

THE SPIRIT OF HIGH SOCIETY

SINGAPORE THE ER



Great Romances

HOWARD SHAW & JESSIE XUE JOIN FOUR
SOCIETY COUPLES WHO SHARE THEIR
STORIES OF ENDURING LOVE

MARKETING MAGAZINE
MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 2011 AWARDS
Top Local Magazine

*Luxury Magazine
of the Year*

FEBRUARY 2012 \$8.00 (INCL. GST)



8 88888 171934761

WWW.ASIATATLER.COM

Love through the Years

FIVE BEAUTIFUL COUPLES SHARE
WITH MELANIE LEE WHAT
REAL-LIFE ROMANCE
IS ALL ABOUT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOEL LOW STYLING BY JEROME AWASTHI

Sweet Beginnings

Married for three months:
Howard Shaw and Jessie Xue

Six years ago, Jessie Xue participated in a Miss Earth pageant where Howard Shaw was training and judging the contestants. He was attracted to her intelligent replies during the question and answer segment, while she was struck by the gentle nature of Shaw, who is today the senior vice president (Corporate Social Responsibility) at Halcyon Group.

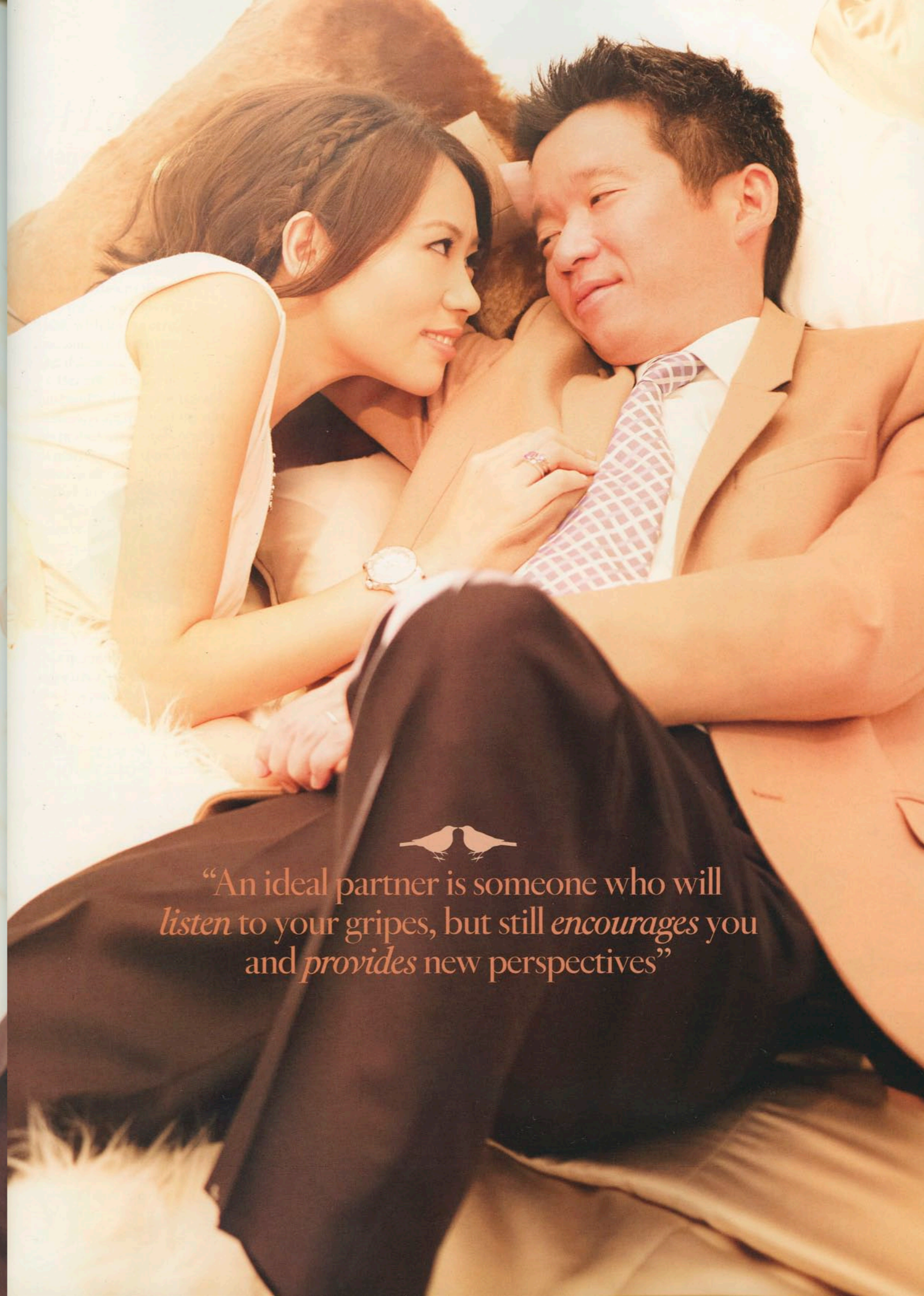
He asked her out and they dated for six years before he proposed. Today, the couple enjoys spending time together on diving trips around Asia, as well as cooking at home every Sunday. "Actually, Howard does most of the cooking; I just help out. His *ayam buah keluak* is really good!" says Xue.

