

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **Secret Number One** **Accept him**

During the following week, Angela's thoughts about Fascinating Womanhood see-sawed between serious doubts and hope and excitement.

Her mother was highly encouraging when Angela told her about the Fascinating Womanhood course. She promised to come around and look after David and Tiphony every Wednesday evening while Angela attended.

On the Wednesday evening of her first lesson, Angela arrived early. The course was held in the same room in which they had met last week.

Harmony, the Fascinating Womanhood teacher looked even more striking than last week as she welcomed Angela warmly at the door. She wore a shiny turquoise blue, ankle length dress that contrasted vividly with her silver hair, swirled elegantly on top of her head and held in place with a large turquoise butterfly hair clip. But Angela was impressed most of all by her peaceful serenity.

Elsie, the elderly woman who had come in with Angela last week, had also enrolled for the course and was sitting in the room.

Angela again sat in the front row. She felt rather excited and at the same time relaxed. Her mother was not only looking after the children, but also catching up on the housework for her. She hummed softly to herself as she waited for the lesson to begin.

Angela counted eleven other women present when the teacher stood before them to begin the lesson.

Harmony smiled her radiant smile and welcomed them all again warmly. Then she said, "Let's all know each other by our first names. "My name is Harmony. As I read your names, please raise your hand."

Angela? Beth? Beverley? Cherry? Diane? Elsie? Helena? Kathy? Marina? Is Marina here? No? Sonia? All here except

Marina. Oh here she is now I think.”

A plump, dark haired, brown skinned woman of about 50 entered and sat down. “Sorry I’m late teacher,” she said in a soft gentle voice.

“Well that’s all of us here,” said the teacher looking pleased. “It’s so very important that you receive all ten lessons, if Fascinating Womanhood is to bring you the happiness it promises.”

“Now, if you want to ask a question at any time during a lesson, just raise your hand, and please, no criticising of men in class. I must be firm on that.” She smiled. “Right, now let’s briefly introduce ourselves. Joanne and Beryl are also with us, just for tonight from a previous class. We will hear from them later on.”

Angela, can you stand and introduce yourself first. Then just follow on in turn.”

### **Angela**

Angela had not been expecting this. However she stood and faced the class and said, “Well as you know, my name is Angela. I have two children, a boy age 12 and a girl age 9 who live with me. I am a Primary school teacher and I’m separated from my husband, whose name is Ted. He runs a car repair garage.”

### **Beth**

Next to stand up was Beth, a slightly built woman in her late 20’s. She wore a dark business suit, had straight black hair and wore oval, black rimmed glasses.

She spoke in a business-like, matter-of-fact style. “I am Beth. I am in my final year of a law degree. I am married and expecting my first child in March next year. I perhaps should be frank with you all, and let you know that it is not my idea that I take this course. My mother, who is rather old fashioned, has insisted I do so. So to keep her happy I have agreed. My husband is an accountant.”

### **Bev**

Then a large, obese woman, in her mid 40’s stood. Her florid face even more red than normal with embarrassment. She had frown lines between her eyes and a wide mouth, although she appeared to Angela as though she could also be jovial. She had unstyled, frizzy, dyed gingery-orange hair and wore a floral top and blue jeans.

She spoke in a loud, rather gravelly voice. “Hi. I’m fat Bev. No good tryin’ to deny it, you all have eyes. I love to eat. Yes I’m married too, although he’s not much chop, and we won’t be much longer if he don’t shape up. I’ve already spoken to a lawyer. But we’ve been told not to criticise our other halves, so I’ll keep my trap shut. Though that’s hard for me.”

Angela couldn’t help smiling at Bev’s introduction. The teacher and other class members smiled also. Angela felt a liking for Bev.

### **Cherry**

Next was Cherry, a young woman in her late 20's. She had large blue eyes, and wavy, natural blond hair. Angela thought she looked a picture of health with her clear, glowing complexion and shapely but robust figure, which was accentuated by snug fitting, cream slacks and a colourful top. She tossed her head and gave a large smile. Her voice was confident and cheerful. Angela liked her immediately.

“Hello everybody, my name is Cherry, and I can't wait to hear these secrets. I'm married to a self-employed contractor and we have a girl aged seven.”

### **Diane**

The next woman to introduce herself was Diane, a thin, mousey looking woman, aged about 50 with slightly rounded shoulders and wearing a dark jumper and trousers. Her stressed-looking face was lined with wrinkles, especially around her eyes and mouth. Her short, permed hair was dyed a dark shade of red. Angela couldn't help thinking how much she contrasted with the outgoing Cherry.

