

## **There is life after betrayal and divorce**

Elaine's 30-year marriage ended when she discovered her husband making out with her best friend of more than 20 years.

"He was the love of my life," she said, "my best friend...I had no idea what was going on. My heart was completely broken. I had been deeply betrayed by the two people I loved and trusted the most."

According to Elaine, she and her husband vacationed regularly with her best friend and her husband. And on many occasions, Elaine had helped her friend with money and gifts, even buying her a car at one point.

It was a devastating blow that knocked Elaine off her feet...literally. She became ill with a liver ailment and then, was laid off from her job.

"When I got sick just after finding out about the affair, my husband told me he was going to stay with me," said Elaine. "But after just 10 days, I caught them together again in a local hotel room. At this point, I became very angry. Not just mad, but Irish mad."

Her husband moved out.

"There was a great deal of pain and sadness. I had just turned 53 and we were planning our retirement. I was in shock. Depressed. Crushed. Trees didn't look the same – they were the wrong color. In what seemed like an instant, my life as I knew it, was gone forever."

Once her husband moved out, Elaine began to examine her past life with her husband. What she saw surprised her. While she loved and respected her husband, he had developed a severe drinking problem over the years, and increasingly she had become his enabler and caretaker on several levels.

"I was the last person I thought about," she admitted. "I took a back seat to his problems – his constant requirements for attention and validation. His drinking was getting much worse and many times I had to almost carry him home from an event or a party. A spoiled, alcoholic child, he was literally sucking the life out of me so slowly I hardly noticed until the affair."

Elaine immediately retained family law attorney, Trey Yates, to handle her divorce.

"Trey became my rock, the only point of sanity in my life at that moment," she said. "He was calm, professional and he listened to me. I was in so much pain, so Trey and his staff handled it all. I learned to get past who was right and wrong, and focused on the divorce as a legal matter – the contract of our marriage had been breached."

Today, Elaine has recovered and is prospering since her divorce almost two years ago. She started her own consultancy and built her business slowly.

“I’ve lost weight, am healthier now, got braces and a new haircut,” Elaine said. “I am so much happier now not having to live life around another person’s dependencies, selfishness and immaturity.

“It’s amazing how much free time I have now to enjoy the arts, theater and travel (I got his frequent flier miles in the divorce settlement). I have a whole new set of friends and I am so much happier than I have been in a long time. I hadn’t realized what a dead shell I had become.”

“One thing that worked in my favor during the divorce process was that I was completely knowledgeable about our household finances,” she explained. “In fact, I pretty much handled our financial matters throughout our marriage. Consequently, I understood where the money was.”

Elaine fears many married women are clueless about their household finances. And in her view, this is foolish and risky.

“My advice to women who face divorce or find themselves in a marriage like mine that is sucking the life of them -- get a great divorce lawyer and take his or her advice. There is life after divorce and it can be fabulous!”