

“Dad, It’s Time You Started Dating”

As with all life changing moments, John’s did not reveal itself as such at the time. He was sitting in a Tsawwassen ferry line-up waiting to travel home to Victoria completing work on his laptop. His mood matched the February weather: dark, wet and cold. John had just completed a long and drawn out divorce eventually winning custody of his two children, a teenage daughter and an eight-year-old son. As a survival technique John threw himself into his work and the duties of a single father. He felt he was coping well.

It was then that the rear doors of his car opened and his life altering moment began. The quick double slam of those rear doors brought him back to the here and now. His daughter and son, wet and cold, had returned from the terminal, a rain soaked woolen mitten handed him a hot cup of coffee. The unusual silence that followed was broken by the voice of his daughter, dark haired, blue-eyed Katie 17, “Dad we’ve been talking, we know you’re unhappy, we think you should move on, we think it’s time you started dating”.

“It was an incredibly touching moment,” says John, “Seeing my situation through my kids eyes helped me realize that I deserved happiness in my life, just coping wasn’t enough. Their insight coupled with their acceptance of my situation radically changed the path I was on.”

“I’d half remembered seeing Jane’s ad for her matchmaking service Hearts Canada, in the Boulevard Magazine, found a copy and called her up the next day”. John continues: “We booked an appointment, Jane came out to the house and conducted a very thorough interview narrowing down what I was looking for in a

partner. It was the science of the whole thing that appealed to me, the fact that I could sketch out the qualities of the person I was searching for. I could guide the process along as opposed to settling for whatever fate happened to bring my way. Time was another consideration. I’m extremely busy, up early, wearing an apron cooking breakfast and getting my kids ready for school and then dropping them off. I am also a business owner, I generally work around the clock, and in my mind from a time perspective, using a matchmaker made complete sense.”

“Normally it’s a little more complicated when your matching someone with children” says Jane Carstens Managing Partner of Hearts Canada a highly personalized boutique matchmaking service on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, “Not only was I matching John for a potential partner, but more importantly when the time was right, how would he feel about introducing her to his children. In John’s case I had two women in mind that I thought would be perfect for him, both were mothers one with fairly young children.”

“I met with Jane’s first pick and although she was very nice, there were no fireworks,” says John, “The second match was a hit. The sparks were there from the first time we met, she has two kids, is a fantastic woman, and a great mom. We’ve been together for 10 months now, and this year the six of us plan to spend our summer vacation together camping in the interior of B.C.

Thanks to my kid’s insight Jane’s expertise and the new woman in my life, this Father’s Day I’ll be one happy dad.”



The Matchmaker

Jane Carstens



“I have the best job in the world; I get to make positive changes in my clients’ lives. Our service is unique in that I personally and confidentially interview clients in the privacy of their own homes. In this way I get a feel for my clients’ lifestyles and what they are looking for in a partner. Through Hearts our clients feel confident they are taking a proactive, organized and business-like approach to finding the right partner.”

JANE CARSTENS is the Managing Partner of the Vancouver office of HEARTS. Along with RUTH CLARAMUNT, President and Founder of HEARTS, they run a highly personalized boutique matchmaking service based in Victoria, Vancouver and Toronto that matches clients in locations across Canada. Recently featured on Global National, The Vicki Gabereau Show, Breakfast Television, the Victoria Times Colonist, City TV’s Colour TV and in the Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Magazine and on CBC Radio.

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