# Surgeons, Sailors, Authors, and Scientists: Partners in Work and Life



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In a series of interviews, couples from diverse professional backgrounds shared their experiences of balancing marriage and work.

#### The Surgeons

**Lucy Khan and Chris Cartlidge**, both oncoplastic breast surgeons in Scotland, have been married for 16 years. They specialize in complex cancer removals and reconstructions. Together in the operating theatre, their synergy and mutual understanding enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their work.

#### The Athletes

**Malte and Anastasiya Winkel**, a married sailing duo from Germany, transitioned from separate to joint sailing teams after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics introduced mixed-gender events. Their close relationship provides a significant competitive edge due to their seamless communication and shared goals.

#### The Authors

**Nicci Gerard and Sean French** are authors who co-write under the pseudonym *Nicci French*. They blend their distinctive writing styles to produce psychological thrillers. Their collaborative process involves drafting chapters individually and then refining them together through email exchanges, fostering a unique narrative voice that neither could achieve alone.

#### The Scientists

**Kathleen Martin and John Hwa** are cardiovascular researchers at Yale University. Initially maintaining separate professional identities to avoid bias, they eventually merged their labs, finding their complementary skills beneficial. The couple emphasizes mutual respect and clear communication, believing that shared professional and personal lives enhance their research outcomes.

These couples highlight the complexities and rewards of navigating both marital and professional partnerships.