

A Timeline of Caregiving Spouses' Experiences of

RELATIONSHIP TURNING POINTS

IN MARRIAGES IMPACTED BY
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

My Spouse has Dementia Disease

DIAGNOSIS

"The diagnosis drew us closer because we could talk about it openly because he had the diagnosis."

- Jennifer

CONFUSION ABOUT EARLY SYMPTOMS

"I was so confused. I didn't know what to make of it, so the relationship was a little different. It was questionable."

- Garth

From Spouse to Caregiver

CHANGING ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

"My wife used to run the show, so our roles have switched completely. I'm a caregiver." - Tom

INCREASINGLY SEVERE SYMPTOMS

"The symptoms overtook her ability to control her own moods and routine. I needed to become the caregiver." - Tom

LOSS OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES

"I had to take away his keys."

- Bella

FEELING LESS ROMANTIC

"I am feeling less and less romantic as I'm being more and more of a caretaker." - Joni

My Spouse is Gone

CHANGING LIVING SITUATION

"Not sleeping in the same bed after 50 years, it was a major kind of a thing in our relationship" - Michael

FEWER INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS

"She was always able to have really good conversations, that's probably the number one missing thing."

- Michael

FORGET SPOUSE'S NAME

"She forgot my name. I knew it was going to happen but it really devastated me at that moment."

- Frank



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Communication