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The Magazine of Life Leadership

INSPIRATIONAL • LOVE

True Love

Beyond Cinderella.

by Charles and Elizabeth Schmitz

CINDERELLA IS A WONDERFUL STORY. It does, indeed, warm and inspire the heart. Love is always inspiring! But, it is an idealized version of falling in love that rarely approximates the reality or the truth of what love really means—of what love might mean for a lifetime.

When young women hear the Cinderella story, they want to believe that their Prince Charming will sweep in with the wind. And for sure, every young man wants to find his Cinderella—someone to put the glass slipper on. Many people look for this fairy-tale version of love, but *idealized love* and *real love* are not the same.

A dashing young man or a lovely young lady often sweep each other off their feet. You may have experienced this. The spine tingles, the heart races, the face flushes, and the lips tremble. Love has feelings—and *is* a feeling!

Being *in love* is easy, just like the Cinderella story—but *making love* last takes hard work. You have to do the simple things every day of your loving relationship. Simple things matter in relationships! *Successful* love and marriage (healthy and happy relationships) are an accumulation of doing simple things.

Here is where Cinderella comes in. Falling in love at the stroke of midnight is easy. Putting on the glass slipper isn't all that hard either. Yes, the beginning of love is easy, but the *sustaining of love* is the difficult part.

When you fall in love, you need to understand that *being in love* is the easy part—*staying in love* takes hard

work. Hence, your greatest challenge is to recognize that when you fall in love, Cinderella style, you are only at the beginning of love—not the end.

The Cinderella version of *love ever after* rarely happens. Even when you are in love, life is not always easy, fair, just, and beautiful. The *reality of love* and the *Cinderella story of love* are not the same!

Yes, love is grand. Falling in love and being in love are wonderful places to be. But, to *fall in love* and *be in love* is just the creation of an emotional attachment, it's the rational connection between two people who choose to love each other for life!

True love is about doing the simple things that make love last for a lifetime. Blinding yourself to the true meaning of love—fooling yourself

into thinking that momentary love is real love—is to make the mistake that leads to an end of many marriages and relationships.

Being truly in love is not a temporary thing! Letting your emotions dictate your actions when it comes to love and marriage is a mistake. True love comes with time. It's not a Cinderella short story—it is a story of commitment, for true love transcends time.

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ACTION: Experience true love.