

## **Mated**

Initially, the affair was almost entirely sexual. They were both enrolled in an evening cooking class where students were there not because they wanted to learn cooking. After the class started, he joined her at a counter and they baked a cake together. They went to her place afterwards and did not sleep together, they stayed awake the whole time.

The following morning, it was still good. Maybe better, because it was still good. They met after work that day. She wanted to see his place, so they spent the night there. And it was still good the next morning. By the end of the week, he moved in, her place was larger and cleaner.

At first, it was entirely sexual. But then they discovered each other's interests and hobbies were complementary. Without him quite realizing it, they began to plan their future. They thought of each other when apart. They met at the end of each working day with a passion neither had ever felt with any other partner.

After a year, they married. After another year, they had a son, then a daughter. They bought condo with two bedrooms, and started a toy chest. They still were in love, felt great passion, but there were new distractions. Babies need attention.

Their work changed, there were promotions and one relocation. They found a small house near an elementary school. They still had sex, when the children were sleeping and they were not too tired or preoccupied. It was not the same. It was mature. Or, preoccupied. They were comfortable with each other. He missed the sudden lust, she did too but did not miss cleaning up the mess.

There were problems as the children grew into adolescents, then young adults, then moved out. They visited, stayed in touch, but after two decades focussed on their children, they now understood what empty nest meant.

They ate lovely dinners together, sat on the couch and watched films or TV series. They took weekend vacations, just themselves, in a resort on an island. They took a small boat out on the lake stopped rowing in the middle to drift and watch the clouds.

They sat in the boat, mated for life, making plans for the future.