

**“Making Your Marriage Last”**  
**A LOVERS Quiz**  
**By Lenore Fogelson Millian, Ph.D.**  
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When we become encore wives, we marry “for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part.” Based on the annual divorce rate, it might be more realistic to substitute “till your past marriage do us part.” The rates of divorce and remarriage dictate that hundreds of thousands of women will become encore wives by marrying divorced or widowed men.

As a second wife, I am one of you. We second wives live not only with our spouse but also with our spouse’s marital history. These prior marital histories are far-reaching and potentially can have negative effects of on marriages. As second wives, we have to deal with the fact that “we married more than just the man” and that our husbands have former wives, children, friends, and in-laws, which we must somehow successfully integrate into our lives in a healthy way. However, sometimes when the integration process is underway, we experience difficulties that can get out of hand and escalate into crisis.

As second wives, we are subject to the undetectable, sometimes faint traces of the remains of the first marriages. The intricate webs woven by years of marital history may be both haunting and daunting. Moreover, these problems tend to crop up just when the fledgling relationship is most vulnerable, namely the first few years. These problems often occur well into the marriage, no marriage is exempt! According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the average first marriage lasts 6.3 years and the average second marriage lasts 4.5 years. We can beat these odds by learning secrets to overcome some of the most difficult problems we may face as second wives. We can become lovers for life.

Let’s look to the LOVERS Motto to find out how we can ensure lifelong marriages for all of us:  
*Loyalty, Openness, Value of Trust, Empathy, Respect, and Stability of Commitment.*

LOVERS are the essentials – the foundation – of a marriage. When you and your mate work toward being LOVERS every day of your lives, you ensure the permanence of your relationship and marriage.

As an assessment of your marriage, please use the next few minutes to take the following self-diagnostic quiz. This easy quiz will assist you in evaluating the LOVERS health of your marriage.

**Quiz**

Mark T for “true” and F for “false” on the line before each statement. Remember, be honest in your answers! The more truthful you are, the more the quiz can help you.

- \_\_\_ 1. I feel that my husband has a lot of respect for me.
- \_\_\_ 2. My husband is totally committed to us.
- \_\_\_ 3. I feel that my husband doesn’t listen to what I have to say.
- \_\_\_ 4. I am completely committed to my husband and our marriage.
- \_\_\_ 5. My husband is a very understanding person.
- \_\_\_ 6. I want to know everything that’s on my husband’s mind.
- \_\_\_ 7. My husband is very honest with me.
- \_\_\_ 8. I’ve never thought that I made a mistake marrying my husband.
- \_\_\_ 9. Frequently, I’m too angry with my husband to try to understand him.
- \_\_\_ 10. My husband’s first kids are always bothering him – don’t they realize he’s got a life?
- \_\_\_ 11. My husband takes me to restaurants previously frequented by him and his ex-wife.
- \_\_\_ 12. I usually admire my husband’s character.
- \_\_\_ 13. I have to be careful what I tell my husband.
- \_\_\_ 14. My husband is there for me.
- \_\_\_ 15. I’d back my husband through thick and thin.

- \_\_\_ 16. I am my husband's priority in life.  
 \_\_\_ 17. I find it scary to be emotionally or physically intimate with a man.  
 \_\_\_ 18. My husband keeps his feelings to himself.

### Scoring

#### LOVERS Positives

#### LOVERS Negatives

<p>___ <b>Numbers 14, 15, 16</b>          Marking all three "true" indicates a long-lasting duo with much <i>Loyalty</i> (Score one point for each true.)</p> <p>___ <b>Numbers 13, 17, 18</b>          Marking all three "false" means that <i>Openness</i> (communication) is great! Be happy! (Score one point for each false.)</p> <p>___ <b>Numbers 6, 7, 11</b>          Marking all three "false" means that <i>Value of Trust</i> is strong in your marriage. Great! (Score one point for each false.)</p> <p>___ <b>Numbers 3, 9, 10</b>          Marking all three "false" means that <i>Empathy</i> is awesome! (Score one point for each false.)</p> <p>___ <b>Numbers 1, 5, 12</b>          Marking all three "true" means that <i>Respect</i> is alive and well in your marriage. Wonderful! (Score one point for each true.)</p> <p>___ <b>Numbers 2, 4, 8</b>          Marking all three "true" means that your <i>Stability of Commitment</i> is perfect! Congratulations! (Score one point for each true.)</p> <p>___ <b>Total points</b></p>	<p><b>L</b></p> <p><b>O</b></p> <p><b>V</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>R</b></p> <p><b>S</b></p>	<p>Marking any or all of 14,15,16 "false" means that you may be questioning the values of your marriage and that <i>Loyalty</i> may be an issue.</p> <p>Marking any or all of 13, 17, 18 "true" tells you that <i>Openness</i> (communication) could be a problem.</p> <p>Marking any or all of 6, 7, 11 "true" indicates that <i>Value of Trust</i> needs work.</p> <p>Marking any or all of 3, 9, 10 "true" indicates that <i>Empathy</i> is not a strong point.</p> <p>Marking any or all of 1, 5, 12 "false" shows that <i>Respect</i> may be lacking.</p> <p>Marking any or all of 2, 4, 8 "false" means that your <i>Stability of Commitment</i> may be a problem.</p>
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<b>16 – 18</b>	<i>Relationship is very good</i>
<b>13 – 15</b>	<i>Relationship is fair, but could benefit from counseling</i>
<b>8 – 1</b>	<i>Relationship is very deficient and needs help</i>
<b>Below 8</b>	<i>Relationship needs immediate help if it's to survive</i>

Always keep in mind that being LOVERS ensures that you are enjoying the best relationships possible and that the application of LOVERS will create a union capable of withstanding the storms of life.

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