



# THE TRUTH ABOUT *being a wife*

FROM TAKING THE BAD WITH THE GOOD TO BLENDING CLASHING FAMILIES, SEVEN UAE WOMEN REVEAL WHAT BEING A WIFE MEANS TO THEM...

Written by Aoife Stuart Madge

## Being Each Other's Rock

"My husband and I are a team. He is always optimistic and very positive. He keeps me strong and always reminds me of my qualities. He is so chilled, which helps me relax and not take everything so seriously. He loves to have fun and always sees the good in people.

"The hardest obstacle we have had to overcome as a married couple was when we lost our first daughter at four months old in February 2012. We spent 16 days in the ICU at her bedside. We handled the stress very differently: he was staying positive in order to get through each day, yet I couldn't ▶

see the light at the end of the tunnel. Once she died we needed to stay strong together in order to survive. There are days he will cry, have sad thoughts and miss her deeply and other days I do. We pick each other up and comfort each other."

**Danielle Wilson Naqvi,  
Owner of CSPR**

*Danielle has launched a charity in Pakistan in her daughter's name to provide a simple newborn screening test – which could have saved her daughter's life. Visit [thezbfoundation.com](http://thezbfoundation.com)*

## Giving Good Fight

"I always equated the word 'wife' to some unsatisfied Betty Draper-esque character, so I was in no rush to get married. But in reality being a wife is no different from being in a committed relationship in which you have faith, love and trust in each other.

"My favourite things about my husband are his smile when he is sleeping, his kindness and his ability to put it all into perspective. My husband and I are both pretty bossy and always want to be right, so we will happily argue away about everything and anything. But we never stay mad at each other.

"As a gift on our wedding day I gave my husband a beautiful bound notebook with a handwritten message in it. We write a message to each other every wedding anniversary – it is so lovely reading over the past messages, and the blank pages are so full of possibilities."

**Kate Kikano, Managing Director of TKD Lingerie in Town Centre Jumeirah**

## Being Completely Yourself

"Until I met my husband, I had never met anyone I could be completely myself with – he loves all of the good things about me and finds the bad things funny or just a little frustrating. But he accepts all of me. We have an incredible level of respect and admiration for each other. He has many qualities that I wish I had – patience for one! I never ever tire of being with him and could spend all day and every day in his company; there are very few people, if any, who I could say I feel that way about.

"Sometimes I feel that I am not a very good wife, and during the week I wish I had time to maybe cook him a nice meal, but I try to do this at the weekend to make up for it. Luckily, he married me for me and I haven't changed since we met, so he has never had any other expectation of me other than that I am just myself."

**Miranda Hilton, CEO of babysouk.com**

## Completing The Family Picture

"Marriage completed the picture of our family. It sealed our relationship and made us feel secure. Coming from different cultures, it's been an adventure but our families have blended together easily. I get along with my husband's family very well. In fact, his mum was the first person I told that I was expecting.

"The song *Angels* by Robbie Williams reminds me of my

husband. He is a DJ and he used to play it for me on the radio. He also lifted me on his shoulders at the Robbie Williams concert so I could get a better view. I didn't know then he had a bad back!"

**Cynthia Villanueva-Bartholomew, PR and Events Organiser at THE One**

## Supporting Each Other As Individuals

"Being a wife means loving and supporting my husband through good times and bad, and feeling totally loved and supported by him. I am fortunate that my husband is very supportive of my career. Whilst we have naturally fallen into quite traditional wife and husband roles (me as mother, cook and care-giver and he as the primary wage earner), when I am going through stressful or busy times at work he supports me in every way he can. I feel very strongly that having a career makes me a much better wife, as I am able to pursue my own ambitions and be proud of my own achievements, not just my husband's."

**Jodi Davies, General Manager of Source Middle East**

## Being Equal

"Wife is a very special word to me. It means being a real partner to the man in my life and knowing you are there for each other no matter what. Balancing a career with being a wife is tough, especially being married to an Arabic man. It is not always easy for men to accept when their wife is always busy and travelling, but I am extremely lucky because my husband is an exception – most of the time, that is!"

**Mary Ghobrial, CEO at Sukar.com and Souq Fashion ■**