



Enduring Love

Relationship Work

Elsa

What is interesting in a relationship is above all the contrast, a bit like the ying and the yang, white and black and the intelligence is to try to make it together and that's why it makes the relationship exciting and very intense.

John

If we lose our temper with each other, we don't hold back. We can have quite vicious rows sometimes. But nobody bears grudges. We say what we need to say and we move on.

Elsa

Yes, that's right. Above all, the most important is dialogue. We aim to resolve the issue by discussing it and we usually find a good consensus.

Kirsty

Kids do put pressure on a relationship and so does work cos obviously we both do shifts and I mean we can go 3 days where we are both on different shifts and the only time we see each other is come bedtime.

Steve

But we do have like high stress jobs as well.

Kirsty

We do, yeah. And then sometimes I do bring my stresses home and we do take it out on each other.

Bex

We don't really have the same argument twice. If a problem comes up, we have an argument about it. We'll figure out why the problem occurred and then we'll put some kind of action in place so the problem doesn't occur again.

Emma

And we've got signals as well haven't we?

Bex

Yes we have signals (laughs).

Emma

If we're uncomfortable with something, then we have a little signal. I'll just kind of do this for that one and.....

Bex

Cos sometimes you can't, sort of give it right everyone stop, world stop, I just need to tell you Em that I'm feeling a bit anxious.

Emma

Laughing.

Bex

There is just no time for that sometimes, so we've got these little actual signs and signals that we do when we are out that we can do discreetly to each other and know what's going on with each other.

Emma

No one has clicked on to the way we do it.

Bex

We are very good at communication aren't we?

Emma

Yeah.

Bex

Very good.

Kirsty

Sometimes Steve won't argue with me because he knows I want an argument, don't I?

Steve

Yeah.

Kirsty

And I can go on for hours like it really and he knows and he will just walk away and that really gets on my nerves cos I really want an argument.

Steve

But I can't be bothered.

Kirsty

But he can't be bothered so.....

Steve

And eventually we will just have a little row and that will be it. We always like end up walking away from each other, having a chill out for 5 minutes and give each other a hug and that's it.

Kirsty

Yeah, I'll go upstairs and I'll find something to do and then I'm fine then.

Shazia

Yusuf's got lots of bad habits.

Yusuf

Laughs.

Shazia

He will take things out of the cupboard and not put them back. He'll open a cupboard door and not put it back. He won't make the bed in the morning and he munches really loudly.

Shazia & Yusuf

Both laughing

Shazia

Since we've got married he'll just sit there and munch and then also when he types the keyboard it's really loud as if he wants the computer to just fall apart. They are my niggles.

Yusuf

Ok. Laughing. I've got a few niggles.

Shazia

Laughing. No you haven't. I've got no niggles about me.

Yusuf

You're perfect.

Shazia

I am.

Yusuf

Paperwork. Filing. Laughs. Toothpaste always squeezed from the middle or the top.

Shazia

That's the children. Laughs.

Yusuf

Laughs. Yeah.

Steve

You can be an obsessive compulsive with your bloody tidying

Kirsty

Clutter, clutter. If I've had a day off and I've got my housework sorted out, the first thing Steve will do when he comes home is he'll bring the shopping in and plonk it on the table and then he'll put his phone on charge and there's wires hanging out and I think I don't like mess. Things like that just really annoy me cos I think well the kitchen is before the lounge, take it into the kitchen and put it away.

Steve

Whereas my first instant is just come say hello.

Kirsty

Yeah, but that's me.

Ann

I don't think Owen has any bad habits that really annoy me.

Owen

Well we would tell each other before they develop too far (laughs).

Ann

That's it. That's why he hasn't got any.

Owen

I mean we would be quite open.

Ann

That's why.

Owen

Stop picking your nose.

Ann

Laughing.

Owen

You know, sort of....

Ann

He hasn't got any bad habits because I've told him.

Yusuf

We've got to work at it.

Shazia

Yeah, we're constantly working on it.

Yusuf

Yeah and I think the working at it comes from some of the communication and some of the understanding and I've got to know myself more actually since I met Shazia.

Shazia

Yeah and I think I've become a better person since I met Yusuf as well. I've calmed down and you know, like I said, we know what our strengths and weaknesses are and how we can support each other, so I'm not with Yusuf just for the sake of being married and you know we've got children, it's very much because I want to and I think my life would be a lot poorer without you.

Yusuf

Oh.

Shazia

Yeah.

Yusuf

Thats lovely.

Shazia & Yusuf

Both laugh.

Elsa

To maintain a relationship is hard work but its working it with patience, perseverance, by dialogue. It doesn't have to be sex, sex, sex but to listen to what he has to say, him to listen to what I have to say and to share our emotions and from that we feel relaxed.

Kirsty

We're all part of team as well aren't we. If the other has been to work all day, we will always take the load off and I'll think I'll do Alfie and give him his tea and basically we're a team.

Steve

I don't think there has ever been a time when we've said right you'll go without cos I'm having this.

Kirsty

Yeah, we ain't like that are we? We are not selfish in any way like that.

Steve

No

Kirsty

We just, I think where we both think the same, we don't get times like that.

Steve

No.

Kirsty

You know.

Steve

Apart from the cushions on the sofa, that was all you, I can't stand them.

Kirsty

Yeah, he don't like that

Ann

As I have got older, I nag less. A man wants to come home to somebody who just accepts him, just doesn't hassle him, just to demonstrate that love that he is more important than she is.

Owen

You've got to be not selfish. Neither of us seem to be selfish with each other. We trust and honour and give and I think that's more the point rather than being selfish.

Ann

It all sounds very sort of, err, super duper airy fairy. It's hard work. If people can stay married forever monogamously, I personally think that's a huge miracle.

Music.