

From Behind Our White Picket Fence Week 144
By Freddy and Eddy (www.freddyandeddy.com)

Disconnection...

In the provocative book *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, author Michael Pollan traces four meals from their births to his table, showing our society's almost total disconnect from where food comes from and how it gets to our plates. Without getting into too much detail (we highly suggest you pick up a copy), Pollan's linking of food production to our industrialized method of production has resulted in losses not only in nutrition, but environment, ecology, and spirituality. In fact, we defy you to tell us the number one ingredient now prevalent in the majority of foods on your local supermarket's shelves, or describe the manner in which your chicken nugget came to be or how a cow is typically raised and subsequently slaughtered. Though the answers to these questions are surprising, even startling, the real crux of our distancing – quite literally – from where our food comes from is that we have now given total control of its quality, quantity, and even price to interests who have no other agenda than their bottom lines.

This got us to thinking (tenuous lead-in, we know): when did the notion of sex and marriage suffer a similar fate? In other words, when did we lose touch with the origins and tenets of marriage and sex and replace them with unreasonable expectations and unattainable standards? With divorce rates around the country averaging above 50% (and who knows how many of the remaining minority are happy) and sexual dysfunction at an all-time high, it seems not even faith in the almighty can keep couples together, let alone loving one another and having hot sex for a lifetime. Discounting marriages that are doomed from the start (perhaps arranged, forced by pregnancy, etc.), what goes wrong so often after such promising starts? We have sat in the audience (and even presided over) weddings attended by over 300 people, celebrating the couple's decision to enter into matrimony, eating and drinking and dancing into the late evening hours, only to see it all come crashing down in nasty divorces or miserable affairs down the line. How can such intense love degenerate in the face of financial difficulties, family crisis, and/or sexual dysfunction (when in fact that bond should intensify in such adversity)? Why didn't their initial love save them?

Maybe marriage or life-long relationships, in today's terms, are simply out of date concepts. Perhaps love itself is an unstable emotion that simply cannot be sustained by the majority of human beings over long periods of time. After all, the concept of marriage itself was invented *without love* at its core, instead coming into being for social (protection of bloodlines), economic, and a secure environment for species perpetuation. The notion of love wasn't an overriding factor in marriage at all until medieval times, so it's quite odd we've now made it the number one priority for lifetime commitments. Indeed, in what other transaction is love the biggest factor besides marriage (and perhaps hot sex)?

We were asked a question in an interview (for a documentary film) recently, "Where do you see yourselves (in your marriage) in 20 or 30 years?" The simple answer would've

been that we'd be in the same seat together, hands clasped, just as in love as ever; however, our response was simply, "We don't know." Our hearts certainly want to continue our 20 year fairy tale a great many more years, but reality usually has a way of throwing a few kinks into such stories. Even the strongest bonds can be broken by unforeseen influences or events, so we can only *hope* our relationship overcomes life's unpredictable adversity.

Yes, we're still very much in love, but as it exists today bear very little resemblance to how it began with nervous glances and electric currents flowing through every minute we were together back in 1988. That initial explosion of passion, non-stop sex, and fifty phone calls per day has evolved over time into respect, trust, and humility, with constant adjustments along the way to keep things on track. At our relationship's core, we've made sure no decision – big or small – is made without thought to the other and nothing – not even our child – is put above our commitment to each other. Who knew we'd still be giddy at times so far ahead?

Still, we find ourselves quaintly out of step, much as generations before us must have chafed at "love" being the reason to enter into such a hefty commitment as marriage. Our wedding was nothing more than us and a couple friends on a Carmel Beach, our triumphs no more than a little house in Mar Vista, a cool little kid who still gives us hugs, and a wonderful *knowing* that in the moment we still share our hearts, our souls, and a few laughs along the way.

Freddy and Eddy – aka Ian and Alicia Denchasy – can be reached via e-mail at freddy@freddyandeddy.com or by calling 310-915-0380. Their store address is 12613 Venice Blvd., LA CA 90066 and all articles are archived on their website.