

Holding It All Together

by Amy McCollom



The Man Backstage
He really deserves a trophy, a crown, his name in lights, a man-cave with a 60 inch T.V. and a new recliner. My husband, John, is my best friend, my hero, my knight in a shining uniform. He is a very humble man, a lot like my dad. Accolades are uncomfortable for him. He doesn't like to be in the lime-light, he's more of a behind-the-scenes, backstage sorta guy. But without him, the show wouldn't go on, that is for sure.

But John deserves a cake, balloon, and/or a small parade; for he has put up with me as his wife for 31 years as of the 12th of March. We have been together more than half of our lives. And they said it wouldn't last. Na na na na naaaaa.

Even though we didn't go out somewhere fancy this year to celebrate our anniversary, it was still just as special to me. We enjoyed a cozy meal at home with our family, and then cuddled up for a movie together. It was perfect.

Over the years, we've learned a lot about each other. He likes fish, me - not so much. I snore, he folds his socks a certain way, I like April Fresh Downy, he likes Dawn dishwashing liquid. Then there are attributes you learn over time that you can miss if you don't take the time to look for them.

I did not know how good John was with dogs, until I came home one day and found out he had taught our pomeranian how to sit, beg, roll over, spin, fall over dead

when he said bang, pray on command and say amen, and balance a treat on his nose and catch it in the air.

I did not know how good John was with kids until we had 7 of them, and he wasn't afraid to change diapers or get up for night feedings, or clean up vomit when he knew I couldn't. He is an excellent dad AND grandpa.

I did not know how good of a cook John was until I got put on bedrest a few times and he took over in the kitchen. His steaks are perfect, sandwiches are delicious, and he always has great ideas for meal planning. Not only does he know his way around the kitchen, he cleans up after himself too. Nothing is more appealing to

a woman than seeing her man with his hands in dishwasher. John is a pretty good nurse too. He is nurturing and caring. He is intuitive and a quick learner. He isn't afraid to try. In the past 2 years, he has fixed our stove, refrigerator, and dishwasher all by watching YouTube videos. He has also fixed our daughters furnace and water heater. He does the taxes every year for our entire family.

John also puts up with the kids and I dragging home all kinds of animals. Over these years, our love for animals has rubbed off on him. Even John has brought home injured animals for all of us to care for a time or two. Our cats and dog absolutely love him. That says a lot about a person. Animals know if you are a good person.

John has also put up with my wild and crazy ideas, dreams, schemes, plans, and endeavours. He tolerates my



mistakes. He helps me keep my head when I am angry. He comforts me when I am sad. He tries to keep me grounded, and always shows the reality of my actions. Sometimes he is a party-pooper, but I understand. He did say no to the emu farm, but you never know what the future may hold.

So, John, if you read this, know that I truly appreciate you and all of your talents and skills. When I found you, I found my perfect partner. I understand that you have sacrificed a lot over the last 31 years. But I love you for it, and I hope that is enough. I vote we go another 31 years, and then some. Apparently we work well together.

Ladies and gentlemen, be-

fore your next anniversary, make a list of all the good things you have learned about your partner. Write down all the ways you go together; like salt and pepper, rootbeer and icecream, biscuits and gravy. It will change the way you think about your partner, and they will feel different about you too. My advice to anyone who hasn't been married as long as John and I - Be best friends. Don't ever talk bad to each other or about each other. That is a line to never cross. Don't go to sleep mad. Get your disagreements settled before midnight. And last, when newly married, always fight naked. That doesn't work too well after you have kids. Or a cat.

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Find us on Facebook for upcoming events
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9:15 am Sunday School For All Ages
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Child care available during
Worship
Open Communion first Sunday of each month
Walkers are welcome Monday-Friday during office hours in the Henson New Life Center
Quilters- contact the office for opportunities to join our quilters
Join us for Lent starting with Jazz Sunday, March 3, 10:30 am;
Ash Wednesday Services, March 6, 7:00 PM
Palm Sunday, April 14, 10:30 am
Holy Thursday, April 18, 7:00 pm
Good Friday Service April 19, NOON
Easter Sunday, April 21, 10:30 am

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