



Enduring Love

Love and Intimacy

Ann

This demonstration of love is putting the other person in front of what you would like.

Owen

Yeah.

Ann

So Owen has always got to watch the television programme I like. So that is his demonstration of love. If I say right tonight we are going to watch this, he's wonderful.

Owen

Yes.

Ann

He will watch.

Owen

Fortunately we do enjoy the same things by and large.

Ann

So there are different ways of demonstrating love. Kindness is a big demonstration of love. If he empties my waste bin, that's a demonstration of love. It's a simple thing.

Steve

I know it's really sad but I always kiss you before I leave the house don't I?

Kirsty

Yeah.

Steve

And say I love you.

Kirsty

Yeah, every morning.

Steve

Yeah it's just part of the routine now.

Kirsty

And every evening. It's just like little things really like I love cooking for him so I make sure that I always cook him nice things and I'll go out and I'll be at work and I think oh I'm gonna go and get that and I'm going to cook that for him tonight just little things like that really.

Emma

Keeping Bex happy is just feeding her.

Bex

Laughing.

Emma

So

Bex

And I'm the guinea pig

Emma

Yeah if it's bad then we just go chipper don't we?

Bex & Emma

Laughing.

Emma

Or when I left messages in your lunchbox so she found them when she is at work

Bex

really cute. It's a bit sicky but it's cute.

Emma

Yeah it's a bit pukey.

Bex

I tend to do more romantic gestures than Em.

Emma

Yours were bigger than mine.

Bex

Yeah but it's because that's what I like doing and I don't really like too much of it back.

Owen

Well I'm sure during the course of the day I say I love you one or two times. I don't put my arms around you as much as I should.

Ann

Ahh.

Owen

We have a little kiss every.time.....

Ann

Ahh.

Owen

... when we get up don't we?

Ann

Yeah, we're physical. Yeah, it's nice to hold hands, it's nice to kiss isn't it, and it's nice to (trails off)

Owen

And when we go out I'm afraid it may seem sappy but we, we hold hands. It's probably to stop me falling over now but (trails off).

Yusuf

Before the kids came along we used to

Shazia

Have a date night

Yusuf

We would make time; we used to have a date night. Every Wednesday we would go out on our date night. That was always nice wasn't it?

Shazia

Yeah but what's now?

Yusuf

Now in terms of romance I think just even the little things like holding your hand.

Shazia

When do you do that?

Yusuf

When we walk up the street.

Shazia

Laughing.

Yusuf

When we go shopping, when we go to the park, went to the zoo.

Bex

I don't like to walk down the street holding Emma's hand. It's not that, you know I don't care what people think, it's more of am I putting us in danger by doing that, it's more of a protective thing. I don't want to be physically or verbally abused as I'm walking down the street.

Emma

Yeah whereas I don't care and

Bex

If she had it her way, we would be public displays of affection

Emma

Not OTT though cos I don't think that's right regardless of what type of relationship you're in but just to like hold your hand I would just do it, I don't care. You just want to be left alone just to carry on and if it was like a boy and a girl we would be, which is just really frustrating sometimes.

Ann

Are you a romantic dear?

Owen

Well I would say not actually.

Ann

No I would say not.

Owen

But on the other hand it depends what you mean by romanticism.

Ann

Ahh.

Owen

I think because I associate it with places a bit, together with you and with excitement. I mean to me its romantic seeing the sun come up on the beach in Bali at 5 o'clock in the morning when everything goes gold.

Ann

And you were with me.

Owen

Well I wasn't with anybody else (laughing).....

Ann

That is romantic.

Owen

I was with you.

Ann

Ok. That's romantic. A woman's idea of romantic

Owen

Yeah.

Ann

Is flowers, which I buy for myself. That is romantic

Elsa

I don't need a bunch of roses or flowers. We are kind of allergic of all these kinds of superficial romanticism. We respect more together, as we are, as individuals.

John

We don't often walk down the street holding hands for instance or if we are sitting in a group we don't hold hands and be openly tender with each other. We don't need that constant reassurance I guess.

Elsa

Yes. We don't need to display this affection to people and we will not show off basically because we have got all night to do that.

Elsa & John

Both laughing.

Steve

Sex is definitely a big part. It's getting the chance with Alfie around mind but

Kirsty

Yeah.

Steve

But we have quite high sex drives.

Kirsty

Well you have yeah - laughing. I mean obviously when you've had a child your libido sort of like goes and you don't feel sexy and your sex appeal is sort of like the same, but it has been hard obviously more for Steve than for me it did put a strain and it is finding the right time init and sometimes you can't find the right time and you just have to go with that moment haven't you.

Steve

Yeah.

Emma

We go through stages don't we

Bex & Emma

Both laughing.

Emma

And it's like all the time,

Bex

Every day.....and then nothing for weeks.

Bex & Emma

Both laughing.

Emma

When we're in bed, we normally cuddle up but if we face the other way I have to have like one part of me touching you don't I?

Bex

Yeah.

Emma

Even if it's just my foot.

Bex

turn away from each other, go to the opposite ends of the bed, like right at the end and then our feet will just come back in and just join in the middle and the end of the bed.

Emma

Something has to, yeah, how weird.

Bex & Emma

Both laughing.

John

We tend to have very intimate moments that will go on for a few days and then it will taper off a little bit and we'll be preoccupied with other things. Elsa might be doing a painting or I'm busy with my work.

Elsa

Yes I think sexuality is another kind of dialogue as well and, err, I think that it's important to have a harmony about it.

Ann

Sexual implications are not as high as you get older; I hope most people would tell you that, after a long term. I would think affection is very important, the knowledge that the person you have known for so long is around to hold, to be in contact physically.

Owen

Yeah. We are always within arm's reach normally when we are sitting watching television or one thing and other and I think it's a great thing that we can still do that.

Steve

We are always really close.

Kirsty
Yeah.

Steve
We are always in the same room, pretty much.

Kirsty
Yeah, unless I'm on an early shift and you've got a day off and you want to stay up.

Steve
Yeah.

Kirsty
Cos I can't go to bed without Steve, I just can't seem to switch off and to sleep. I don't know what it is, I just can't do it. But as long as I have got him in the same room I can sleep.

Music