

1st February, 2000

## FRIENDS ...

DEAR DIARY, these words hit me yesterday; "only choose to marry a man who you would choose as a friend if he were a woman."

It came at me from the pages of Iyanla Vanzant's book Acts of Faith. In all my adult years, it only just occurred to me where I'd been going wrong in terms of boy/girl relationships time and time again. He's not been my friend!

I had never placed nearly enough importance on the friendship side of a relationship. The superficial aspects of meeting a mate almost always played a more important role than actually getting along - initially anyway. I'm not superficial in the way of flash talk, flash car and flash attitude as I don't like loud and brash, but in the past, I have fallen for good looks. It's a rare find to meet a man who is very good looking and not full of himself. It does happen, but he's a rare specimen. I would also fall for height and muscles, but I know in my heart that the petrol that keeps my car on the road is a man who is down to earth, funny and intellectual. Unfortunately, time and time again, Pretty Boy Blue comes along and outshines the good man, the husband material, the thoughtful, hard-working, unassuming, DIY king, 1<sup>st</sup> class back rubber and the man with the kindest words to wash the "I'm so ugly" tears away. All of a sudden, I wake up and look at my man thinking you look more like Mike Tyson when you used to look like Tyson Beckford... HOW DID I GET HERE? But now I know!

Friendship is beautiful glue that holds people together. It allows you to be who you really are and it allows you to say what you really want and someone is really listening. You spend your time with someone who actually wants to take part in your life and wants you to take part in theirs.

It's too much hard work keeping up the false pretence just because I think it will impress a new fool. I'd much prefer for him to like me with all my foibles and crazy habits. At some point, in terms of a mate, this man will be one of my best friends, especially if this dude's someone I'm supposed to have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for richer, for poorer, forever and ever and ever and ever.

*The*  
**AUGUST  
MAYFIELD**  
*Diaries*

I'd go out with my best friend if she were a man. If I were to meet a man who has the same qualities as my best friend, we'd be together forever!

*August Mayfield*