



## **Enduring Love**

*Working Relationships*

### **Yusuf**

Hi I'm Yusuf, I've been married to Shazia for 7 and a half years and we've got 2 lovely kids together

### **Shazia**

Hi my name's Shazia, I've been married for 7 and a half years to Yusuf and we also have a business together as well

0'24

### **Yusuf**

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

### **Shazia**

I was just really comfortable in his company and I could just be me and he was just fun to be around and it was just really comfortable, that's all I remember and I didn't speak about it with anyone...I didn't ask anybody's opinion, I didn't say "what do you think of Yusuf" I was just like "This is Yusuf". And also, we realised that we wanted the same things in the future. We wanted to set up a business, I don't think we thought it would be together did we? And, we both wanted our children to grow up as muslims and we have both grown up similarly, in the same muslim way, so we had all of that and it was just easy.

1'14 COME FLY WITH ME

### **Shazia**

You proposed after 4 months, which was a surprise

### **Yusuf**

Yeah, it was November wasn't it

### **Shazia**

Yeah, end of November because Yusuf took me on the back of his motorbike and we ended up in an airfield and I thought he was actually going for a flying lesson, taking me along to watch him have a flying lesson, but no, we went up in a helicopter and he proposed....over London.....it was very nice.

### **Yusuf**

So I met your parents the first time in September and then I proposed in November...yeah

### **Shazia**

And then we got married in March

### **Yusuf**

....so between then it was just planning

### **Shazia**

8 months

....on the day of the wedding I remember not feeling nervous until I was dressed and got in the car and then just before we got to the venue I was like "God I've only known you for 8 and a half months, what am I doing" and I got palpitations in the car.

But no, we've been happy, we've been married, what, 8 years now and erm, yeah, we've got a business together and we've got 2 little kids and we're together all the time, all the time, all the time. (laughs)

2 + 2 = 4

**Shazia**

Just before our 3<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, we find that we're expecting Ishal and then that completely threw our world upside down. I'm the kind of person that can cope with anything and everyone else is the one that's having a problem....noooooo....it's very hard being a parent and it really did, Yusuf got stressed, I got ....it was hard. But then when we decided to go for the 2<sup>nd</sup> one it was a lot easier because we knew what to expect and we already didn't have a social life so it didn't matter as much (both laugh)

But yeah and then I've set up a business because of the children, I want to be around them

**Yusuf**

I remember I used to go away on business quite a lot and before I met Shaz, I'd be happy going away for a few weeks at a time and I'd, you know, really enjoy my time away and not really get homesick or anything....and then after I met Shaz and after we first got married and I went away for business and after a week of being away, I was like 'I'm really missing home...

**Shazia**

I remember this, so he went away for 3 weeks and I was like, that's a long time..he went, 'oh you'll be fine, it's only 3 weeks' and then it was him who calling me all the time ' I miss you, I miss you' and I was like 'what happened to your 3 weeks, can't even last 3 days!'

**Yusuf**

I know, it changed!

Both laugh

3'33 THE LITTLE THINGS

**Yusuf**

Before the kids came along we used to...

**Shazia**

Have a date night every wednesday...

**Yusuf**

...make time. We used to have a date night, every Wednesday we'd go out on our date night and, erm, yeah, having long dinners together, that was always nice wasn't it.

**Shazia**

Yeah, but what's now? (laughs)

**Yusuf**

Now in terms of romance, I think just even the little things like holding your hand as we walk up the street

**Shazia**

When do you do that? (laughs)

**Yusuf**

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

**Shazia**

Do you hold my hand?

**Yusuf**

Yeah (laughs)

**4'03 COOL FAITH**

**Yusuf**

I was kind of conscious that I was looking for someone that was as, I guess, as spiritual as me.

**Shazia**

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

**Yusuf**

Yeah, I think you are a bit yeah

It's kind of there but it's not, you know, we're not kind of in each others....

**Shazia**

I think what makes it easier is that we both don't drink, we both know the rules, when it comes to Ramadan we know what to do, we know what it means. How important praying is, we know what the 5 pillars are. It's just, part of our DNA, it's what we've grown up with. And we haven't got that extra problem of having a strong faith and saying well I want the children raised this way or I want this out of life or you should be acting this way. We haven't got any of that, we're just both cool muslims!

(both laugh)

**4'57 WORKING AT IT**

**Yusuf**

We've got to work at it

**Shazia**

Yeah, we're constantly working at it

**Yusuf**

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

**Shazia**

Yeah and I think I've become a better person since I met Yusuf as well, I've calmed down and, and....If it comes across as easy, that's great, but there's a lot of work involved there at the same time. But I think it's because we want it to work, and I think my life would be a lot poorer without you

**Yusuf**

Ah

**Shazia**

Yeah

(both laugh)

**Shazia**

Ok...there you go

5'40 THE MORE I LOVE YOU

**Shazia**

I think we're still in love as a couple, erm...it's changed over time but yeah I'd say I was 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 you know with the business, at home and just the conversations we have about growing old together and yeah, definitely

**Yusuf**

Yeah, I'd agree, I'm still in love with Shazia and more every day....yeah, I think it grows.

(Shazia laughs)

**Yusuf**

In your valentine's card last year or this year it was kind of along the lines that, you know, every year I love you more

**Shazia**

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

(both laugh)

**Shazia**

I told you I wasn't romantic

Music ends