Her timid voice was thin and expressionless. “My name is Diane. I have three grown-up children to my first husband, but we divorced. But I have married again. I enjoy handcrafts. As well as taking this course I'm also taking a night course in flower arranging.”

### **Elsie**

Next was the elderly Elsie. She was, short in stature and had white hair and a kindly face. Angela was surprised that Elsie sounded nervous when she introduced herself. She had sounded confident when speaking with her last week.

“Hello, I'm Elsie and I'll be 76 next birthday. I suppose you're all wondering what an old grand mum like me is doing in a course like this. Well there's an old saying, “*You're never too old to learn.*” My husband's almost 80, and we have nine grown children. They're all married, or living with partners, which we don't approve, but we've had three divorces among our children and I don't want any more. Such terrible heartache and suffering. So that's why I'm here. My husband and I are happily married. We have eighteen grandchildren, so far and six great-grandchildren.”

### **Helena**

Next to stand was Helena, a plump, vivacious woman aged about 40. She wore a long, mid-green dress and had several rings on her fingers. Angela judged from her dark hair and olive skin that she was probably of Mediterranean descent. Helena spoke with a strong, personable voice and an air of confidence.

“Hello, it's nice to be here with you all. My name is Helena. Both my husband Spiros and I have Greek parents, so family is very important to us. I love my parents and they

live with us. We have four children, two boys and two girls, all in their teens, and we want them to marry properly and be happy. And yes Elsie, I agree with you, none of this modern ‘living together’ nonsense. My husband Spiros runs a restaurant and I and the children, and my Mum and Dad help out. Spiros and I have a good marriage.” She smiled and looked around at the class and then said. “But it could be better. I am looking forward to learning a few secrets to enhance our relationship.”

### **Kathy**

Then Kathy stood to introduce herself. She was a slim, lively, chatty woman, in her early 40’s with short brunette hair and dressed in what looked like elegant, designer clothes. She had clear skin, expressive eyes and a radiant, toothy smile. She reminded Angela of Ami. Kathy seemed to lack a little confidence at first but soon relaxed. She spoke quite rapidly.

“Hello, I’m Kathy, and I have three teenagers at home and a married daughter. I’m a full time homemaker, because I believe that’s where a mother should be with children at home. My husband works two jobs. Keeps him out of my hair. Oops! Naughty! Not allowed to criticise.”

She smacked her own hand and grinned around at the class, then continued. “Our marriage isn’t too bad. My husband is so patient. He needs to be with me. I am so impatient, and like to be the boss.”

Kathy continued to chat on about her family until the teacher gently reminded her that time was limited.

### **Marina**

Then Marina, the plump, brown skinned, native woman of about 50 stood to speak. Her voice was soft and gracious. She had large, gentle black eyes, natural greying hair and wore a long black dress embroidered with native designs.

“Hello darlings. I’m Marina. My family have lived around here for many generations. I have six grown-up children. Three of them are married and have their own families. I have seven grandchildren. My husband is not very well. He can’t go out to work any more but he’s a good gardener, and a good man. But dear me, he does have a bad temper sometimes, but it’s usually my fault. Oh darlings, I shouldn’t have said that, should I? Sorry teacher. I love to go to church, and I teach a Sunday School class of little children every week, and I love them. I call them my little lambs.”

### **Sonia**

The last woman to stand was Sonia, an obviously shy girl, aged in her mid 20’s with long mousey, brown hair. She wore faded blue jeans and a plain white cardigan. She stood and was silent for a few moments, gathering confidence to speak. When she spoke, her voice was timid and barely



audible.

“My name is Sonia, and my little girl’s name is Sheree. She’s goes to kindy now and is three years old. My partner Andrew is an orchard worker. He doesn’t earn much money, but I manage.”

**If you could look through a man’s eyes**

“Thank you class,” said the teacher smiling and looking excited. “Right, let’s get started.”

“Have you ever been puzzled sometimes as to what a man sees in a certain woman? A woman that, to your eyes, seems to have no appeal at all? Yet the man seems totally captivated by her. It’s a mystery is it not?”

“However, it would no longer be a mystery if you could look through a man’s eyes. You would find that his view of her is very different from your own. Men DO NOT see and think as women do. Their needs are totally different from ours.”

“The things we women admire in each other, are not the qualities that are attractive to men. In fact it’s often the qualities we women condemn in each other that are the most fascinating and appealing to men.”

