

FRIENDS & LOVERS

10 Things We Tell *Every Couple*

Small truths that make marriage last.

FLYNN & CAROLYN JOHNSON

We have sat with couples on their best day and on their worst one. What we keep finding is that marriages rarely come apart over the big things. They come apart over small truths nobody ever said out loud. Here are *ten* we say to everybody.

1

Marry your friend. Then guard the fire.

Passion can start a story. Only friendship can finish one.

2

Somebody has to go first.

The one who moves first is not the weaker one. They are the freer one.

3

Consumer love keeps a back door open.

Covenant love takes the door off the hinges.

4

Most fights are two questions in a costume.

She is asking, "Am I loved?" He is asking, "Am I respected?"

5

Intimacy is a language, not a transaction.

It is never a bill to be collected or a weapon to withhold.

6

Unity is not sameness.

Two instruments in tune, not one note played twice.

7

You left home. Did their control come with you?

A marriage is built by the two of you. Old voices don't get a vote in the home you're making now.

8

Stop running two separate worlds.

Roommates divide the chores. Partners share the assignment.

9

Repentance and forgiveness are not events.

They are reflexes. The strongest couples are not the ones who never break it. They are the best repairers.

10

Your kids are watching the repair, not the performance.

You will not pass down your intentions. You will pass down your patterns.

*None of this is a technique. It is a **design**. And a design can be learned. We are putting everything we know about this into your hands over the next few months. Stay with us. More is coming.*

WITH LOVE — FLYNN & CAROLYN JOHNSON

FRIENDS & LOVERS

THESECRETSOFMARRIAGE.COM