

Six Famous – And long-term – Couples Share Their Secrets of
Togetherness

Why Our Marriage Works

BARBARA BAIN and MARTIN LANDAU

(Married 18 years)

Barbara

Martin would be my friend even if he weren't my husband. He's unpredictable, which is fascinating. He paints, writes and plays a terrific game of pool. In other words, he's never dull; he's exciting to be with.

Martin and I often clash. We holler well! We're both fighters and we both believe a good fight can do more for a marriage than no fight at all.

I think the longevity of our marriage is due to many things – good judgment, lots of luck, similar senses of humor and this rule – 'Be kind to whoever is working.' I think that's a good rule for people who are not always working at the same time. Martin and I are often asked, what's it like to see one of us in the arms of another actor on the set? As usual we disagree. Martin says, 'It's just work,' and he leaves the set so that the actor won't feel uncomfortable. I stick around – I'm always ready to learn.

Lastly and firstly, the secret to our marriage is that I think Martin is a terrifically attractive man.

Martin

Barbara's not only beautiful, she's brilliant. Do you know that by the age of 12 she had read most Russian literature? She is involved in life – not just ours but our country's. She is socially and politically active; she cares.

People tend to think of Barbara as 'cool'. She isn't. She is volatile, exciting. She has great emotional responsiveness. Life affects her, and because it does, our life together is constantly stimulating.

Frankly, I'm not easy to live with. I save everything and have no use for a garbage pail. Barbara says I should be curator of the Smithsonian Institution! On the other hand, Barbara tosses everything out that's not nailed down. One says it will be me! When she buys something, she always throws out the instructions and the guarantee.

Most couples go through a ritual of telling the other what they did all day, but we don't have to. Barbara doesn't have to ask, 'How was your day, honey?' and I know darn well she didn't spend hours fussing over a hot stove.

When people ask me if I get tired of working and living with the same woman, my answer is ... *never!*