

DAICS
MIRIAM
9TH FEB, 2007

Your LIFE

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Dr Miriam: Pal's bloke raped me at party

REUNITED:
Bill and Mary



MOST of us dream of finding "the One" once in a lifetime.

But loved-up pensioners Mary Somers and Bill Lacey were lucky to have found each other twice in an amazing story of romance that spans the generations.

Now government red tape means they may be separated once again.

The couple were driven apart by unemployment and World War II, separated by an ocean and married to other people, yet they always dreamed of the day when they would meet again.

Two years ago that dream came true when 1930s sweethearts Mary, 85, and 88-year-old Bill rekindled their love after 70 years apart.

As a young man, Bill couldn't find work and went to London to find his fortune. He left Mary pining for him back in Co Longford.

His teenage girlfriend made plans to follow Bill across the water but World War II intervened.

The London Blitz was at its height and Mary's father refused to let her go for her own safety.

The pair lost contact and later Bill emigrated to Canada where he took up a job as a truck driver.

Meanwhile, back at home Mary met another man, got married, settled down and had a family.

The years passed and children - then grandchildren - were born but the memory of the love they shared didn't fade.

A few years ago, after Bill's wife died, he decided to track down the gorgeous girl who captured his heart back in Ireland.

Just-widowed Mary was thrilled to get a call from the handsome lad she met outside a grocery shop when she was just 15.

Mary, who lives with her son George and daughter-in-law Lyn in Dublin, made plans to visit Bill.

Lyn said: "When she heard Bill's voice on the phone, she came alive

again. She was like a young one. The family was delighted for them. It's once in a lifetime you might come across a love affair that lasts for 70 years."

After an emotional-reunion in Ontario, the couple spent a blissful year together.

Lyn added: "They dressed up and went on dates. They went for walks and held hands. It was lovely"

But sadly fate intervened once again and during a routine medical check-up, Mary revealed she used to have TB. She was stunned to be told she needed health insurance to stay in Canada.

Yet again the couple were separated - poignantly, she had to fly home.

Lyn said yesterday: "Mary is heartbroken. No insurer will cover her so she can visit Bill. They all told us they don't insure people over 70.

"If some company would just insure her for a few weeks, she could go back to be with him.

"He's in bits about it. He says he feels he's dying and he wants Mary to be with him.

"He will be 89 in May and she wants to be with him for his birthday."

BY GERALDINE COMISKEY

OH CANADA: Mary wants desperately to be reunited with her lost love from across the seas - insurance permitting

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SWEET

**IRISH LOVERS
DON'T SPLIT U
AGAIN PLEA**

Your LIFE REAL STORIES.. REAL PEOPLE.. EVERY DA