

## ABC of Unrequited Love

by Ivor John

### Affair - Noun

1. A usually temporary sexual relationship outside marriage.
2. A thing, an incident a scandal (Colloq)

1. So your husband of twelve years, had been having seeing a woman in his office. Tracy, one of the finance clerks. It had been going on for several years apparently. Most of those occasions when he had been going to play five a side with his mates, he had been seeing Tracy. Having sex in her flat, eating out at restaurants, even going to parties. How could he do that to you? Couldn't he see that you are perfect.

### Appropriate - Verb, Transitive

On one of my visits to your address, I was planning to leave you a note I had typed. Since you had blocked me on your phone, I could no longer send you text messages, and so I didn't have a choice. I knew that you would be out, you always worked on Thursday mornings. When I got close to your door, I could see a large buff envelope, just inside the letterbox, which hadn't dropped to the floor. I could easily reach it with the tips of my fingers and pull it out. I couldn't believe my luck. It was copies of your divorce papers from your solicitor. All the details of your husband and his affair.

### Arrest - Verb Trans

They came in the afternoon, two police officers in a marked police car. Banging on my front door in full view of the neighbours. 'Are you Mr Willoughby?' 'We have had a complaint

from Patricia Miller. We believe you have been sending her letters and leaving unsolicited gifts. Flowers, items of clothing'. I couldn't understand it my love. These were gifts for you without prejudice. No quid pro quo. To show you my feelings, that I love you. I know you told me to stop, but I was sure you hadn't meant it.

#### Artless - Adjective

##### 1. Natural - Simple

I ran through the pictures on my phone. Hundreds of pictures I had taken without you noticing. Some of the best I had taken one day when I had managed to sit opposite you on a train journey to London. You hadn't known me then, we hadn't met. I was able to take pictures whilst pretending to make phone calls. Having imagined conversations as I pointed the phone, nonchalantly, toward you. The first time I had forgotten to turn to sound off and there was a loud artificial 'shutter click' sound. I had felt myself go red, but you had been looking out of the window and didn't seem to notice. You suited clothes so well. You could dress in the most simple way, without showiness or artifice, but still looked stunning.

#### Attentive - adj (Disambiguation)

##### 1. Applying one's mind or energies, intent, heedful.

I noticed you immediately, but then I am attentive. On your first visit to the club, playing with the ladies on court 3. I was on court one. I even noticed the white mark where previously there would have been a ring, engagement possibly or more likely at your age, a wedding ring.

You less so. I hardly saw you look towards my court at all. Despite a spectacular drop shot, which attracted loud comment from the other players, you didn't even look over at me.

##### 2. Assiduously attending to the comfort or wishes of others

I did everything I could think of to please you. To make you happy. As is often the way, I had an interest myself of course. But I wanted only for you to be happy, but with the caveat of 'with me'. 'If you love somebody, set them free' I have heard said. What good would that be to me. I knew of course that we could happy, from when I first met you at the badminton club. We were perfect for each other. I knew I could make you happy, that I could love you forever.

#### Aware - Adj

I don't know when you first noticed me, my intentions. You didn't see me at the sports centre. Well, you saw me, but you didn't notice me. The women you had been playing badminton with thought I was an old friend of yours and with some persuasion told me where you lived. Not the number, which they claimed not to know.

I had watched you drive away from the sport centre, I have a good memory and was able to remember your registration number. It hadn't been hard to spot your Citroen Cactus parked on your drive.

I think the first time you noticed me was when I visited you with flowers. You had been surprised and seemed embarrassed. I told you not to be. You apologised, you didn't have a vase, but thanked me for being so thoughtful.