

Love is beautiful

For down-to-earth newlyweds Ding Ying Yian and Seah Wei Chuan, love lies in the little things. by LYDIA WONG



A group outing at the Tea Chapter teahouse, located at Chinatown, proved to be the setting in which Ding Ying Yian met her future husband Seah Wei Chuan — and it almost didn't happen. "I remember that it was the third day of the Chinese New Year and the session was to start at 4pm. I wanted my friends to join me but they already had their own plans so I just went alone," recounts Ying Yian, 32. Wei Chuan,

who's also 32, adds: "I remember that I just didn't want to stay home on a Saturday afternoon so I decided to escape my relatives and joined the event on a whim!"

Their first impressions of each other were promising. Wei Chuan, an analytics professional, admitted that he was first drawn to Ying Yian's looks. He also found her lively demeanour quite appealing. "She helped me to open up as I'm not very chatty by

nature," says Wei Chuan. "I really appreciate the fact that she was willing to share stuff about herself." Similarly, Ying Yian, an engineer, found Wei Chuan easy to get along with. "With him, the conversations flowed quite naturally."

STAYING GROUNDED

Following the event, Wei Chuan contacted Ying Yian via email and the pair — both avid social media users —



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soon became friends on Facebook. He then asked her out via MSN messenger and they enjoyed a dinner date in Bishan, during which they found out that they had a few things in common, including being born in the same month of the same year. "I took note of everything that she shared with me," said Wei Chuan. "I saw it as an intel gathering session," he quips cheekily. As a loving token of his feelings for Ying Yian, Wei Chuan even compiled a folder of things he found out about her and decorated it before presenting it to her. "I was really touched — it showed how attentive he was to me," said Ying Yian.

It didn't take long for the couple to fall in love — indeed, by the third date, they were certain that they were meant for each other. "The feeling I had when I was with him was different from how it was with other guys I've dated. I remember telling my girlfriends: 'This is 'The One' — I think I'm going to get hitched soon!'" Ying Yian confided.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Ying Yian vividly remembers Wei Chuan being quite nervous about his first meeting with the future in-laws. "He was quite stressed out as my mom was asking him a lot of questions, but thankfully he answered all of them quite calmly!"

Once they had received their parents' blessings, the couple quickly got down to the planning for their wedding. Rather than an ostentatious show, they chose to make their nuptials an intimate affair that was attended by their close friends and relatives. "I'm a practical man and there was no fancy proposal. I simply brought her to look at some rings during one of our dates and got her to choose one," says Wei Chuan. The couple tied the knot on 30 October 2011, just eight months after their first meeting.

EASING IN

Prior to their wedding, this practical pair had already gone house-hunting. "The process was quite tiring and we did have some conflicting preferences," says Wei Chuan. "In the end, we realised that we need to make the decision and compromise in the process." Fortunately they found the perfect nest — a 3-room flat in Serangoon North that fulfilled their price and location requirements.

Once settled in, the newlyweds encountered other challenges, which they had not faced as singletons who never had to share a space. "I'm a cleanliness freak and want things neat and tidy," says Wei Chuan. "As a result, there were minor arguments when things weren't placed properly."

"I do find that he nags a lot," says Ying Yian. "But I just tease him about it and I find it amusing as it's usually the women who do the nagging."

And the best things they enjoy about each other? "He helps with the housework and I really appreciate that he gives in to me most of the time," says Ying Yian. "I love how she dotes on me, even a simple gesture of holding my arm really touches me," shares Wei Chuan. With plans to have a child down the road, Ying Yian and Wei Chuan certainly are looking forward to a life of wedded bliss.

Any advice for singles out there? "Do make the effort to dress up and look presentable when you attend any group events," shares Ying Yian. Wei Chuan adds that it is important to be confident, have an open mind and make the effort to strike up a conversation with as many people as possible.

WORD TO THE WISE

As the two of them were single for quite a while before they met each other, Ying Yian shared that it was important for singles to think positive while looking for the special someone. "I did a lot of reading on this topic and took the experts' advice to heart. Books like *Law of Attraction* and *Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus* were really helpful," she says.

Wei Chuan and Ying Yian both insist that you should know if your partner is 'The One' within six months of dating. "A lot of these relationship guidebooks do not advocate long-term dating," adds Ying Yian. Wei Chuan agrees: "There is no such thing as a perfect relationship and one should not keep holding out for the 'perfect' person when deciding to commit."