“Now let’s start solving this great mystery.”

“First, what kind of woman impresses other women?”

“Yes Beth?” The slightly built, dark haired student lawyer had raised her hand.

“I believe we admire a woman who is poised and fashionably dressed. One who appears to be intelligent and talented, and holds an important position.”

“Good answer Beth. Yes, I’m sure that’s true of most women. Now let’s look at the kind of woman that impresses a man. Lets look through a man’s eyes.”

**The type of woman that impresses a man**

“Men are impressed with sympathy, cheerfulness, childlike innocence and charm in a woman. The more tender, feminine, pure, and trusting she appears to be, the more attractive she becomes to them. Vivaciousness also enhances these qualities.”

“Now let’s remember, we are talking about love here. A man can easily be attracted at a sexual level to a promiscuous woman who has none of these qualities. But he could never love her. It is important that we understand this difference.”

“Sexuality in a woman can stimulate lust, but it does not arouse love in a man. Love is awakened by wholesome, feminine qualities, such as sympathy, purity, cheerfulness, trust, and dependence.”

“Living Fascinating Womanhood brings out these natural feminine qualities in us. Qualities that stir and soften a man’s heart. We arouse in him a desire to cherish us, to hold us, and adore us. We become fascinating and delightful to him.”



*If you could look through a man’s eyes you would find his view of a woman is very different from your own. Men DO NOT see and think as women do.*



*Men are impressed with sympathy, cheerfulness and childlike innocence and charm in a woman.*

“And not only to our husbands, but almost all men, including our sons. I get on so well with my four sons now, since I’ve been living Fascinating Womanhood. Its really thrilling. They are all married, but they visit me often and they really spoil me.”

“Now the face you were born with doesn’t matter all that much. Your husband has already accepted that. Besides, when you make him feel wonderful, you will look beautiful to him, no matter how you look. And you’ll learn how to make him feel wonderful.”

“When you live all ten secrets of Fascinating Womanhood the results will be unbelievable.”

Angela couldn’t help smiling at the teacher’s childlike enthusiasm. “It can’t be that good,” she thought. Still, the teacher’s excitement was contagious and Angela felt excited also and was eager to learn more. Harmony was certainly an inspiring teacher.

“Now, are we all ready for the first secret? This first secret needs to be lived before you will see real results from living Secrets Two, Three and Four.”

“This first secret is so important. It will probably be the most challenging of the whole ten.”

She turned to the white board and picking up a felt pen she wrote:

## **SECRET NUMBER ONE**

**Accept him as he is.**

**Look to his good side.**

Then turning back to the class she said, “This secret is your man’s SECOND most important need. We learn his FIRST most important need next week.”

“But his second most important need, is for you to accept him as he is, and NOT TRY TO CHANGE HIM.”

“I repeat, your husband’s second most important need is for you to accept him as he is, and not try to change him.”

“Accepting him as he is means that you accept all his habits, his weaknesses, his dreams, or lack of them, and his beliefs. You accept him as another human being, part good, part bad, just like yourself.”

“We women try and change our husbands. But they don’t change. It’s a very common fault with us women.”

### **Why you must not try and change your husband**

Cherry, the blonde, robust young woman raised her hand.

“Yes, Cherry?”

“You say we shouldn’t try and change our husbands, but I love my husband, and only try and change him for his own good, for his own happiness. That can’t be wrong can it?”

“Cherry, trying to force a man to change always creates problems,” said the teacher, “It just doesn’t work with men. Yes, a man may give into our persistence just to keep the peace, but he hasn’t really changed, not inside. And we

pay a high price for having things our way. He becomes resentful and cool, and withdraws much of his love.”

“Why is this so? Because by trying to change and improve our husband, we are telling him that we are not satisfied with him as he is. His sensitive male pride is wounded.”

“He knows his weaknesses. But he needs you to admire his strengths, not draw attention to his weaknesses. Your husband needs your admiration like you need his love.”

“When you try and change him, he feels just as you would feel if he told you outright to your face that he didn’t love you any more.”

“That’s why men sometimes become angry for what seems a trivial reason to you. They may go out and slam the door and not speak to you for hours. The quieter ones just clam up. As we said before, men are very different from women.”

“No, trying to change a man does not work class. It lessens his love for you. It saps his self confidence and his manhood. He may even feel unworthy of you. It also breeds resentment.”

