# Couple seeks to reunite after a decade apart due to health and immigration challenges



In a poignant narrative of love and perseverance, Craige Glendinning, a 33-year-old leisure centre volunteer from Insch, Aberdeenshire, is on a mission to unite with his Swedish fiancée, Johanna Eikenaar, 33, a dog caretaker from Vasteras, Sweden. The couple met in 2013 while playing the online game World of Warcraft. Initially, Craige was unaware that Johanna, who played as a male elf hunter character, was actually a woman, leading to years of digital camaraderie under the mistaken assumption.

Craige and Johanna’s relationship progressed through messages and gameplay until they finally met in Newcastle upon Tyne in 2017. During this visit, Craige proposed to Johanna with a replica ring inspired by the Lord of the Rings series, a gesture that turned comical when he realised the box used for the proposal still contained a replica of the One Ring, leading him to present Johanna with a Haribo ring instead.

The couple's relationship has been complicated by health challenges faced by Craige, who was born with kidney failure. He has undergone two kidney transplants, the first at age 13, and spent significant time on dialysis. Over the past decade, the duo managed to meet only sporadically, owing largely to Craige's health and the various hurdles imposed by visa regulations, particularly intensified since Brexit.

Following his second kidney transplant in 2023, Craige expressed an urgent desire to bring Johanna to the UK, fearing the unpredictability of his condition. Speaking to PA Real Life, he voiced concerns over the "stupid barriers" affecting disabled individuals seeking to be with their loved ones. "We haven’t been able to be together for 10 years... this money means so much, I have no words," he stated, underlining the emotional weight behind their lengthy period apart.

The couple is facing significant financial obstacles in securing a partner visa, which, according to UK regulations, typically requires couples to demonstrate a joint income of at least £29,000 per annum. However, Craige’s reliance on disability benefits excludes him from these requirements, yet they still confront numerous other costs, including the annual Immigration Health Surcharge of £1,035 and logistics related to Johanna's move, including that of her husky, Loki.

To alleviate some of these financial burdens, Craige and Johanna have initiated a fundraiser with a target of raising £5,000 to cover the necessary visa fees and initial moving costs. Craige said, “This money would finally give us a chance to be together,” while Johanna poignantly remarked on the urgency of their situation, acknowledging, “We have a limited amount of time left since Craige can still lose his kidney or die at any time.”

This heartfelt plea aims not only to reunite the couple but also sheds light on the challenges faced by individuals in similar circumstances as they navigate love, health issues, and immigration regulations. They hope to transition from their protracted digital romance to a tangible life together in the UK.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.ireland-live.ie/tag/johanna-eikenaar/> - This URL provides background information on Johanna Eikenaar and may include updates on her situation. While it does not directly corroborate the article's specifics, it could offer related news.
* <https://www.gov.uk/partner-visa/eligibility> - This official UK government webpage explains the eligibility criteria for a partner visa, including the financial requirements such as a joint income of at least £29,000 per annum.
* <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/overview> - This UK government page provides details about the Immigration Health Surcharge, which is part of the costs faced by Craige and Johanna.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48246662> - This article discusses the impact of Brexit on immigration policies and regulations, which has affected Craige and Johanna's situation by imposing additional hurdles.
* <https://www.worldofwarcraft.com/en-gb> - This is the official website for World of Warcraft, the game where Craige and Johanna met, highlighting the platform's role in their story.