

Marriage Advice Entries

Best

1. Ed Morrison: We are retired marriage counselors. We found a great teacher, Stan Tatkin, who told us, "Every wedding ceremony should have as part of the vows, 'I take you for my pain in the butt.'" We agree. Nobody is always easy to live with, not even you. So, keep working to understand, forgive, and be kind to your pain in the butt.

2. Orsi Homorodi: My best advice after being married for almost 25 years is that you have to make whatever works for your relationship regardless of what's traditionally thought is normal.

Don't try to force traditional roles on each other, for example, just because society dictates that a woman should be the one tailoring clothes it doesn't mean a husband who enjoys sewing can't do them.

Don't sleep in the same room if you have completely different circadian rhythms and you can't have a restful night because of your partner, who btw snores too.

Be honest but be respectful. Find something that both of you love to do and do it together but don't feel like you have to do everything together.

Do little things for the other that make them feel special. My example for that is how my husband always brings up my nighttime medicine when I am out and because he knows I hate touching the cotton they put in the pill bottles he always takes it out for me, so I don't have to deal with the 'ick'.

It's not always flowers and fancy dinners. It's the fact that you show you listen and notice little things about each other.

Lastly, talk, talk, talk. I've seen many marriages fall apart because of lack of communication. We are not mind readers so if something is on your mind, bring it up. It's so much better to talk about issues than to deal with fallout because we keep things bottled up.

3. Eric & Chelsea Fredlund: This October my husband and I will celebrate 14 years of marriage. We wed at the age of 24, one of the first amongst our friends. Our wedding was hosted at a beautiful Snohomish farm, adorned with fall colors. For an updated spin on an old favorite, we provided guests with paper leaves, a guest book of sorts, which were hung on bare tree branches. Slowly, a tree blossomed throughout the evening, each leaf baring congratulatory sentiments, funny stories, and marriage advice. It was one leaf that we've held onto for the last 14 years. It read "*Put your partners needs above your own and yours will be met in the process.*" A statement that summarized the foundation to a successful marriage, selflessness. Over the

last decade and a half, we have moved through marriage as one unit, ensuring each person is taken care of. The saying seems so simple but in practice it brings challenges. Of course, we each have moments of selfishness but at the end of the day, our priority is each other. So often, couples complain one person isn't *"pulling their weight."* We'd say to them, take a moment, agree to put each other's needs first for only a few days. It brings with it a mutual respect for one another, a level playing field, and the reminder that marriage is teamwork. Today, we both have full time jobs and are raising a child but even the smallest of gestures is a reminder that we're in it together. The pressure of the daily grind is real but take a moment to ask your spouse, *"what do you need?"* Whether you're a newlywed or have been married for decades, those four words sound equally as attractive each time.

4. Diane Lewis: To those celebrating their wedding or anniversary this year; know that time will teach you the meaning of true love. Husbands will come to know that she will eventually grow out of wanting that expensive ring or bracelet for an anniversary present, and will, instead be gleeful when you announce you fixed that weird knob in the car and now the windows don't roll down when she wants to lock the doors.

And wives understand that his longing to go on guy trips will fade, and he will be happy to fall asleep during the NFL games long enough for you to get in that Netflix marathon. Understand with time that the two of you will grow so much closer than you ever thought possible-if only because neither of you can hear anything. And that wonderful extended European vacation you dreamt about for years and years will be happily displaced by a clean attic and new whitewalls for the truck.

Remember, too, that passion doesn't die-it just takes some detours. Those never-forgotten nights are still there. The beads of perspiration and heat coming off your loved one's body simply means the fever has broken and you don't have to spend 10 hours in the ER. That's true ecstasy.

The giddy joy of greeting your love at the end of what seems an interminably long workday is a mere flicker to the surge of relief felt when you see your love's eyes open in recognition to you after a grueling ordeal in surgery or awakening from a coma.

And never fear, men, that the question, "does this make me look fat?" will ever wane; you will find new and innovative responses to this query. With any luck, she'll forget she asked as soon as the words leave her lips, and you can pretend you never heard it. Even if she does remember several hours or days later, she will believe you when you tell her you didn't hear her. Our faith in each other will be sustained over the decades as will the constancy of this eternal dance.

