

"The 'Carlucci Marriage/Relationship Audit' could just save you a fortune"

The sad truth is that divorce has become more common than staying together. Well over half of first marriages fail, with second and third marriages failing at an even worse rate. Before you prepare for war and make the divorce attorneys rich, I have a simple method to offer that could just save you from "going down in a blaze of miserable glory". Divorce can be one of the most financially devastating events that hits you. *Don't you think it is worth some constant effort to keep it afloat? If you don't, stop reading now.*

We work like dogs for our constant flow of cash along with the hopes and dreams of striking it rich and enjoying life to the max. Think how much time and effort you put into your work life. You save as best you can for both retirement, nest egg, real estate etc. Too many times financial hopes and dreams are crushed from a brutal divorce. That vacation fund and liquidated nest egg, ends up in your hired hit-person's pocket. By this I mean, of course, the divorce attorney. The family home is either seized by one spouse or forced to liquidate. Two new residences are now needed and that large qualified retirement plan gets chopped in half. Alimony and child support not only kill your monthly nut, but creates a large disincentive to working harder to grow. I guess you could say that divorce can be described in some corners as anti-capitalism. Many divorced clients I run into would rather send their spouse less money than to excel in their careers, at least until the alimony part is over. Let's rewind from this ugly scenario and figure out how to avoid this destitution. Remember how much effort you put into your career...right? Let's use just a small portion of that drive, motivation, and effort to have a successful marriage and/or relationship. Ready?

Suggestion #1 Divorce cannot be an option either mentally or verbally. Think of Cortez!

Too many times do we threaten our spouse or partner with divorce. "That's it, it's over"...we exclaimed in angry passion. All just to win an argument or inflict unnecessary pain and hurt on our loved ones. Why do we do that? Because we are hurt they do not agree or understand our position. Next time you are tempted to hurl that hurt at your loved one(or spouse :->) think of Hernando Cortez the Spanish Conquistador that landed near Veracruz in 1519. The Aztecs were a scary bunch that were chopping off people's heads in sacrifice for the gods. Cortez's men must have been wondering how soon they could escape this godforsaken land. Cortez knew this and did something that provided great motivation.....he burned his ships so they could not retreat. There was no going home. They would either learn to survive, or die. What if divorce was impossible? What if you had no choice but to work things out? Most would find a way, some would eat a bullet. Let's stick with the "Most" category, shall we? Never...I mean never threaten your spouse or partner with divorce, or ending the relationship. Don't sit pondering your escape after an ugly argument. Don't say it, don't think it. Oh, it will pop into your mind, but make it leave immediately. It has become too common to get divorced. It has become the norm. It is harder to work it out, so people think... until they are wrapped in the enigma of emotion, financial stress, and worries about their future and their children's future that

divorce brings. When a spouse or partner says they will leave the other, a safety net inside their brain has been ripped apart, never to be repaired. Even if you make up and say you didn't mean it. The other will not trust you will be there through thick and thin and may close up emotionally and not realize why. Don't do it folks, try and work it out.

Suggestion #2 CREATE a non-cheating spouse.

That's correct folks, I said "CREATE". How the heck do you do that? We all know how. Sex is a vital need in keeping a relationship alive and well, we all know it. But how can we keep our spouse or partner interested? Well, what did you do in the beginning of your relationship to seduce the other? Let's try some of that work. Take a good look at yourself....."Would YOU...sleep with YOU? Maybe not at this point. Perhaps you've gained some weight or unable to hit the gym etc. I totally understand as I am far from Mr Jack LaLane. Closer to the Grimace from McDonalds. But I do make an effort to look better for my spouse. I think the effort is half the battle. However, there are some things anyone and everyone can do. First, don't wear skanky underwear folks!!! EWWW! At one point I was still wearing little boy tighty whitey briefs with chicken tracks on them! When you get older they might even look worse.(older men and women get that one :>). I switched to colored boxers and so should you! Ladies, nothing kills the mood worse than seeing them giant white granny panties. Doesn't matter what you weigh. There are nice underwear that aren't thongs, but thongs work too. Showers are also a must when you think things may heat up. Would you ever make love in the beginning of your relationship dirty and smelly...probably not. That includes brushing the teeth and Listerine folks. Practice the same hygiene as you would on your first date....most of the time. Oh yeah, how about losing the unsightly back hair!!?? Dress more of the time as if it is your first few dates with your spouse or loved one. How good did you look? How good did you feel? Do it mon!

Here is the part of the article that some may be initially offended by. If you are one of "those" skip to the next paragraph. Ladies, what does the so-called "other woman" do sexually that you don't? How often does that same woman offer "affections" to her lover? Well ladies, you must do the same! "A lady on the streets and not such a lady between the sheets" should keep your man thinking of you, and bragging, secretly, about you to his friends. And men! What does "Francois" do to your lady that you don't? Is he, romantic sometimes? Is he spontaneous sometimes?(BTW, spontaneity works great for both sexes)Does he make love sometimes? Change it up. Sometimes be "Francois" and sometimes be the Terminator. Keep her thinking. What most people fail to understand is that 90% of sex is mental. It's the taboo, and nastiness, and out-of-the-ordinary that makes your lover think of you when you aren't there. Here it is folks, do things sexually that your lover will "fantasize" to, when you are not around.....or....when you are around :>.