Elsie, the elderly woman raised her hand and said, “Yes, that is so true. There’s an old saying, *‘If his mother couldn’t change him what makes you think you can?’*”

“Yes Elsie, it just plain DOESN’T WORK. The more you pressure him, the more he resists changing. That’s the way men are. We have just got to accept it.”

“When we try and change our husband, he will tend to spend more time away from home. He will seek out the company of those who do accept him. Perhaps at the place he works, or with his mates. Sometimes with another woman. Or he may just close himself off from you, in front of the TV, or a computer.”

“He will also tend to become critical towards you, or cold, or hardly speak to you at all.”

Angela squirmed as she tried to rationalise the guilt she felt welling up inside her. She had never accepted Ted’s lack of education, especially his terrible spelling and poor reading ability. Surely as a school teacher she had a duty to help him.

Sonia, the young woman with the mousey coloured hair shyly raised her hand and asked a question, “But will my partner improve if I accept him as he is?”

“Almost certainly Sonia. That’s just about the only way he will ever improve. Miracles happen when a man feels fully accepted by the woman he loves. Real change only comes from within. It must be his idea. He must WANT to do it for you.”

“Remember, he knows his own faults. The more a man loves you, the more he will want to please you. A man will go to unbelievable lengths to please a woman he loves.”

“The famous and beautiful Taj Mahal in India, was built by an Emperor as a memorial to his favourite wife Mumtaz. He loved her dearly. She bore him fourteen children, and he



wept bitterly when she died.”

“He also built her a magnificent, white marble palace while she was alive.”

“We too can arouse these noble and gallant feelings in our men, but we must change ourselves first.”

### **Accepting drinking and laziness**

Bev, the heavily overweight, woman with the ginger-orange hair raised her hand.

“Yes, Beverley?”

“Call me Bev. Everybody does. Can we go back to this accepting thing? My husband’s got this chronic drinking problem. Why should I accept that? He spends a small fortune each week on his beer, and won’t lift a finger to help me round the house. He sits glued to his TV sports all weekend. Why should I accept that?”

Angela sensed desperation in Bev’s gravelly voice.

“I’ve got a TV sports addict too,” said another woman, and several others spoke.

The teacher smiled and held up her hand for silence. “Before we get too self-righteous and critical about our husbands, let’s take a good look at ourselves. Are we that perfect? All right, some of us would like our husbands to give up their drinking, their TV sport and other habits. But what about our chocolate? What about our cakes and biscuits? Our tea and coffee? Our fizzy drinks? How easily could we give them up?”

“And how successful are we at keeping to our diets? And TV sports, how many of us are addicted to our soap operas?”

“And lazy husbands? What time do we get out of bed in the mornings when left to ourselves?”

“Even swearing and violence. Have we ever screamed at our children, or hit them in anger? Often the faults that annoy us most in our husbands are the same ones we have ourselves.”

“One of the most useful lessons we can learn in life is to stop blaming other people for our own problems and weaknesses. We can only begin to change ourselves when we accept responsibility for our own problems.”

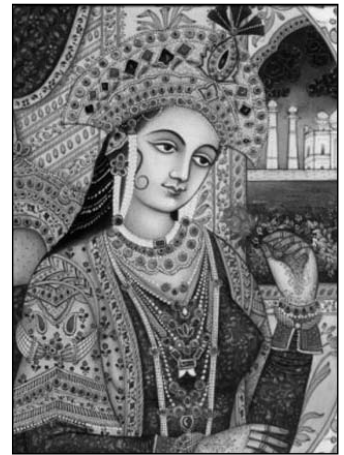
“Yes, I know our men do lots of things that annoy us. They work late without letting us know. They get niggly. They walk mud onto the floor. They leave their clothes lying around. Their faces are prickly. They sometimes reek of BO, and often don’t come to meals when we call them.

“And they leave the toilet seat up,” said Cherry with a giggle. The class laughed.

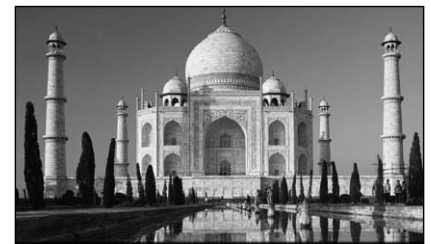
“Yes Cherry, that one always comes up. Even so, we must accept our man as he is. We must forgive him and look to his good side.”

### **What to do when a husband is unfaithful**

Diane, the thin woman in dark clothes raised her hand hesitantly.



