

Married for 55 years

Founder of skincare company The Sher System, Helen Sher, 71, married Willer, 77, in 1951. They live in London and have two grown-up daughters, Glenda, 50, and Carla, 48.

HELEN I thought Willer was the most handsome man I'd ever seen. When we met, I was only 14 and still at school. He was friendly with my older sister. My mother told me that he'd never make me happy. 'You like nice things, Helen, and he'll never be a millionaire,' she said. I told her, 'I don't care, I'm crazy about him.'

We decided early on in our relationship that we would never go to bed angry. It's been tough at times because we're both stubborn, but it forces you to communicate and make up. That said, I leave him alone when he gets in a black mood. Only when he starts to come out of it will I suggest we talk. It's learning that kind of thing about how the other person works that makes your relationship easier.

One of the toughest times in our relationship was when we moved to England from Canada. I had to stay behind to sell the house and it took a year. Being apart was heart wrenching. Then, when we set up our company together, we didn't make any money for the first two years. It was really stressful, but we stuck together. I can't understand those couples who split when things are tough – they're the times that having a relationship is most important. People give up too easily today.

I still make an effort to look nice every day, and, every evening, I cook a three-course meal and lay the table for us. We have friends who put each other down in company – I just don't understand that, because I believe that you should be the

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'We stuck together when times got tough. People give up too easily today'

biggest fan of the person you are married to.

Everybody loves Willer, and I love seeing people's reaction to him. It makes me realise just how lucky

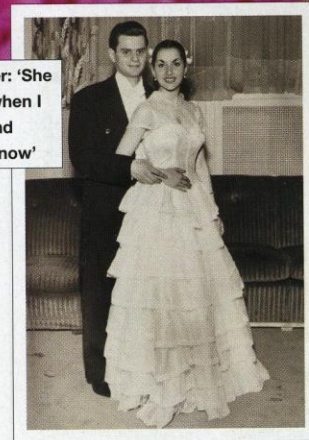
I am. I'm much more protective of him now that he's getting older. He doesn't hear particularly well any more and I'm always nagging him to get himself a hearing aid, but he can be so stubborn!

Both our children are married but their relationships aren't as close as ours. It's not easy for them because we're a lot to live up to. I wish there was a recipe that everyone could follow that would give them the kind of happiness we have.

WILLER Helen was beautiful when I first met her all those years ago, and she's beautiful now. She can wear something that cost £5 and make it look a million dollars. On our first date, we went to the



Helen and Willer: 'She was beautiful when I first met her, and she's beautiful now'



cinema. I couldn't pick her up because I couldn't afford a car, but we were so in love that she didn't mind taking the bus.

We got married when Helen was only 16 years old. Her mother told me, 'Please look after her, she's just a little girl,' and I have never forgotten that.

We work together because we don't like being apart. Ours is a real love match – I hold Helen every night before she goes off to sleep and tell her I love her every morning when we wake up.