Know too, wives, that he will be ever supportive and grateful for your culinary skills, if you don't serve him hotdog pie. He will be there with you through thick and thicker. You will grow to

understand that it's not that he doesn't want to buy you that outrageously expensive thing you don't really need, but somehow, he knows deep in his heart that as soon as he does, there will erupt a soapy fountain in the backyard-evidence of broken water pipes from the laundry room. He will sense, deep as deep, gut feelings run, that that damn pipe repair will come to exactly the amount he spent on that stupid gift.

Remember too, ladies, that it's not that he doesn't want to talk to you eight times a day while he's at work-he really can't. And, if you don't abuse this practice, then he will surely be well-impressed when you summon him home and he sees you standing there: covered head-to-toe in blood, holding one in each hand-the flailing bodies of those still-fighting dastardly dogs. Then, he will know; you aren't fucking around.

Hopefully you will have years and years to spend sharing the laughter and the pain that come with life. And it is those trials and tribulations that give your lives together such deep meaning. You will come to treasure simple gifts; what you once thought of as daily drudgery will become one more layer of love. Trips to the grocery store together become more meaningful because you are together. Snuggling down together in bed at night now is a sacred ritual-not because of anything you say or do-because of the wholly accepting, reverent silence of boundless love between you. Time and testing do this.

It is a moving experience to grasp the depth of love for each other. We are here not despite but because of the hardships we have borne, and our union is stronger. Our devotion to each other isn't something we trivialize. The best thing about my life is you and everything that has come from being yours.

5. Crystal Raymond: So you're getting married. Your relationship feels so great that you're ready to commit for the rest of your life to this "one-of-a kind" person. Times are good now with romantic, adventurous vacations and travels. Evenings out maybe, just the two of you having a nice dinner, or maybe it's out partying with friends. Life is working out; it feels smooth sailing. You're looking ahead to all the next milestones. Maybe it's buying your first house together, moving to a new city, or planning for a family.

The best marriage advice I ever got was to view these good times as building up your relationship bank account. Save the good feelings, deposit the great experiences, build up the positive memories. Don't be afraid to savor and save as much as you can now. That's what you're doing now as you begin the journey of your life together. You're saving away the relationship cushion.

Because anyone getting married knows that it won't always be this way. There will be times when it gets hard. Maybe you or your spouse loses a job unexpectedly. Or worse, one of you

gets sick. Or maybe you've just been up late nights for three weeks in a row with a crying newborn baby and you just can't stop snapping at each other.

These are the times when you can draw from the bank account of memories, good feelings, and positive experiences. If you've built a strong buffer, padded your savings well, there will be plenty to draw from to get you through any rough patch until you can once again start making new deposits.

6. Jacki Jones: Give your hubby 3 chances to complete a task you previously asked him to do

- Start with the ask and determine a timeline for completion
- Two weeks later a gentle reminder
- One week later - a firmer reminder maybe with a slight attitude. Like a WTF why is this not done look
- Hire that shit out and send him the bill.

Also, one more piece of advice, find a friend preferably a single friend that you can send at least ½ of your online shopping packages to, so it doesn't look like you get a new outfit daily.

Last and this is legit, have the conversation on how much money you can spend on the credit card or bank account without permission for one purchase item. You can absolutely loophole this by breaking up purchases into smaller chunks. I may be speaking from experience, but I don't recommend doing that. I am the queen of the loophole.

7. Ashleigh Miller: Marriage is a lot of give and take plus good communication. Love isn't how willing you are to die for them, but how willing you are to be mildly inconvenienced by them.

My husband and I each have an agreement of the simple chores. He usually does the dishes, while I usually take care of the laundry. It's a joint effort to make our marriage and living together comfortably and loving.

If something bothers me, I'm not afraid to bring it up calmly with my husband to discuss how we can make things work. I love it when he asks me to help him with something in the shop, or how he will compliment how clean it feels in the house after I vacuum. I love it when he surprises me with coffee in bed in the morning when he knows I need to go to work early. He asks what he can do to help me get ready for work also.