Cheating is one of the major causes of divorce. But what leads to cheating might be poor communication. Before we get to that, let's quickly understand the risk of cheating. Cheating betrays the other and leaves a great hurt. But when you have children, it takes it to a whole new level. How

many of us would take our children on a hang-glider, or parachute, or racetrack just for a rush? Hopefully none. But that is what you are risking when you cheat. Here are some risks your kids face:

- 1) Being forced to leave their home, friends , neighbors
- 2) Losing the bond of inner family as their two rocks are now split
- 3) Their future relationships which may be jaded by living through the parents hurt.
- 4) Trust issues and allowing people close to them may be difficult as the fear of losing the relationship is too strong.
- 5) Believing your break-up is their fault.
- 6) Being exposed to new relationships or stepparents.
- 7) Forced to choose a side sometimes.

Is it really worth it folks? When you have children and you cheat....you are cheating on them too.

Suggestion # 3 Listen and Communicate

Men have gotten the stigma of non-listeners. I do not agree simply because I am an active listener to a fault and believe many of my fellow gents are the same. I think both sides need to listen more. Hearing is one thing, but listening involves trying to put yourself in the other's position, trying to understand how they feel about what they are saying, and where this may be stemming from. Next time you have a heated discussion...ask yourself if you are listening, or just waiting to speak! Another major issue that leads to failed marriage is finances. I can tell you first hand that it doesn't matter how much money you make, you can still spend more than you make. Every family should practice budgeting and saving. If one of you are out of work, you need to work together to figure out a plan. Going it alone because of pride may cause a great uneasiness among spouse's or loved ones. Communicate and respect where you are coming from. Do not just criticize and yell, come up with a plan that works. If you can't figure it out yourselves, bring in a professional. I help folks do it all the time.

Same situation here folks. How well did you listen to each other when you were first dating? etc., etc. "Well, that's different...that's before.....blank blank blank." Why should married folks be sentenced to an oblivion of aggravation and relive the sins of the past? Let the things already argued wash away from discussion and present memory. I am guilty of that one myself as I tend to "litigate" my arguments backed with precedents and former oral contracts made by my spouse...not easy to change but I'm realizing it is not okay. Man...it works great....but guess what? I lose anyway, because they get even another way. The only way to win an argument with your spouse or loved one is if you both see things a different way, the way of the other, and respect their feelings and wishes enough to change future behavior...that's a win. Lesson learned..."sometimes when you think you win, you lose."

Just one more suggestion until the Carlucci Audit...here goes.

Suggestion #4 Every one of us wants to feel loved, wanted, and respected.

If you can succeed at making your spouse or loved one feel like this, you will live in bliss. Of course, the first ingredient must be love. If love is truly not present, it will not work. This article is for those who still love the other, and just need some guidance. It is just that simple.

a) Make your spouse or loved one feel loved. What do you do to complete this? Do you...pick your wife or girlfriend a flower? Do you do something thoughtful just for them and not for yourself often? Just cutting out an article that you know they would be interested in shows them that you care. How thoughtful were you when you first started dating? Yup, you got it....same effort is needed here.

b) Make your spouse or loved one feel wanted. Hmmmn? Create an atmosphere that you know your mate will become excited over. Use spontaneity, and all the advice on the subject of sex written above. Complement each other. When no one is looking take your mate and passionately kiss them and make them yearn for you later. What did you do to show the other you "wanted" them when you were first together? Are you starting to see the pattern folks? I knew it!

c) Make your spouse feel respected. Here is one of my famous quotes that I got from a friend of mine that rings true too often. "Familiarity breeds contempt." How often do we "rip" our loved ones "a new one" when we would never speak to a stranger that way? We speak in a nasty tone with a disgust that really can hurt the other. Do not hold your loved one in contempt. Communicate if there is a subject that needs to be spoken about and resolved. If we spoke to each other in the beginning of the relationship that way, we wouldn't be together for the next date....right?

As I stated at the beginning of this article, we put a "Constant" effort into our careers. If we didn't we would make a lot less money, and or be fired! Disloyalty to the job, disrespect to co-workers or your boss, not listening to anyone, being selfish and not team oriented, making your fellow workers feel like you don't want to be there, and being argumentative are among the many things that would probably not be tolerated in the work place. Guess what, they aren't tolerated in the home either, it just takes a lot longer to get your pink slip.

Okay, to keep you out of divorce court, and to try and add some happiness to your life here is my "Carlucci's Marriage/Relationship Audit." I truly hope it helps you in your relationship. I have many clients who got divorced and just had no clue what to do financially etc etc. I can help you through that rough time, but I would much prefer an email saying how strong your relationship has now become.

It is now time for you to have an affair.....With Your Spouse!!!!

The Carlucci Marriage/Relationship Audit

1) Choose the top 3 things that your spouse or partner simply can't stand about you. Oh...come on..you know. We sometimes even use these things to annoy them when we argue. If you really can't figure them out, just ask your mate. You are guaranteed to get a quick answer. Okay...got'em? Stop doing those 3 things immediately. If one is snoring or something like that, go to great lengths to solve it. No excuses...just do it.

2) Choose the top 2 things that your spouse or partner wishes you would do more of. Really? you don't know? Check with your mate for that quick answer again. Okay...got'em? Do them! No excuses. Remember what's on the line here. If your boss or clients wished you would do two things more...you would do them!!!

3) You CANNOT demand that your spouse or loved one do this audit too. This is a selfless act and must remain so.

4) You MUST let your spouse or mate know what you are doing or they make suspect you are having an affair.

5) Every 3 months you must perform this audit whether or not things are heaven or things are hell with your loved one.

Please reach out to me and let me know if this has helped you at all(michaelcarlucci@yahoo.com). I truly wish the comeback for the institution of marriage and togetherness. Remember that it requires a constant effort and you should be just fine. Please share this with as many people as you can. Best wishes to you on your relationship path.