

ADVICE TO YOUNG LOVERS ON VALENTINE'S DAY

A three-minute monologue

By JANE CAFARELLA

(Adapted from the author's one-act play of the same title)

Comedy

ALICE, 50s +, gives advice to her grand-daughter on her wedding day.

Congratulations! You look beautiful!

I was married on Valentine's Day, too.

I guess that's why I find that particular wedding anniversary so easy to remember.

The other two I keep forgetting.

On my first wedding, I was 20. He proposed in the car on the way to a meeting. I seconded the proposal, it was passed and we drove on.

I spent longer choosing the dress. Cream lace – size 10. I carried yellow roses and wore gardenias in my hair.

He turned up wearing the only thing that was left on the rack at the hire place the day before: a purple velvet suit with matching bow tie.

And that's about as much effort as he put into the relationship for the next seven years.

On my second wedding, I was 29: cream lace again, size 14, red roses.

We'd only known each other a few months when it became clear that we should spend the rest of our lives together.

So, we flew to the Las Vegas and married on Valentine's Day.

It was on our honeymoon that it became even clearer that this was mistake.

By the third wedding – aged 34, midnight blue satin, size 20 – I had a son – but not to either of the men I'd married.

I carried pink roses – and our daughter, who arrived six months later.

Smiles.

Third time lucky.

So...after three "I dos" and two "I don't any-mores" here's my advice:

Size matters.

The size of your bank balance, that is.

Don't marry for money, but don't marry at all unless you both have some prospects of getting any – especially if you have kids.

You can hand down booties but you can't hand down education.

Secondly, familiarity breeds contempt, so perhaps the ensuite next to the bedroom is not ideal after all.

Advice to young lovers on Valentine's Day

Thirdly, do something for yourself occasionally – apart from going to the dentist or gynaecologist – nobody wants to be married to a martyr or a bore.

Fourthly, don't wait for Valentine's Day to say, "I love you".

Show it – by sharing responsibilities as well as your bed.

And above all – PERSEVERANCE!

358 words

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