Communication makes our marriage work, so we both know we are on the same page.

8. Tammy Vago: My husband and I will be married 20 years in February 2025. The best marriage advice I can give is no matter the situation, argument, fight, misunderstanding when you go to bed at night, still say I LOVE you. There is plenty of time to resolve but going to bed knowing you have told each other you LOVE them gives some peace of mind to be restful and to

be able to work things out the next day. Life is short and not promised and the simple words of I LOVE you, will and can go a long way in the heart and soul and mind.

9. Kathy Paulus: Marriage advice? I've been married 47 years, so there are probably a few things I could say. Marriage is work. We've all heard that. But what makes it a little more work, is that all marriages are different, different personalities, different combinations of personalities, different workloads and finances, kids/no kids. There's no one piece of advice that is going to be that magical thing that ensures that your marriage will last. But there is one thing that helps, I mean, *really* helps. Gratitude. Be grateful. Oh, yeah, I know that's hard sometimes. A wisp of a posting on social media with pictures of a friend and their spouse wine tasting in the countryside of Sonoma, and you're feeling like your marriage might be off-track. But marriage is about living your lives together. You know, your lives with jobs, and housework, and carpooling, and car repairs. It's how you make *that* life better. Appreciating what you have, and what your spouse does in that life will get you through a lot. Say thank you for the mundane things your spouse does. The car rental that she just booked, or the dishwasher that he just emptied, even if it's your spouse's job to empty the dishwasher every single night. Did they just talk to the insurance company about that bill? Yep, say thank you. Do I say thank you for every little thing my spouse does? Heck, no! But I do try to say something on a daily basis. Saying thank you is about seeing your spouse and letting them know you see what they do for you and your family. But just as importantly, it helps *you* to notice and appreciate all that you truly have in your marriage and with your spouse. And, honestly, it is so easy to do.

10. Brenda Taylor: Each person should have their own bathroom...or at least their own sink

11. Kinsey Miller: Outsourcing the Little Things: Happy House, Happy Spouse

Marriage blends love with the everyday tasks of life, and for my husband and me, keeping our home clean was one area where our standards often clashed. After years of minor disagreements over cleanliness, we decided to try something new: outsourcing the cleaning.

Initially, hiring a housecleaner felt like a significant shift in our routine – and, yes, like a bit of a splurge. We wondered if we'd feel awkward with someone cleaning our space or feel guilty for not handling it ourselves. But from the first visit, we knew we'd made a revolutionary decision. The constant tension over chores vanished. Suddenly, our home felt brand-new, our weekends were ours for the taking, and we had the luxury of focusing on what matters: each other.

With the cleaning off our to-do list, we found ourselves with precious hours to spare. Activities we once squeezed in between chores – like pickleball after work, night skiing, and fetching with our playful puppy (the prime suspect in the mess department) – became regular highlights of our week. Our housecleaner didn't just clean away the mess; she cleared space in our schedules, allowing us to spend time doing the things we love.

We also learned that a clean home isn't just about appearances – it makes a real difference in how we live and connect with others. When our space is a welcoming environment, it's easier to relax and enjoy ourselves. It makes hosting friends and family stress-free, letting us focus on making memories rather than last-minute cleaning. Overall, it helps us build stronger relationships and a happier marriage.

Of course, outsourcing might look different for you! This strategy should fit the specific sources of friction in your relationship, along with your lifestyle and budget. If cleaning isn't your biggest pain point, consider other options – ordering takeout to cut down on cooking, placing a delivery for groceries to save time spent running errands, or even setting up automatic bill pay to avoid last-minute stress. The key is to outsource what's causing tension so you can spend more time on the things that bring you closer.

Ultimately, it's not about shirking responsibility; it's about prioritizing what enriches your relationship. As we've learned, the best marriage advice isn't about grand, sweeping gestures. It's about making daily improvements – for us, that meant outsourcing the sweeping itself – so you can invest your time in what truly matters.

