Bex

We are hot competition for that (both laugh) game show. We are waiting for them to open it up to ordinary people not just celebrities - straight on air.

Music