

Christina Hendricks Says:

'You Need To Compromise To Have A Successful Relationship'

The *Mad Men* actress, 40, says the success of her six-year marriage is down to saying 'yes' more than 'no' to her husband. We ask two writers, is she right?



Christina and husband Geoffrey Arend make their marriage work

‘No, It’s Vital To Maintain Your Independence’



Daisy Buchanan, 30, a writer from Wolverhampton

'I'm marrying my boyfriend of three years in October, so Christina Hendricks' recent comments about her relationship made me think. Because I don't think excessive compromise is good for anyone.

We appreciate each other's individuality, which just means I have more respect for my boyfriend. It's not like I want my own way all the time, but it's important for me to do what I want when I want – like going on holiday with my mates, instead of spending time together.

When 42 per cent of marriages in England and Wales end in divorce, it's vital to maintain your independence within your relationship. If one person gets their way all the time, they're not grateful to their partner; they just take them for granted. Being with a partner must never mean that you become a different person to the one you were when you were single. After all, that's the person they were attracted to in the first place!

‘Yes, It’s All About Give And Take’



Jo Usmar, 31, is co-author of the *This Book Will* series

“Wait, you went to New York and spent an *entire day* in an Arsenal pub?” my flabbergasted friend splutters. “Yep,” I laugh merrily. And it's genuine merriment, not a hysterical cry for help. You see, when my boyfriend Ben and I got together ten years ago, I knew he was a massive football fan, but I wasn't. For this relationship to work, I quickly realised I would either have to embrace football or get rid. So I embraced it and it's made us stronger.

Because I say yes to watching weekend games, Ben says yes to my *Criminal Minds* obsession and refusal to cook. It's a healthy exchange.

Compromise isn't about lying down and letting someone wipe their boots all over your dreams; it's about *reciprocally* accepting each other's little quirks and knowing when (and if) you need to draw the line. If you put your plans on the back burner, you need to know when the favour's returned.'