

# WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

## When Two Different Worlds Collide

A friend and I were recently talking about our husbands. She made a comment that I felt also perfectly described me and my hubby.

"He slows me and I hurry him. I'm sure that is why we do well together," she said.

"Precisely!" I thought. Why? Because when two different worlds collide, it can be magical.

No matter what those two different worlds are – a man and a woman with very different personalities, beliefs or backgrounds, two partners with contrasting passions, strengths or talents, or when a country boy marries a city girl.

Being from different worlds does require some mutually acquired traits and core values.

Patience and empathy, genuine listening, respectful communications, a sincere desire to understand and an acceptance of differences are essential building blocks in any healthy relationship.

When there is big magical love for your partner in spite of perceived differences, there must be a willingness to gracefully navigate the pothole-filled dirt roads that will likely be traveled.

I keep pondering my friend's words as they relate to me and my country boy. I am a gal full of ideas.

Always thinking of new ideas and ready to change things up and go and do things never done before. Admittedly, I can have a tendency to be impulsive.

I do not like to overthink or

over analyze.

I can get frustrated when I feel like a decision is taking too long to be made.

I can also get frustrated if I feel like my new fangled ideas are not being given what I believe should be their due consideration.

After 44 years of togetherness, I have finally come to appreciate my man slowing me down a tad.

It has been proven true to me that patience can be prudent, and patience is a virtue I have had to acquire more of.

My sweet country boy is never in a hurry.

He considers everything slowly and methodically.

He sees no reason to change what is good enough, and I can agree there are times when good enough is the best course of action at a given moment in time.

Of course, the case can be made that extraordinary, wondrous firsts are waiting to be discovered and experienced when a new door is opened.

There are psychologists who would have looked at us in the beginning of our relationship and believed we were too opposite from each other to have an enduring and fulfilling marriage.

Indeed, many psychologists believe the old adage that "opposites attract" is a myth when it comes to what makes for good pairing, and yet here we are.

His strengths complement my weaknesses and vice versa.

We have both become more



Annette and her husband, John, aka the country boy, met 44 years ago in the same spot where this photo was taken in 2024. (Photo courtesy of Annette Bridges)

willing to compromise, and we have taught each other new things.

Our understanding and empathy muscles have been stretched and strengthened.

Passion is alive and well.

We balance each other.

We are more tolerant and pa-

tient humans.

I say when two different worlds collide, it can be magical because of the endless opportunities for invaluable life lessons and crucial personal growth that are essential for blessing a marriage with everlasting, unconditional love. 