



Enduring Love

Perceptions of Love

Shazia

I was looking for a Muslim partner and I know Yusuf was as well and that's actually how we met cos on online Match.Com, I think I'd made some really embarrassing remark about why can't someone as fantastic as me who's Muslim meet a fantastic Muslim guy and he noticed it and say hi, here I am - laughs.

Yusuf

Yeah, it is important but at the same time I was conscious that I was looking for someone that was going to be as spiritual, as religious as me.

Shazia

I'm not spiritual really, I'm not really religious but I understand it all.

Yusuf

Yeah.

Shazia

Am I spiritual?

Yusuf

Well I think you are a bit, yeah.

Owen

We were both very fortunate in coming from Christian families, so it becomes a way of life obviously but you do have to look into it to appreciate the sort of finer points.

Ann

It brings in the business of forgiveness. So if, in a marriage, you can bring that into it, because we've all done wrong things and forgive one another, that is a bedrock for that sort of enduring love relationship.

Shazia

I think what makes it easier is that we both don't drink, we both know the rules. We know that when it comes to Ramadan, we know what to do, we know what it means, how important praying is, you know it's part of our DNA, it's what we have grown up with and it just makes it easier that you don't have to tell your other half that this is what you want with the children. We haven't got any of that, it's just both cool Muslims. Laughs

Elsa

I think it's important to be open to all, er, beliefs. I've got a soft spot for astrology and it can help a relationship as well. You can find in astrology good relationships, bad relationships and John is err Aries. Aries stands for masculinity and also is the March planet, the God of War, God of Action, so he is very active and me, I'm Taurus, with the Planet of Love, Venus and I represent the female symbol as well.

John

I don't take a great deal of interest in those signs and things but that's part of Elsa, it's part of her eccentricity and....

Elsa

Yes.

John

And so I accommodate that in our relationship.

Elsa

That's right.

Music

Steve

Our relationship's long term, definitely long term.

Kirsty

Yeah, we're in it for the long run.

Steve

We've been together nearly 4 years.

Kirsty

Yeah, In October init?

Steve

11th.

Kirsty

Yeah, 11th October. At the end of the day we wouldn't have had a child if we wasn't in it for the long run and committed to each other and had a house together would we?

Steve

We are working on number 2 soon hopefully, so with a bit of luck.

Emma

2 years in a lesbian relationship is a long time. It does move a lot quicker

Bex

I think it's cos you've got 2 women.

Emma

Yeah.

Bex

It's just like full steam ahead.

Emma

Emotion.

Bex

Committal, committal.

Emma

Emotion.

Bex & Emma

Both laughing.

Bex

Go.

Emma?

There's are loads of jokes about it

Bex

Yeah

Emma

Like what do you bring to a second date?

Bex

And what do lesbians bring on a second date? A moving van. It's kind.....

Emma

Well it is

Bex

It kind of is true

Emma

Yeah.

Bex

It can make it better to have 2 women so like in tune with emotions. Because you are completely in tune with each other, you know what the other one's thinking and when they roll their eyes, what their thinking and that kind of thing but at the same time that could be more of a problem because it's like, look can we just put this to rest now instead of having to talk it over and over and over?

Emma

Laughing.

Bex

And then obviously you have got 2 lots of PMS as well.

Shazia

I don't feel as if we have been in a long term relationship, it still feels quite new. I mean we've been together 8 years.

Yusuf

Mmm.

Shazia

But I know that's probably 8 out of maybe 40 or 50 however long we've got left (laughs) in life.

Yusuf

There's still so much more that I think we both want to do with our lives together. Ambitions and dreams and whether they're to do with the business, whether they're personal goals we have or goals as a, you know, as a couple or as a family and I think we've got a lifetime of those to keep us going.

Ann

24 years ago, I was organising my parents golden wedding and I've done that, I've gone through that and I think, wow, 50, half a century of being married is ...

Owen

Mmm.

Ann

There is no one thing that you can put your finger on really. Opposites possibly help because I'm quite noisy and gregarious and Owen is very patient. I don't know, I don't know. What is the secret? What is it?

Emma

I think with love, it is not a want, it's just there. Us, we just happened

Bex

This is natural isn't it?

Emma

I just didn't, I wouldn't like, oh I want that one, so I didn't go out looking for it. I'm going to sound really corny and cheesy but it's just a really good feeling. I'm just constantly just on cloud nine

Kirsty

When he comes home from work and he walks down that path, my heart beats faster and I've only got to look into his eyes and I know I'm in love with him. I just don't care about anybody else

Steve

Yeah, that's true. It's almost as if apart we don't work properly, as in that like something is missing to make our lives complete but when we're together, everything's fine.

Kirsty

Mmm

Steve

Part of a set ain't it?

John

I mean love changes as, as you get on, just as, as individuals we change and I think our love evolves as part of that process. I mean, I'm always, I don't think we will ever get bored with each other. There is always interest there, there is always a surprise around the corner and that fuels our relationship.

Shazia

It's changed over time but yeah, I'd say I'm more in love with Yusuf than I was at the beginning. I mean, every day, seeing him with the kids, all the things he does to help me around the business, at home and just the conversations we have about growing old together and.....

Yusuf

Yeah, yeah, I think it grows.

Shazia

Yes.

Yusuf

It grows. The more I'm with Shaz, the more I wanna be with her. I think in your Valentine's Card last year, it was kind of along the lines of every year I feel that I love you more.

Shazia

Yeah I didn't get him one but yeah it was really nice. I don't believe in Valentine's Day

.(laughing)

Yusuf

Laughs.

Ann

Love, yeah we are and that means wanting the best for the other person, feeling comfortable, joy and peace together, patience together and the kindness and the self control.

Owen

Yeah.

Ann

Particularly self control. Yeah we are still in love. We still love each other; we want the best for each other.

Owen

Oh definitely.

Ann

But the miracle is that it has lasted for 54 years. That is actually mind blowing isn't it?

Music