*Mumtaz.*



*The beautiful Taj Mahal, built by a Mogul emperor as a memorial to his favourite wife Mumtaz.*



*Shah Jahan, husband of Mumtaz.*

“Diane, you have a question?” said the teacher.

Diane’s thin voice was emotional and wavery as she spoke. “My first husband was unfaithful to me with another woman. And my present husband was too, three years ago. I can never forgive either of them for that.” Then she broke down sobbing.

The teacher moved quickly to Diane’s side and put her arm tenderly around her and comforted her.

Then she said to her gently, “Diane, the secrets we learn in this course have reunited thousands of couples who have gone through this heart breaking experience.”

The teacher walked back to the front of the class, paused, and then spoke in a solemn voice:

“A woman must expect two things in marriage, fidelity, and financial support.”

“Let’s deal first with fidelity. You cannot compromise your self-respect by living with a husband who CONTINUES to be unfaithful to you. It will lead to emotional and physical ill health.”

“If it is happening, this is what I suggest you do, in all sincerity. First, be humble enough to face your part in the problem. Ask yourself, “What did I do, or fail to do, that laid the foundation for my husband becoming involved with another woman? You will more clearly understand this when you have completed the course.”

“Correcting these mistakes will normally win him back, even in difficult cases. But IF HE PERSISTS, you must tell him to make a choice, or you will leave him. And BE PREPARED TO KEEP YOUR WORD. That is the ONLY thing you can do that will eventually bring him to his senses.”

“The same applies to a husband who will not support you financially.”

“These are the two God-given rights that every woman must expect from her husband. And provided you have faithfully done your part as a wife, God will support you in standing up for these two rights.”

Angela felt thankful that Ted had never been involved with another woman. At least as far as she knew.

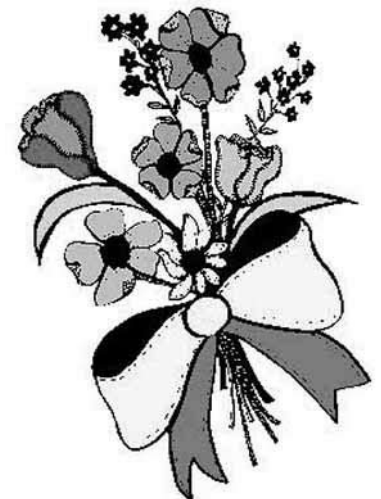
### **Forgive him for past hurts**

“Even if your husband has failed you in these two areas in the past, forgive him now in your heart, while you put Fascinating Womanhood into action.”

“I can’t,” blurted out Diane, still sobbing. “You just don’t know how much it hurts.”

“Only forgiving him will ease the hurt Diane. It may be the most difficult thing you will ever do. But the Bible says, “*As you sow, so shall you reap.*” This first law of Fascinating Womanhood asks that you first sow seeds of forgiveness. Then, in the years ahead, you can reap life-long love and tenderness from your husband.”

“But we must accept our husbands fully, and we must forgive them fully, in our hearts for all their past mistakes.



No man can love a sullen, resentful wife.”

“Now please listen to me carefully. This is very, very, important. Some of you, maybe all of you, harbour resentment in your heart towards your husband because of ways he has hurt you in the past. Perhaps very severe hurt, as Diane has experienced. That resentment is crowding out your love. Let it go. Drain away the poison by forgiving him. You may need to kneel down humbly before God and ask for His help. But release the resentment. Forgive him.”

“His current way of treating you may be the result of unhappy boyhood experiences when he was just a child.”

“When you release your resentment, love will flow back into your heart. Only then can Fascinating Womanhood create for you the beautiful marriage of your dreams.”

### **Look to his good side**

The teacher picked up a little statue of a man and held it up. One side was painted a dark, drab grey and the other side was pure white. She slowly turned the grey side away from the class until only the white side could be seen.

“From now on, we only look to our husband’s good side. Just like this little statue. The dark grey side represents our man’s faults. And this white side, his virtues, his good side.”

“Some of you might be thinking, ‘My husband doesn’t have any virtues, or a good side.’ Yes he does. Think back to your courtship days. Would you have been attracted to him if he didn’t have virtues or a good side? You’ll be surprised as you do your first assignment this week, just how many virtues your husband does have.”

### **Are his faults hidden virtues?**

“Often what appear to be a man’s faults are really hidden virtues. The husband who seems lazy at home for instance, may be putting all of his energies into his employment outside the home, to provide for his family.”

