

# Creating the *Fairy tale*

by nurturing  
healthy relationships

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Cinderella weddings, love at first sight, and happily ever after endings may be the dream of most young men and women; however, the fairy tale romances often fall short of the every day marriage/family challenges. Maintaining healthy relationships requires effort, not magic. The problem with Cinderella and similar stories is the idea that marriage and family happens as the result of “true love.” Relationships do require love, but also require commitment, time, fun, and the belief in a Higher Power. Many marriages end in divorce due to disillusionment with the “Cinderella” story. The fairy tale loses its romantic edge in the midst of financial problems, in-laws, children who interrupt parent’s sleep, and the every day obstacles of living. The Princess and Prince in the fairy tale give way to bills to pay, kids to transport, work to be done, and chores there is not time to complete. If happily ever after is expected, the realities of real life may fall short.