The managing director of Gen Y (S), Xue reveals that she appreciates

how they have complementary ways of resolving conflicts. "I am more verbal during an argument, while he tends to remain quiet. But later, after we cool off, we'll both talk," she says.

Shaw adds, "I realise that most of the time, a fight is really about nothing. We have a golden rule of never storming out on each other. We try to end things with a nice meal or a funny movie."

Shaw sees his wife's patience and level-headedness as an anchor in his life. "An ideal partner is someone who will listen to your gripes, but still encourages you and provides new perspectives. Jessie does just that; she draws out my strengths when I need them," he says adoringly.



"An ideal partner is someone who will
listen to your gripes, but still *encourages* you
and *provides* new perspectives"



Sharing New Journeys

Married for five years:
Andrew Wong and Patricia Yuen

She's a dermatologist while he's a hedge fund manager. Patricia Yuen and Andrew Wong say they are "as different as chalk and cheese", but their common love for travel provides numerous opportunities for them to bond as a couple. Their frequent travels keep their relationship alive as they share interesting cultural experiences together. Bonding over travel is now a family affair, and their four-year-old son Quentin accompanies them ever so often.

"When two people get married later in life like we did, it is more challenging to adjust to each other because personalities and habits are more fixed," Yuen says. Back home, the couple practises a give-and-take policy. She recounts how she used to let her Jack Russell Terrier sleep with her every night, while Wong was not keen. "I literally had to choose between dog or man! In the end, we compromised and now, my dog gets to sleep with us on weekends," Yuen laughs.

A Loving Brew

Married for 16 years:
Eddie and Nina Ng

Homemaker Nina Ng likens her relationship with first love Eddie Ng to nourishing, homemade herbal soup. "Many different things go into the brew, and over time, with loving care, it becomes more nutritious and delicious," she says.

Her affection for her husband, a director at Handling System, is apparent as she sings his praises even after 16 years of marriage and three children. "He is a sincere, down-to-earth man. Eddie would change our children's diapers and he remains close to them till this day," she gushes.

Eddie is just as appreciative. "There's no 'she' and 'I' in this relationship; I've always regarded the both of us as one unit. This doesn't mean we lose our individual identities, but rather, it's about sharing our joys and challenges in life together as a couple rather than comparing with or going against one another," he says.

His approach to marriage is simple: "During difficult times, be sensitive to each other's emotions; be patient and rational, even when things turn for the worse; once they pass, you'll realise how your love has grown," he adds.

ON PATRICIA: STYLING BY ISABEL MARTINEZ; HAIR: JACQUES NICOLLE; MAKEUP: VICTORIA WONG
ON NINA: DRESS BY MARC JACOBS; SHOES BY LOUIS VUITTON
ON EDDIE: OUTFIT BY LOUIS VUITTON



Partners For Life

Married for 25 years:
Tan Kong King and
Tan Khar Nai

Their common goal of providing the very best for their children has drawn the Tans close together as husband and wife.

When she first met her husband at a cocktail event more than 26 years ago, Khar Nai says she knew instinctively that Kong King would make a good husband. Despite the fact that he didn't seem to talk much and there was an age gap between them, she found herself drawn to his steady character. "I just felt comfortable and safe with him almost immediately," she says.

Her gut feeling proved right and this year, the couple will be celebrating their Silver Jubilee. According to the pair, their strong marriage has a lot to do with their collaborative partnership in raising their three children.

"Khar Nai is a caring, dedicated mother who provided a loving environment for our children to grow up in. We're always discussing what's best for them, and I support her as much as I can," says Kong King, who is the group managing director of QAF Limited. "We've always tried our best to do things together as a family - I'd get them to join me during my business trips and we'd go travelling and fine dining together," he adds.

Now that their children have grown up, the two of them are enjoying more couple time together. Recently, they enjoyed a two-day staycation at St Regis Singapore.

"Our marriage may not be romantic in the conventional sense, but there's always been this togetherness and support which we will cherish no matter what stage in life we are at," says Khar Nai.



*"There's always been this togetherness
and support which we will cherish no matter
what stage in life we are at"*





“Our lives will always be entwined.
Till today, we still tell each other ‘*I love you*’
several times a day”

A Golden Romance

Married for 40 years:
Kris and Elizabeth Wiluan

What started out as love at first sight for this couple has evolved to a close companionship shared by soul mates.

They first met at a party in London – she was struck by how tall and handsome he was; he insisted on escorting this gorgeous young lady he’d just met home by the end of the night. “We knew we were right for each other from the start,” Elizabeth Wiluan recounts.

“The minute we graduated, we got married.” Later, as Kris built up his career, he appreciated that his wife was “a solid rock” especially since he was away often and they had to uproot to different countries several times in their lives.

“We started out with nothing, and things were difficult initially. But Elizabeth was so good in managing the family. It was her love and

strength that kept things going,” reveals the president and CEO of Citramas Group. “Whenever I would come home from work feeling exhausted, she’d know just what to say to cheer me up and lift my spirits.”

For Elizabeth, it’s the kind and big-hearted nature of her “gorgeous hunk” (an affectionate term she calls Kris) that she will always be in love with. “Our lives will always be entwined. Till today, we still tell each other ‘I love you’ several times a day,” she smiles.

Three children and seven grandchildren later, the two are blissfully enjoying their golden years with their family, along with the simple things they like to do together as a couple – such as reading newspapers, and listening to oldies music that brings back youthful memories of their courtship. ■