“A rude, offensive man is often of high calibre, but not valued by his boss, or his wife.”

“A tense, moody man, or a heavy smoker, is often in a stressful job, unsuited to his talents and temperament.”

“The forgetful, thoughtless man is often a deep, intelligent thinker with his mind on more important matters.”

“Many alcoholics are sensitive men, trying to blot out guilt and shame.”

“Fascinating Womanhood promises you thrilling rewards when you accept your husband as he is. His response is likely to be deeply moving. You may be lifting a terrible burden he has carried around for years.”

### **Why you must allow him his freedom**

“As women, we hold the key to unlocking the goodness in our man. Therefore, it is required of us first to forgive him. Then we must trust him and allow him complete freedom. Personal growth comes only through freedom.”



*A tense, moody man is often in a stressful job unsuited to his talents and temperament.*



*The forgetful, thoughtless man is often a deep intelligent thinker with his mind on more important matters.*

“We must not restrict our husband, or cling too much to him. It makes him feel trapped. We only do it because we fear losing his love. But he will be FAR MORE ATTRACTED TO US when we maintain an air of freedom, mystery and self-confidence. Just as we did during courtship.”

“However, we must never give him the impression that we do not need him. We need to be an elusive, free spirit, yet dependent on him for our support and protection. Can you understand what I mean?”

“This is natural, feminine behaviour when we have no fear of losing a man’s love. After all we don’t restrict or cling to our fathers do we? Why? Because we feel secure in their love.”

“The relationship we have with our pets, such as a cat or dog, also illustrates this principle. Our pets are free spirits, yet they depend on us for support. And because of this freedom of spirit we love them more deeply don’t we? True love can never be forced. True love requires freedom.”

“If your man should ever use his freedom to mistreat you or neglect you in any way, Secret Number Ten will show you how to stand up to him and gain his respect. No man can deeply love a woman who allows him to mistreat her or use her as a door mat.”

“Now let’s return again to Sonia’s question, ‘Will a man improve if we stop trying to change him?’”

“In answer to this I say, if you live all ten laws of Fascinating Womanhood, your man’s major faults will tend to disappear. He will become a finer and more noble man. I’ve seen it happen time and time again. But you must allow him complete freedom to live his life as he sees fit, just so long as he supports you and is faithful to you.”

“You won’t become a door mat. Just be patient and allow time for Fascinating Womanhood to work. Old habits take time to change.”

“Our time is almost up. Now I’m going to hand you out a list of your three assignments for this lesson. I don’t pretend they’ll be easy, but they do produce exciting results. On the back of the page you will see a list of masculine virtues to help you with Assignment One.”

Angela took her copy and began to read with interest.

## **ASSIGNMENTS – SECRET NUMBER ONE**

**ASSIGNMENT ONE. Make a list of all your husband’s masculine virtues. Read them every morning and night. Continue this until you have committed them to memory.**

**ASSIGNMENT TWO. Forgive him in your heart for all the times he has hurt you in the past. Ask God to help you if necessary.**

**ASSIGNMENT THREE. Then say the following to your husband, touching him as you do so:**



*The husband who seems lazy at home may be putting all of his energies into his employment outside the home, to provide for his family.*

***“I’m glad you’re the kind of man you are. I haven’t always appreciated you in the past, and I’ve made some silly mistakes. I’m sorry, and I’m glad you haven’t let me push you around. I’m glad you’re the way you are. From now on I’m going to try to be a wonderful wife for you.”***

**(You can rephrase this statement with words that are more natural to you if you prefer. But do not lessen its impact.)**

As Angela read the three assignments she felt her enthusiasm drain away. She could not think of any virtues that Ted had. And there was no way she could ever bring herself to say the words in Assignment Three. She would rather die first.

“Now complete these three assignments as soon as you can, preferably before this weekend,” the teacher said.

“They are the foundation of Fascinating Womanhood. Do not be surprised if your husband breaks down and weeps when you’ve spoken the words in Assignment Three. Many men weep after hearing their wives speak these words. But please be sincere, and mean what you say.”

“To close tonight’s class, I’ve invited along Joanne and Beryl, who have already been through this course. They have very kindly agreed to share with us their experiences in applying this first secret. Joanne will you come up first, and then Beryl.

