## INSPIRE

Just believe in yourself.
Even if you don't, pretend
that you do and, at some
point, you will

**VENUS WILLIAMS** 



N ANY long-term relationship it is completely normal – in fact it is inevitable – for each of you to have fluctuating enthusiasms for sex.

Our sexuality is a garden, and it has seasons.

There are times when our most life-

There are times when our most lifeaffirming choice is to harvest the fruits of our erotic connection.

But on other days, deep in winter,

## by Dr Emily Nagoski

the life-affirming choice might be browsing seed catalogues to prepare for spring.

The key to sustaining a strong sexual connection over the long term is to adapt with confidence, joy and calm, warm curiosity to the changes brought

by each season of our lives. I have 25 years of experience as a sex educator and a decade of marriage in which my own sexual connection with my partner

has ebbed and flowed.

I have discovered the secret of couples who sustain a strong sexual

connection over the long term is not

sexual frequency.

It's not about novelty and adventure, or orgasms, exotic positions or variety of sexual behaviours. It's not monogamy or non-monogamy; watching porn or not watching porn; being kinky or vanilla.

being kinky or vanilla. It's not attractiveness, being conventionally good-looking, or having a

**TURN TO NEXT PAGE**