

Romance

Are My Ears Ringing?

When Donna and I were planning our honeymoon, Grandma and Grandpa invited us to stay at their home in British Columbia on our way to the west coast. Since my paternal grandparents lived so far away, I wasn't too familiar with them because we hadn't had occasion to visit very often. I saw the opportunity to stay at Granny's as a way to kill two birds with one stone: get to know kin and save some money on a hotel room.

Grandpa was a tall, dark haired, lanky man who wore glasses and used a cane to walk. Grandma looked about the same as Grandpa, including a moustache, but minus the spectacles and about a foot shorter. In fact, I've heard tell that the older a couple gets, the more they looked alike. Donna and I were kind of grossed out wondering which of us, over time, would adopt the other's physical traits. I teased her about someday growing whiskers while she razzed me about developing a saggy, old man chest.

My new bride and I brought our luggage upstairs to the bedroom our grandparents had prepared for us. Grandma had a smirk on her face. She waltzed across the room to our cozy queen-sized bed and gently pushed on the mattress. Both grandparents chimed in, right along with the hundreds of tinkling bells they had fastened to the underside of our bed, teasing that they would know exactly what we were up to that night because their bedroom was directly below ours. Donna's jaw dropped, and she looked at me in disbelief. It was all I could do not to burst out laughing. Grandma and Grandpa were giggling and nudging each other.

My Advice to the Lovelorn

ADVICE TO THE LOVELORN,

AS PARAPHRASED AND QUOTED FROM MY SUICIDE JOURNAL ENTRY:

Tell your wife she is beautiful. "Thinking it is not enough. Every day tell her."

"Never take each other for granted. It's so easy to do once you've been married for a while but that'll kill a marriage really quick."

"Let [her] lean on you sometimes, she needs to feel your strength instead of [her] always being the positive one."

"Swallow your pride and do what it takes to overcome [whatever

your issues may be]—before it is too late. Do something to change your life before you end up in the hospital—or even worse.”

“Kiss you[r] wife...often, and passionately. Nothing is more intimate than kissing—even sex itself.”

“Dance with her... Nothing makes a woman feel more elegant than sweeping her off her feet—learn how, together.”

“Make it work by trying hard now. None of this in limbo crap. Like me and Donna, don’t wait till its way too late, PLEASE.”

“Probably most importantly—live the gospel. God will allow only the righteous marriages to work out happily. GOOD LUCK—no coasting.”