### **Joanne (True Experience)**

**“Marriage for me at age twenty was an arrangement in which I could begin to change my new husband into the man I wanted him to be, and get out of it all I could. I’d been taught that marriage is a 50/50 proposition, and I was to do all that I could to be sure that my part of the proposition was secured.”**

**“Seven stormy years later I began to view the shambles I had created – a very unhappy, belligerent husband who had retreated into himself, and children that also reflected our home situation.”**

**“I began to pray and ask the Lord what was wrong. At this point I heard of the Fascinating Womanhood course.”**

**“During the course, I sought to put into practice what was being taught, and saw my husband really begin to shower attentions upon me. By the end of the course our life together was sweeter and richer than it was on our honeymoon. Whereas before, I was occupied with his faults, now these same faults, somehow, were the points I could actually admire. I found myself in the freshness of a new love for him.”**

**“He began to tell me, for the first time in years, that he loved me. Since then our life together is continuing to improve and grow in love and friendship.”**



**“For the first time I feel satisfied and fulfilled as a woman, and grateful for the wonderful gift of womanhood God has given to me, and all women.”**

**Beryl (True Experience)**

**“My husband and I have been married twenty-one years. I had always thought we had a wonderful marriage, that is, for the first half of it. Then things began to happen. We have seven children whom we love very much, but this was not enough to hold our marriage together.”**

**“A friend had been trying to get me interested in Fascinating Womanhood, so in desperation I thought I would try.”**

**“My husband at the time was planning to leave me. I had told him that I thought he should, as we had nothing in common any more. He was 200 miles away looking for a new job, so I had to work fast.”**

**“The night he came home I applied the assignment, to accept him and tell him so. I told him I would like very much a chance to prove to him that I would improve. He said nothing.”**

**“The next night I asked him if he had thought about it and he said, ‘Yes,’ but he was convinced it wouldn’t work. He was so discouraged, disillusioned and unhappy that he thought the only thing to do was to go away by himself.”**

**“I cried the whole night.”**

**“The next morning he asked me if I really meant what I said, and I said, ‘Yes’. He told me that he had always loved me, that he didn’t really want to leave, and that his boss had offered him a raise if he would stay. Then he held me in his arms as if he would never let go.”**

**“I remember our first year of marriage, when he kissed my feet and called me ‘His Little Angel.’ I wonder how I could have been so foolish as to let him down as I did. But I feel very blessed to be given another chance.”**

**“Thank you so much Beryl, and you too Joanne, for coming along tonight and sharing your experiences with us. My eyes fill with tears of joy when I hear such experiences.”**

**“Good night everybody. See you again next week.”**

When Angela arrived home, the house was neat and tidy and the children were asleep in bed. Her mother was doing the ironing while watching TV. Angela felt her spirits lift a little.

“How did it go dear?” her mother asked.

“It was very good Mum. You would love our teacher. But I can’t agree with everything she says. She teaches that we should accept our husband as he is and not try and change him. Did you ever try to change Dad, Mum? I mean, try and make him into a better man?”

“Well Angela, as you know, your father was a kind hearted man. And I did resent being left at home while he was off helping everybody else. People took advantage of him sometimes. Yes, I suppose I did try and change that side of him. But he never did change. Looking back now, I can see that I was selfish. I was the one who needed to change.”

“Yes, I might have even been a bit hard on Ted at times, too. Thanks for baby-sitting Mum. It was nice to know you were here looking after things.”

“After her mother had left, Angela felt too stimulated to go to bed. So she found a pad and pen and sat at the kitchen table to begin her first assignment.

She doubted that she would find any good points about Ted. She turned over the assignment sheet and began to read the virtues that were listed on the back.

**Masculine Virtues**

Active	Agile	Alert
Articulate	Artistic	Assertive
Athletic	Attentive	Authoritative
Bold	Boyish	Brave
Brilliant	Business acumen	Calm
Capable	Caring	Charming
Cheerful	Child loving	Clean
Comforting	Confident	Conscientious
Considerate	Contented	Co-operative
Courteous	Cultured	Curious
Decent	Dependable	Determined
Devoted	Devout	Dignified
Diligent	Disciplined	Discreet
Distinguished	Dress Sense	Dynamic
Earnest	Educated	Effective
Efficient	Elegant	Eloquent
Encouraging	Entertaining	Enthusiastic
Exuberant	Fair	Faithful
Firm	Fit	Flexible
Fluent	Forgiving	Friendly
Gallant	Gardener	Generous
Gentle	Genuine	Gifted
Good	Good driver	Good navigator
Gracious	Grateful	Handsome
Handyman	Happy	Healthy
Helpful	Humorous	Honest
Honourable	Hospitable	Humble
Impressive	Ingenious	Innovative
Inspiring	Intelligent	Interesting
Insightful	Jovial	Joyful
Keen	Kind	Knowledgeable
Leader	Likeable	Lively
Logical	Long suffering	Lovable
Loving	Loyal	Lucky
Manly	Masculine	Masterful
Mature	Moderate	Modest

