



Shazia Mirza and Sunny Hundal share their views

# She Says

Initially, physical attraction is important. It's like cake. If you like the look of it, you eat it. Across a crowded room, in the workplace, walking your dog or on the 38 bus, you don't stalk someone who's unattractive.

When you log onto Shaadi.com, Muslim matrimonials.com, Dating Direct, or iamdesperate.com, the first thing anyone wants to see is your mug – not your bank balance. By mug I mean face. And my God do you see some mugs on these sites.

Touched up, plastered on, pulled back, bleached, streaked, lasered, ironed – some definitely need to be masked. Some are really bold about their looks: "I am very handsome,

the ladies have never complained, the reason I'm not married is because I haven't been ready." Reply: "But you're 52 years old". He says: "Yes, but I'm still handsome."

That initial attraction is important. From my experience, no man fancies a woman with a moustache and breasts so saggy that she needs to kick them out of the way just to walk. And no woman fancies a man with untrimmed nostril hair and three distorted nipples.

However, all this goes out of the window if the man is rich. Throughout history mingers with the Midas touch have triumphed in love because of their cash. Donald Trump, Peter Stringfellow and Ronnie Wood – all seem to be lucky in love despite their bad looks. Even Salman Rushdie is beating women off with a stick. Who knew a fatwa brought sex appeal?

Ever since this man has been on the brink of death he's had women all over him like marmite on toast. If it was a woman with a fatwa, it wouldn't be sexy, it would be slutty. She wouldn't have Clooney, Depp, or The Rolling Stones knocking on her door, but rather flying stones in her face.

But then as time goes on looks become less important. Take my mum and dad for instance. My mum in her twenties was young and beautiful, my dad was handsome. Fast forward a few years, and my dad began to look like the curry house he frequently visited. When I say frequent I mean

about seven times a week. But they are thankfully united in ways other than just physical attraction. Friendship, companionship, children, family, loyalty, tradition are other maybe more important factors essential to a successful longlasting relationship.

The concept of love changes over time. When you meet someone great looking, you may think, 'Yes I can fall in love with them'. Looks aren't everything. When I'm sixty I'll

probably just want a good feed. I won't care what the person cooking it looks like.

But you don't want your husband to stray and unless you can keep him on a leather leash, I think you do still have to take care of your appearance. A blue rinse and some trouser braces can take five years off your marriage and stop your husband gawping at some passing silicon.

Sometimes all a woman really wants after thirty years is a receding hairline, a bit of toupee, some false teeth and a limp. Priorities can drop as time goes on and physical attraction can be at the bottom of the list whilst having a best friend as a husband or wife can be at the top. All you have to worry about once you've decided that you really do find each other attractive is: "will you still need me, and will you still feed me, when I'm sixty four?"

Priorities can drop as time goes on and physical attraction can be at the bottom of the list

Join the debate on The Official Asian Woman Magazine Facebook Page.

