

"We're all in this **Together**"



The man in Sylvie Brown's life is Steve Wright. Sylvie 27, from Sheffield, runs her own website, [www.livingwithms.co.uk/ms](http://www.livingwithms.co.uk/ms)

## Sylvie's Story

**W**hen I was diagnosed with MS I was frightened of ending up on my own. Having MS, relationships failed. Not because the men didn't love me, but they had problems dealing with my illness. At the time, it hurt like hell. But learning to face MS on my own was an important step forward for me. I began to take responsibility for my whole life, including MS. With this grew a new sense of self-respect.

Instead of moping, I started focusing on the people who mattered most: my friends, my family and above all myself. As for relationships, I started to see MS as a way of sorting out the men from the boys.

Then I met Steve Wright. I bought a scooter from him and we hit it off straight away. He kept popping over to check on it, and even took me to the

Sheffield MS Therapy Centre in his 1959 Thunderbird. We had a lot of fun!

He was certainly a man. But I was wary. I was just beginning to achieve some stability with MS and didn't want to complicate my life again. I felt I had to be in control of MS before I got involved with anyone.

Steve was brilliant. He said 'Keep it simple. If it feels right do it. If not don't'. There were no conditions. He just wanted to offer me opportunities, like going to Florida and helping me live life to the full again. He took away all my excuses leaving only one answer: YES!

It certainly felt right so I went for it and haven't looked back since. We are a normal couple, with the usual ups and downs, but we make a very good team.

As for sex, it's just got better and better. We've found the important thing is to communicate, and explore

# "Having a for my co

what feels good without thinking about 'performance'. Do what you WANT and not what you think you SHOULD be doing. By relaxing and taking the focus off orgasm, you may be very surprised what you feel. Things may be done a bit differently with MS but it's only a loss if you allow it to be one. If you need a vibrator (like many women do anyway) then use one. We just keep a sense of humour, relax and enjoy ourselves.

Having a relationship has done wonders for my

## Steve's Story



Steve Wright, 44, sells scooters for disabled people

**"I see Sylvia as the beautiful woman she is."**

**I** met Sylvia when I sold her a mobility scooter. Shortly after, she rang to thank me and asked if I could please drop off some scooter ads to show her friends at the MS Therapy Centre? Being the idiot that I am, I promptly posted them.

Two days later Sylvia phoned again. Was this a hint? She said she urgently needed some brochures. At



# a relationship has done wonders confidence," says Sylvia Brown

confidence. It has made me realise something I may never have learned - that true love should not have any conditions.

MS has taught me to live for today, so we haven't made any great plans for the future. Maybe one day we'll live together, marry, settle down, who knows? But that's not a priority right now. We're just happy as we are.

And I'm glad that - thanks to MS - I didn't settle for anything less than the best!



last the penny started to drop.

So I popped in. Even then I wasn't fully aware she might be after me. But after further prompting I realised that it wasn't just the scooter she was interested in, and after the usual 'Will you?' 'Won't you?' stuff we got together. I saw Sylvia as the beautiful woman she is. The wheelchair simply wasn't relevant. In fact, one of the high points of my life was when we visited the Everglades in Florida, forgot the wheelchair, and I carried Sylvia up a 65ft observation tower. The view was spectacular: alligators,

osprey and many sub-tropical wonders. It was a very rewarding experience.

I have a full, normal and loving relationship made better by the fact that when Sylvia does something for me, I know what effort it has taken and that makes it extra special.

She is now making a steady, painstaking recovery. Her efforts astound me. However, the thought of possibly losing her does make the relationship more intense.

I keep life simple, I cruise, enjoy life and go with the flow. She's a babe, I'm a guy. Cool.

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