Money manager	Musical	Neat
Nice smile	Noble	Non-smoker
Nostalgic	Obliging	Open
Optimistic	Orderly	Out-going
Passionate	Patient	Peaceable
Perceptive	Perfectionist	Persistent
Personable	Persuasive	Photogenic
Playful	Pleasant	Poetic
Poised	Polished	Polite
Popular	Positive	Powerful
Practical	Prayerful	Precise
Profound	Progressive	Prominent
Prosperous	Protective	Prudent
Punctual	Qualified	Reasonable
Refined	Relaxed	Reliable
Resilient	Responsive	Righteous
Robust	Romantic	Rugged
Scholarly	Secure	Selfless
Sensible	Sensitive	Sentimental
Serious	Sincere	Singer
Slim	Sober	Sociable
Solid	Spiritual	Spontaneous
Sportsman	Stable	Strong
Steady	Strict	Suave
Subtle	Successful	Superior
Supportive	Tactful	Tall
Tanned	Tender	Thoughtful
Tolerant	Trusting	Trustworthy
Truthful	Vigorous	Virile
Warm	Wealthy	Well built
Well groomed	Wholesome	Wise
Witty	Youthful	

Angela began to be astonished. As she read further she became even more astonished. Why Ted had lots of these virtues. Especially if she judged him on the way he acted towards others, rather than toward herself.

Yes, he was caring towards others, courteous, dependable, dignified, disciplined, forgiving, friendly . . .

“But why only to others, and not to me?” she said aloud.

“Was it because I tried to change him?” she thought. His terrible spelling and poor reading had always embarrassed her. She had tried to make him take night classes. She had brought him home books from the school library to try and get him to like reading.

But he had never shown interest. In fact, looking back he had seemed to resent it.

She had also pestered him to go to church with her when they first got married. That had seemed to make him resentful also.

“And I have always pestered him to come home earlier, ever since he started his business.” Angela was again speaking aloud. “That didn’t work either.”

As Angela sat at the table she thought back on the years of her marriage.

Slowly she began to realise, that whenever she had expressed her disapproval to Ted, he seemed to become worse. Why hadn't she noticed that before?

Angela took her pen and began to write Ted's virtues. She had gone only part way through the list when she realised that her attitude toward Ted was changing profoundly. She felt she was turning a corner in her life. She said to herself, "Why, Ted has more than half these good qualities. Ami was right after all. Where would I find a better man than Ted? He has got his faults, but I could accept his faults if he really loved me." A deep sadness washed over her.

Angela eventually finished writing the long list of Ted's virtues. She wondered how she could possibly remember them all.

Then she read her second assignment, "Forgive him in your heart for all the times he has hurt you in the past. Pray for help if necessary."

It was odd. Angela didn't feel like recalling any hurts that Ted had caused her. All she could think of were the numerous virtues she had written down. But she still felt a deep sadness, that Ted did not love her any more.

She tore out the two pad pages she had filled with Ted's virtues and folded them neatly.

As she brushed her teeth before bed, Angela decided she should pray for help in forgiving Ted anyway. So she went into Tiphony's empty bedroom, closed the door, and knelt on the carpet in the dark and prayed audibly in a whispering voice.

Words flowed easily. Angela thanked God for her friend Ami, and for her good parents, and for being guided to Fascinating Womanhood. Then she added, "Please help me to see what I've done wrong in my marriage. Please help me to accept Ted as he is, and his weaknesses. And help me forgive him for all the times he has hurt me. And please help him forgive me too for all the times I've hurt him."

As Angela whispered these last words, a feeling of pure love suddenly flooded over her. It instantly dispelled her sadness and brought tears of gratitude to her eyes.

A vision of a younger Ted filled her mind. He was dancing with her, and holding her tenderly. She remembered his soft warm kisses and his loving glances. The way his strong, warm hand would often seek for hers.

For the first time in years, love for Ted welled up in Angela's heart. She sat down on the floor in the dark and sobbed for a long time, letting the warm tears run freely down her cheeks.

Although it was dark, Angela felt as if she had emerged into sunlight and blue skies, after being lost in a dark underground cave for months.