12. Jennifer Beaunax: I have 6 pieces of great advice:

1. Pick your battles. Only debate the issues you feel passionate about. Let the little things go. This is part of compromise. Don't hold grudges.
2. Good communication is necessary.
3. On things you disagree about, each person assigns the issue a number value that reflects how important the problem at hand is. This allows you to proceed accordingly.
4. Have individual bank accounts. I've been married twice, and it is/was EXTREMELY rare to have a disagreement about money.
5. Don't "keep score". I've heard of couples who do this in all sorts of circumstances, and it never ends well. It results in resentment.
6. Marry someone who makes you laugh. Marry someone who you can keep a good conversation with. When you're old and not able to do much physically, this is important to keep your bond strong.

13. Jack Arnold: Tested Essential Acronyms in Marriage (T.E.A.M.)

H.A.L.T. = Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired

This acronym reminds couples to check their basic needs before engaging in difficult conversations or making important decisions. *Halting* and addressing these fundamental states can prevent unnecessary conflicts and foster better communication.

P.E.S.T. = Pray, Eat, Sleep, Talk

P.E.S.T. offers a holistic approach to maintaining a healthy marriage. It emphasizes spiritual connection, physical nourishment, adequate rest, and open communication as key pillars for a strong relationship and to avoid being a *pest* to others.

P.I.E.S. = Physical, Intellectual, Emotional, Spiritual connection

The P.I.E.S. acronym provides a comprehensive framework for nurturing various aspects of your marriage. The whole *pie* needs to be addressed in a relationship instead of taking just a slice.

***Physical* - Dwell together**

This aspect emphasizes the importance of physical presence and considerate interactions. It encourages partners to be mindful of their expressions of love and care. "Wherever you are, be all there!" - Jim Elliot

***Intellectual* - Understand**

The intellectual component stresses mutual understanding and mental stimulation. It involves sharing thoughts, ideas, and engaging in meaningful conversations to foster intellectual intimacy. Talk about your dreams and dreads

***Emotional* - Giving honor**

This element highlights the significance of emotional support and respect. It involves acknowledging your partner's feelings, showing appreciation, and creating a safe space for emotional expression. Understand the difference between feeling language and facts language. Share what makes you glad, sad, and mad.

***Spiritual* - Heirs together**

The spiritual aspect encourages couples to cultivate a shared sense of purpose and values. It involves growing together in faith, supporting each other's spiritual journeys, and building a foundation of shared beliefs and practices within a faith community.

14. Jennie Moore: September 8th, 2001 was a glorious fall day. Above average temps meant our little wedding chapel was filled with love, sunlight and the body heat of over a hundred and fifty of our beloved friends and family.

My soon-to-be husband, Dave and I stood at the front of the chapel with the pastor, our wedding party, and my 6-year-old nephew, who was nervously holding the rings.

I read my handwritten vows first, and then it was Dave's turn. With our eyes locked, he brought me and the rest of the chapel to tears with his sweet, heartfelt prose. At least until we both started hearing murmurs and giggles move from the front of the chapel to the back. We turned away from each other and looked down just in time to see my nephew, dressed in his little size 6x black suit, drop to all fours and projectile vomit across the floor at our feet.

The ensuing nervous/nauseated laughs from inside alerted the catering crew that there was cleanup on aisle wedding. So, a young man (who clearly didn't get paid enough that day) came bounding down the aisle with towels like a fire fighter armed with a flame-retardant blanket. He wiped up the mess in seconds, ran back down the aisle, and barely made it outside before having his own little episode in the grass.

Dave and I finished the ceremony, sealed it with a kiss, laughed our way out of the chapel and through a lot of other surprises that have come our way over the past two decades.

So, a couple of days past our 23rd wedding anniversary, here's our marriage advice:

One - Never feed a six-year-old Burger King and then let them go swimming two hours before an important event on an 88-degree day.

Two - Laugh it off. Life is hard and messy and unexpected and sometimes tragic. But a sense of humor makes everything more bearable, more memorable and a hell of a lot more fun.

