



# Make It Last Forever

We asked some cozy couples, "What's love got to do with it?" -- and how they make LOVE + HIV = 4-EVER:

February 1, 2003 By Laura Whitehorn

---

"Our bodies are designed for living. We need a great passion to focus this living that sometimes dumbfounds the mind and the soul."

-- *Bill T. Jones and Bjorn Amelan, New York City: 8 years*

"My beautiful, HIV negative wife and I share everything and aren't afraid to act like kids and use jokes to relieve tension. After 16 years of HIV, I finally found true love, and it's even better than the songs say!"

-- *Luis Santiago and Carolina Kim, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico: 4 years*

"Advice to positoids: Don't give up, don't scapegoat HIV and be as patient with your lovers' shortcomings as you'd like them to be with yours."

-- *Shawn Decker and Gwenn Barringer, Charlottesville, VA: 4 years*

"Communication, compromise and a sense of humor make us flourish."

-- *Beth Hastie and Sage Skog, Boston: 7 years*

"I fell in love with a friend once I realized I didn't want HIV to be my partner. Learn to laugh at yourself, because laughter is a great aphrodisiac."

-- *Dawn Averitt and Brad Bridge, Asheville, NC: 4 years*

"My husband and I adore and trust each other. We still have great, hot sex, because we've negotiated an honest, sexually open relationship."

-- *Mark de Solla Price and Vinny Allegrini, New York City: 10 years*

"Share interests (we make fools of ourselves together at karaoke), and learn and practice the wonderful art of compromise."

-- *Cathy and Robert Olufs, LA: 3 years*

"We never go to sleep upset, and we always give each other a good-night kiss. We have a shine

that makes our days lasting.”

-- *Nancy Cotto and Emilio Laboy, Bronx, NY: 4 years*

---

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/Make-It-Last-Forever-515-1317>