



Enduring Love
A Fine Romance

Ann

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 been happily married to Ann for 50 years

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

Ann

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

Owen

And suave and I was the ugly ducking

Ann

....and suave, and he was the ugly one. So he was the one that I went for. But, I think when I saw him....I was 18 and Owen was 31 and he was the one. I knew immediately he was the one I was going to marry

1'20 FOR BETTER FOR WORSE

Ann

Well I did actually ask you to marry me didn't I? Because you were not going to get round to it

Owen

I wasn't holding back particularly but the thought hadn't crossed my mind at the moment. I mean I knew I was going to eventually but it was just a question of timing wasn't it

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...there is no one thing that you can put your finger on really. You actually got married and it was forever. It was for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and health. And when you went to that church and got married you weren't thinking maybe this might last for 5 or 10 years, this was going to be forever, until you die.

2'22 THE SECRET

Ann

It's got to be that instant chemistry

Owen

I'd been looking for that for years

Ann

Yeah. And then I think it's very important, especially as you get older to have a sense of humour, that is very important in love. You've got to have a sense of humour. You've got to

trust each other and you've got to communicate, there's got to be huge communication. And apart from communicating you've got to listen haven't you

Owen
Yes dear

(both laugh)

Ann
Some of those things

Owen
That's the secret I'm told, that I say 'yes dear'...

Ann
That's the secret, that's his answer

Owen
....if not I say 'coming!'

3'04 A FINE ROMANCE

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

Ann
Ahh

Owen
We have a little kiss every time in the morning when we get up don't we

Ann
Ahh, that's sweet....sweet

Owen
Yeah

Ann
Yeah, we're physical, Ok? You know it's nice to hold hands, it's nice to kiss, it's nice to hug

Owen
And when we go out, it may seem soppy but, we hold hands. It's probably to stop me falling over now, but. (laughs)

Ann
Are you romantic dear?

Owen
Well Ann would say not actually

Ann
No, I would say not

Owen
But on the other hand it depends on what you mean by romanticism I think. Because I associate it with places a bit, together with you and with excitement. I mean to me it's romantic seeing the sun come up on the beach in Bali at 5 o'clock in the morning when everything goes gold

Ann

Which is nothing to do with me

Owen

Which...I mean Ann is with me

Ann

Not at 5 o'clock in the morning I'm not

Owen

Yeah we were this is when we did 2 mornings at 5 o'clock, it was absolutely brilliant

4'20 LOVE IS

Ann

As I've got older I nag less. A man just wants to have the woman he loves listen to him, to demonstrate that he's more important than she is. So this demonstration of love, I think, is putting the other person in front of what you would like. So Owen has always got to watch the television programme I like. So that is his demonstration of love, ok? So if I say, right tonight we're going to watch this, he's wonderful, he will watch

5'01 TRUE FAITH

Owen

We were both very fortunate in coming from Christian families. We also got a lot out of, we were at Christian schools basically. 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

By the Grace of God we have kept a marriage alive together

5'48 TIME FLIES

Ann

It has got to come back to being comfortable with one another. The fact that we have made a decision not to be comfortable with anyone else....and that embraces the whole of ones character and personality. Yeah, we are still in love. We still love each other, we want the best for each other

Owen

Definitely

Ann

But as I say, the miracle is that it has lasted for 54 years. That is, actually, mindblowing isn't it?