

UCity



Stories

8 couples share what makes their relationships last

Compiled by Cathy Crenshaw Doheny



Photo by Dialectra Laird

LO Nicole and **VE** Clayton Sinclair, III

Nicole and Clayton Sinclair, III, both “30ish,” have been married for nine years. Residing in the Highland Creek neighborhood, they have an 8-year-old son, Clayton Sinclair, IV. Nicole and her husband own Style Sanctum fashion art studio. She is the creative director, while he is the CEO.

How did you meet?

Nicole: We met at Six Flags over Georgia through mutual friends. I worked there, and Clayton would come to the park with his season pass to hang out.

What was your first date like?

We had two. We dated in high school, and that first date was strange. We went to a party given by one of his bourgeois and obnoxious friends. Once we reconnected, Clayton’s friend had a “Sex and the City” party (for the chicks), and we chatted at the party.

When did you know that he was “the one”?

Clayton had a job at the time as a consultant and was working on a project in Houston. He flew me out, and one day we were at the mall shopping. We were just walking around laughing and talking, but there was something about the lighting in the mall and our connection at that time that made a small voice come over my spirit, and whisper, “I want to spend the rest of my life with this guy. I LOVE him.”

What was your wedding like?

It was very small. We did not invite all of our extended family, just our immediate family and friends, and we went to dinner afterward. I got the idea from his mother, who was married at a small service in the chapel on Howard University’s campus.

What keeps your marriage going strong?

Communication, the ability to say sorry and the fact that we know we are both growing and changing are fundamental to our marriage. Clayton also has a rule that we can NEVER go to bed angry.

What challenges have you faced?

Clayton is a left-brained, very analytical, “follow the rules” type of guy. I am a right-brained, creative artist. Because of this, we don’t always understand the other’s viewpoint. For instance, when he worked at Wachovia, I saw the “structure” of corporate life really start to change him. He could not see it. But, I had to be patient until he came into his own understanding. On the other hand, I can really fly off of the handle with all of these creative ideas, and not really care about the implementation, or soundness of the idea. It’s great because we balance each other, and as a team, do some pretty great stuff, but getting through the muddy waters takes a lot of work. But, it is so worth it and we always give each other lots of hugs, kisses and presents when we get to the other end and see the result.

What plans do you have for your future together?

We hope to become more mature in our faith together, and to work as hard as we can to grow Style Sanctum and let every little boy and girl know that they have a very special voice. | ucm