

Michael Willis

By Nancy Willis – Winner

My sweetheart Michael, my husband of twenty-one years, is so special to me in ways that are too numerous to list. I believe this story illustrates the kind of man he truly is.

In July 2007 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was unable to shower because of the bandages and the drain I was required to wear. Michael would come home from a twelve hour day at work, draw a bath for me, and tenderly help me bathe. He took me to all my chemotherapy treatments and made sure I had only the best doctors. He always made sure I had everything I needed to be comfortable. He was by my side every step of the way.

Today, I am finally healthy and cancer free. And I am happier than ever to be married to my wonderful sweetheart, Michael.

Ben Ha

By Nina Ha – 1st Runner-up

- 14 years ago, I met my soul mate on a trip to Taiwan.
- 11 years ago, a friendship became a romance.
- 7 years ago, I quit my job to travel the world with my boyfriend.
- 6 years ago, a love sparked an engagement.
- 5 years ago, I married my best friend.
- 3 years ago, we welcomed a little girl into our world.
- 1 year ago, our baby boy made our family complete.

Yesterday, my love made us dinner, gave me a massage, and kissed me just because.

Today and every day, my husband makes me feel like the sexiest, most beautiful woman alive.

Tomorrow, I will love him even more than I do today.

Kimberly Prewett

By Lee Prewett – 2nd Runner-up

No doubt many men will write in to you extolling the virtues of that special sweetheart in their lives, and truth be told we all should think about our sweethearts all of the time and not just on Valentine's Day. Ideally we are aware of their presence in our lives on a daily basis and we give daily thanks for her presence. In numerous ways, I am fortunate that my wife Kimberly has come into my life for she has been redirected it in the most positive of ways. Because of her, I have grown so much.

In some respects, my wife is atypical for Bakersfield. We met when we were 40 and had a child at 41. I remember sitting in child birth classes with parents-to-be much younger than the two of us. Having a child is a strain on a woman's body and even more so at 40. Nevertheless, she took to pregnancy and motherhood with every bit of her heart and soul. I had always wanted a family and I am eternally thankful that she gambled on me because we have a delightful little daughter and a rather fun life.

My wife's calling in life is to be a counselor. She currently works with students at Vista High School on P Street where her students face the horrors of unstable home lives, gang violence, poverty, and even murder. She has to be strong for the students as they come to grips with their many emotional needs. Often, she is the one person who reignites the spark in their lives. Many times though my wife comes home not only physically exhausted, but emotionally and mentally exhausted too. I cook our meals each night and I do all of our laundry to take burden off of her, but usually my daughter and I want her attention the minute she walks in the door, because we miss her, love her, and want to spend time with her.

I respect her for the dedication she has not only to her career but to our little family as well. She really tries to do it all, but for my wife, finding "alone" time is always a challenge and I can think of no one more deserving than a woman who dedicates her days to the children of literally hundreds of parents all while coming home to her own daughter and a husband that loves her.