Three - Tip your caterers well. Those folks are saints.

15. Tonya Eliason: Best marriage advice is the key to a successful marriage is knowing each of you have full lives and could be happy alone, but choose to be together as you know you're better together!

Best marriage advice I received was "Talk about it, then let it go". Always speak up when your spouse does something that makes you mad, annoys or upsets you, discuss and resolve it, then let that anger go - don't bring up 10 years later when they said something that offended you (bring it up at the time to make sure it doesn't happen again so you'd don't have to hold onto it!

Worst

1. Orsi Homorodi: The worst advice I've gotten is that I shouldn't talk about politics with my husband, and I shall vote for whom he is voting for. What?! Of course we should talk about politics! Preferably before marriage because a differing opinion on huge matters can put a strain

even on the happiest marriage. And the second part of advice, well that's just straight up foolishness.

2. Wendi Hennig: Worst marriage advice I ever got: Some might believe this is good advice but on the contrary at my wedding shower, one of my mother's friends told me this would be the most important advice I ever received for marriage. Her advice was simple., "Love your husband first." She went on to say, love him before your children love him before yourself and if you do that, you will live a long happy life married to your happy husband. She is probably right about one thing. You would be married to a happy husband.

3. Tonya Wilson Guinn: *"Have children right away"*. When we were first married everyone advised us to start having babies. We ignored that and waited 9 years before we had kids, and it worked out fantastically.

4. Brenda Taylor: A grand wedding will set the tone for an excellent marriage.

5. Kinsey Miller: Avoiding a Housing Crisis: The Marriage Advice to Skip

When my now-husband and I started planning our future, we received a lot of time-honored advice: "don't move in together until you're married" and "wait until marriage to buy a house." We chose a different path, moving in together in a cozy 510-square-foot condo in 2018, buying a house in 2021, and getting married in 2023. Reflecting on our journey, I'm grateful we forged our own path.

Living Together: The Real Compatibility Test

Moving in together before marriage was a big step. Our tiny condo kept us close, in all senses. I quickly discovered my husband's quirky habit of using several water glasses each day, leaving them scattered around our small space. How could he lose track of his glasses when the entire condo was in plain sight? And let's not overlook our different routines: I'd wake up at 6 a.m. for work, while he stayed up late into the night.

I'm sure he had his complaints about me, too, though it's hard for me to imagine what they could be! Navigating these adjustments early helped us build a solid foundation. If we'd waited until after the wedding, the stress of moving in together and adapting to each other's habits might have overshadowed the honeymoon phase. Instead, after the wedding, we got to relax and enjoy married life without the added pressure of big changes.

The Pandemic Plot Twist

Learning to live together came with its challenges, and just as we were navigating our new routine, the pandemic hit. Suddenly, our cozy condo became our full-time workspace, living space, and everything in between. Lockdown in close quarters was a true test of our relationship as we danced around each other's Teams calls, Clorox wiped our groceries, and

sourced masks from scrap fabric. But it also meant watching each other's favorite movies, trying new recipes, and playing nightly card games – things that are still cornerstones of our life today. Instead of putting life on hold, we kept building it together.

A House Before the Spouse?

In 2021, we made another “unconventional” choice and bought a house, despite not yet being engaged. With interest rates rising and a tough housing market, waiting until after marriage would have meant missing out on our forever home. The timing was right, and we were ready for more space – and a new puppy!

Buying a house together pushed us to tackle serious conversations early. Budgeting, decorating, and facing plumbing issues became part of our daily lives. By the time we got engaged in 2022, we were seasoned pros at navigating all of life's complexities.

Bottom Line: Tradition Isn't Everything

The advice to wait until marriage before taking big steps just wasn't right for us. Moving in together and buying a house before the wedding gave us the chance to build a solid partnership and invest in our future. By the time we said, “I do,” we weren't just ready for marriage – we'd already been living it.

6. Jennifer Beaunau: The worst pieces of marriage advice I've heard:

1. Stay together no matter what/stay together for the kids:

This is detrimental to a person's overall quality of life and mental health, if they're in a marriage with the wrong person.

