

INSPIRE

● *My feet are still on the ground. I'm just wearing better shoes* ●
OPRAH WINFREY

I can't remember the last time I had sex with my partner, but I really don't mind.

Why so many women are happy in a...

SEXLESS MARRIAGE

Breaking the taboo: Anniki Sommerville

Picture: ED MILLES. Hair and make-up: JULIE READ AT CAROL HAYES. Styling: CAMILLA RIDLEY-DAY

MY PARTNER Paul and I are sitting on the sofa watching a couple passionately make love on a kitchen counter.

It's that classic unrealistic kind of sex that you see only on TV. Spontaneous. Crazy. Like the sex you have in the heady days of meeting someone.

Paul and I eat snacks and pick up our phones now and then to check emails.

by Anniki Sommerville

Neither of us is even mildly excited by what's on screen or, if we are, it doesn't translate into any form of action. Frankly, we might as well be watching the Antiques Roadshow.

And the reality is, it's not just steamy sex that's off the menu for us nowadays,

but *all* sex. Yes, we're one of the 28 per cent of all couples who, according to a recent Relate survey, say they're in a 'sexless marriage'.

You officially hit this milestone when you have sex less than ten times a year. So, in fact, we're even worse than

'sexless'. We're in the 7 per cent who haven't had sex at all in the past 12 months. It could be longer. I've stopped counting.

Yet I'd argue that my relationship with my partner is good. Marriage counsellors might gasp, but I'm here as proof that it is indeed possible to be happy in a sexless union.

Paul and I have been together for

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