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## *Love & Respect*

**T.I. & Tiny  
on Beating  
the Odds**



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**5. GIVE YOUR BOO THE ROYAL TREATMENT.**

Want to affair-proof your marriage? Stop being so selfish. "One of the biggest mistakes a lot of us make is being so busy worrying about what we want that we forget about our spouse," explains Angela Blackston, who authored *Fight for Your Marriage!* (Christian Services Network). "In most instances, a spouse cheats because he or she feels lonely and neglected." Angela goes so far as to say that she puts Allen's needs above her own, coming home before a girls' night out to make sure he has a hot meal, for example. Likewise, before Allen hits the links for a few rounds of golf with the guys, he'll cross an item or two off Angela's honey-do list. "When I look at my husband, I see my king," says Angela. "We do our best to keep each other happy."

**6. STAY JOINED AT THE POCKETS.**

"Finances push people to the brink of divorce; we've seen it

**"When I look at my husband, I see my king. We do our best to keep each other happy."**

over and over again," says Angela. To stay on the same page, discussions about goals, savings, expenses and investments are a must. Separate bank accounts may be a relationship red flag. "There is no 'mine' and 'yours.' It's 'ours.' We've become one," says Angela. Each spouse draws a set "allowance" from their joint account for discretionary spending—and not a penny more; other funds are allocated for fixed expenses. "That helps us prevent overdrafts [and] surprises," Angela says. She also stresses that the person who will be the main money manager should be chosen on the basis of aptitude, not on gender roles.

**7. AGREE TO DISAGREE.**



Dana and Adrian Davis have been in love since high school.

The Davises make a point not to sweat the small things, such as Adrian not picking up his socks or Dana not taking out the garbage. And when bigger disagreements, such as whether they are in the position to buy new rental property occur, they believe in listening to each other, respecting each other and

continuing to have each other's back. "We're not going to see eye-to-eye on everything," says Dana. "Her opinion matters to me," says Adrian. "I don't let a disagreement taint the way I feel about my wife."

Niema Jordan is a writer, blogger and poet in the Bay Area.

**Keeping the Spark Between You? There's an App for That.**

Black Internet entrepreneur invents Kahnoodle for couples

**K** Plain and simple, she aims to beat the odds—in love, and in business. Zuhairah Scott-Washington, 35, is the visionary behind Kahnoodle (kahnoodle.com). This fun mobile app uses gamification to encourage busy couples to keep their relationship fresh and exciting. "[Our] goal is to make it easier to do more of the fun and thoughtful things that brought them together in the first place," says a company spokesperson. Available on The App

Store and coming to Android soon, Kahnoodle features reminders and personalized tips to shake up your routine, and a private relationship journal for recording special moments. Has your man or woman grown complacent about giving you compliments and thanks? It'll be almost addictive to send you "kudos" via their smartphone. Dull date nights can be a thing of the past thanks to discounted offers on fun and sexy local activities. But the heart of this "game" is the



Zuhairah Scott-Washington with husband of three years, Marc. "[I hope] to put a dent in divorce rates," she says.

challenge to keep your partner's "love tank" full. Dashboard-style graphics indicate how close and connected (s)he's feeling to you in real time. Your sweetie's needle is nearing the red zone? Ranked "love signs" (your

respective preferences for gifts, sexual intimacy, quality time, etc.) will let you determine if, say, it's time to play hooky from work and get in a little nookie. CEO Scott-Washington says using Kahnoodle has helped

her to prioritize time with her hubby. "A recent study showed that couples who regularly spend time together are 3.5 times more likely to be very happy in their relationships," says the indie developer.