2. Play hard to get. Just be honest about your feelings!

3. Having kids will make your marriage stronger.

7. Kathy Paulus: Worst Marriage Advice: Don't go to bed angry! Are you kidding me? This is the worst marriage advice ever. Is there anyone else out there like me, that, after a “domestic discussion”, needs time to analyze what the actual root of the problem actually is? With cool-down time, that may take me three days! Terrible advice.

8. Tonya Eliason: Worst marriage advice I was given (which I ignored) was “To always obey your husband”. A marriage is a wonderful partnership, NOT a dictatorship.

Weirdest

1. Orsi Homorodi: The weirdest one I've gotten was that I should never let my husband see me without makeup. The person told me that I should wake up earlier than him, put on makeup,

brush my teeth and go back to bed so he can wake up to a 'put together' wife. I should also not wear yoga pants or any lounge like clothes at home because this will make him look for love elsewhere. Needless to say, I disregarded this advice and I've enjoyed my makeup free nights and loungewear days happily with my husband of 24 years.

2. Kristine Haak: Weirdest Advice you ask, okay...here I go... My husband and I lived together shortly before we got married and like most couples there were many adjustments from living alone to now having a let's be real... "romantic-roommate." You quickly learn each other's habits, likes, and dislikes. One of my husbands was wanting privacy in the bathroom when conducting business. Okay, I can abide by that. Well.....2 years later after we had just got married, we found our forever home here in Snoqualmie Ridge and here is where things get "weird." After purchasing the house, come to find out in our master bedroom there was something drastically missing. Was it romance...no, was it an extra outlet next to the bed...no, it was a BATHROOM DOOR! Not only was there NO bathroom door in our master bedroom, but the door was not a standard size, of course. After a couple months of getting a contractor to come and widen our bathroom door and install what I like to call "privacy" we have been living happily ever after...So, my weirdest advice is simply this: When you purchase your 1st home together, make sure you have a bathroom door in your bedroom, it will save your marriage!

3. Louina W: When you first met you called each other by your first name. When he said your name, it made you tingle when she said your name it made you smile the sound of her voice saying your name is exciting and special, so my advice:

Call each other by your first name's as much as possible

Susie pass me the salt, please

Michael would you like another cup of coffee

Terry this dinner is delicious

Alan what do you think about those mariners

Greg I love you

Martha I love you

use your first names to begin every conversation

4. Anne Wiseman: Sharing is not always caring. Weird, right? Do not share your arguments or other situational experiences with your bestie, your mom/dad, coworkers, his/her family. They will all grow to dislike and resent your partner. After all, they are listening to one side of the story and if they love you, they will only listen to your side. That doesn't mean you shouldn't talk it out but talk it out with your partner. No one else wants to know how much it irritates you

when your husband farts in Target and everyone within 2 aisles has to vacate. Or when he pee's and he doesn't always make it into the toilet bowl causing your socks to get damp when you go to take a seat. I know, I know, it's irritating to have hair in your soap, whiskers in the sink and your favorite Scooby snack demolished but, keep it to yourself. This rule is obviously more applicable to serious issues but it's nothing you and your love can't resolve. If you need someone to listen, talk to your household pet and if you don't have one, my golden retriever is always available to listen. Trust me, don't tell your momma anything negative, it will bite you in the derriere if you stay married or get divorced. From someone who knows. Spread love.

5. Crystal Raymond: You know that phase in life, maybe you're in it now, your late 20s or early 30s, when it seems like every weekend in summer you're going to another wedding. You're planning all your vacations around these events. Weddings for best friends, cousins, the "why am I invited to this wedding?" friend. Maybe you're a part of the wedding party, or maybe you're just along for the ride.

I remember that time well. For a few summers it seemed like all my plans revolved around weddings. But I never thought it was going to be my turn. Oh, I had plenty of boyfriends, many of them were even my "plus one" for these weddings. They were never that hard to get, but the relationships were just never that great. So much drama, jealousy, just not interested in the same hobbies, or just not interested enough in each other.

