



Picture: Robyn Cuenal

Love takes two to tango

As Australia's most successful publishing team with 15 bestsellers translated into 51 languages and sold in more than 100 countries, Barbara and Allan Pease have devoted their lives to helping people write the script to their own Hollywood love stories, writes Leanne Edmiston

ALLAN, 59: We met at a conference 21 years ago in Townsville. I did a big seminar on body language, and she was teaching body language there. She bought a book from me and told me she had been using all my videos for her training course. But when she told me her name I didn't remember her having bought any videos. She said: "Nah, they're copies". Thief!

Oh, yeah, (it was love at first sight) for both of us, and it hasn't changed. It was one of those Hollywood movie-type moments. It's been a cross between a Hollywood movie and a trip to Dreamworld. We've done things, and been to places, that we couldn't have imagined. Before I met her, I wrote a list. I'd been married for 20 years previously. I wrote a list of what the perfect woman would be like. I've still got the list in my drawer. It's a handwritten list. There are 10 things written on there that the perfect, ideal woman in my life for me would have. She only had seven of them but I figured I could let one of them slip by and I could probably train her on the other two. The first thing, she had to be tall, blonde hair, blue-eyed. I fell in love with Brigitte Bardot when I was 13 and that set a pattern as to what the perfect woman would look like. She had to be athletic and sporty, which she was, because I am too. She had to be a good or potentially good parent, because I already had three kids. Barbara has one from a previous relationship. We have two now, aged three and six.

She had to make me No.1 all the time, the most fantastic guy that ever lived. A couple of other things I can't tell you,

you can probably work those out. Hey, I'm a guy! And she had to have a good business brain. I wanted someone as a running partner as opposed to what you might call a wife. Somebody who could match me in speed, and thought and everything else – which she can. She's got a great mind in business. She runs everything. I don't have any authority. And that works out well, because if anything goes wrong, it's her fault!

I never personally wanted kids. I had three and Barbara had one, so I didn't see any reason for any more. It wasn't until I got prostate cancer when I was 49. My diagnosis was pretty poor, maybe three years they thought I might live – which was 12 years ago. There would be no evidence that Barb and I ever existed as a couple into the future. Nobody would ever know who we were, which was a great love relationship, just the most remarkable thing I've ever been involved in. We decided let's do it.

At that point I'd had prostate cancer, I'd had a vasectomy, I'd had 26 doses of radiation to the testicles, so the doctor said forget it, it's impossible, it can't be done. But at that point they introduced this new technology in

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which they harvest DNA because I had no sperm that was any good. As a result we got two kids, who we call the Impossible Kids. It changed our life. It's been incredible.

You've got to make your husband or wife feel important and we do that really well. It works well in business because we've got clear delineation – she knows what she does and I know what I do,

and we don't step in each other's territory. That's an important part of working together.

BARBARA, 48: We have a great time. He always makes me laugh. Even after all these years we've been together, I still laugh. He's funny, always researching something new and teaching people, and I just love that his whole personality is about making people better and making you laugh. If you laugh, you'll retain the information.

(My time with Allan's been) the best part of my life. Every day is different. I wake up in the morning and I just love it. Being older parents, we love everything it brings with it. I love going to soccer games and swimming carnivals and athletic carnivals and doing reading with grade oners.

It's so natural for me to be the full-on, full-time mum. If you're getting an email from me, you look at the time and think what is she doing at three in the morning sending me an email? But that's when I work. I try and work early in the morning or at night after they've gone to bed.

I always knew I would be successful. I can look at something and I can change it into a fantastic idea. I was working three jobs when I was 12 years old, because I knew that at 17 I would need a car.

I found the love of my life the second time around, and it was exactly as I imagined as a little girl – someone sweeping me up and making me feel like the most special woman in the world. Allan does that on a daily basis. He's considerate and loving and I do feel like a princess. One of the things Allan does for me is brushing my hair. It just makes me feel alive and I love how it makes me feel. When he does that for me I feel like I'm in heaven.

If we have an argument it's my fault and it's normally when I have my period. And we laugh about it. I'm serious. When I have my period he'll laugh at me because I'll snap at him. When you're not feeling well if someone laughs and says "let's talk about this when you're feeling better" you end up laughing yourself because you can't be angry with someone who's laughing at you.

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