Well one summer I went to one of those amazing all-weekend weddings. The perfect combination of nature, community, food, and fun. So many great people and everybody was having the best time. I remember the bride's turquoise shoes, the communal kitchen where everyone chipped in to make meals, and the cold drinks from mason jars bought at thrift stores. But most vivid in my mind is the marriage advice that the bride's mom gave to her. *Marriage takes work, but it shouldn't be that much work.*

This was an epiphany for me. I always thought you had to work so hard on relationships. You mean there are relationships that aren't work all the time!? I stopped trying to hang on to the difficult ones and when I found the one that wasn't "work all the time". I knew the next marriage I attended would be mine. And after being together for 10 years, we work at it, but not that much.

6. Anna Sullivan: Marry someone who makes you pee your pants laughing at least once a year. Ideally someone who also finds it charming that you pee your pants laughing.

7. Tonya Eliason: Weirdest advice I ever received was "Always do your husband's laundry" - um what? The guy that gave that advice long ago is still single (not shocking).

8. Jennifer Beauniaux: I think the weirdest pieces of advice I have is:

1. Have your own tubes of toothpaste. Most people can't agree on the dynamics of where to squeeze the tube.
2. If you can't stand to listen to him chew food, it won't last. You'll be listening to that for the rest of your lives. Pro tip: turn up the TV or play some music.
3. Do one of 2 things: get a king size mattress or get a sleep divorce (sleep in separate rooms). You'll thank me later.

9. Brenda Taylor: Never go to bed mad. Stay up and fight.

10. Kinsey Miller: The Secret Weapon for In-Law Diplomacy: The Robot Vacuum

Being newly married is an exciting time, but it also introduces a new set of dynamics – especially with your in-laws. While spending time with your spouse's family is a blessing, it can sometimes be overwhelming. For me, visits from my out-of-state in-laws often mean my chatty father-in-law takes over the kitchen.

Every time he visits, he claims the kitchen as his own, engaging anyone who passes through in long, meandering conversations. Don't get me wrong – I love talking to my father-in-law, but when I'm working from home, this means my breaks for water or snacks inevitably turn into lengthy chats. To reclaim my kitchen and maintain some peace, I've enlisted an unexpected ally: my robot vacuum.

Here's how you can use your robot vacuum as a secret weapon in your own kitchen diplomacy:

Step 1: Stealth Mode Activation

Start by quietly activating your robot vacuum while your father-in-law makes himself at home in the kitchen. Use your app to schedule its start during his usual kitchen hangout times – he won't even see you touch your phone! The gentle hum and steady movement of the vacuum will likely encourage him to shift around. If he decides to relocate, congratulations! You've reclaimed your kitchen and even managed to clean the floors. If he remains undeterred, don't worry – we have escalation tactics ready.

Step 2: Precision Targeting

For the more determined guest, your robot may need a little extra persuasion. Gently guide the vacuum closer to his chair with some subtle nudging. Stand behind your kitchen island to keep your movements hidden and use your foot to guide the vacuum's path. This way, you can efficiently direct it to invade his personal space without raising suspicion.

Pro tip: The night before, scatter some crumbs or stray chips near his favorite spot at the table. The vacuum will spend extra time sweeping the area, amplifying the discomfort and encouraging him to find a more comfortable spot.

Step 3: Turbo Mode

Should your father-in-law resist these subtle hints, it's time for the nuclear option: deep clean mode. When all else fails, unleash the full power of your vacuum. The roar of the suction will drown out any conversation, making the kitchen a less appealing place to linger.

Bonus: The Plausible Deniability Clause

The beauty of this operation lies in its innocence. You're simply a conscientious homeowner ensuring that your house remains clean and comfortable for your guests. "It's just doing its job," you can say about your vacuum with an apologetic smile.

Your Robot Has Successfully Completed a Job!

There you have it! The aim isn't to make your in-laws feel unwelcome but to create a space where everyone can enjoy their time together without feeling overwhelmed. With a touch of strategic timing and a few sneaky vacuum tactics, you can reclaim your kitchen and maintain harmony during your next family visit – one robot deployment at a time.

