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# WEEKEND

## Only the lonely

Annie Lennox on her two failed marriages, why she no longer needs men – but why she's back with her old partner Dave Stewart again

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**As one half of Eurythmics and later as a solo artist, ANNIE LENNOX has known phenomenal critical and commercial success. But neither fame, fortune nor the joy of motherhood can prevent loneliness from being a thorn in her side, she tells SPENCER BRIGHT**

She has the international acclaim, the million-selling records, the sell-out concerts and the rich and stylish life that comes with superstardom. But Annie Lennox says that, as far as her personal future is concerned, she is entering her quiet years. Marriage? 'Forget it — I've done it, so there's no point in doing it again.' Children? 'I've got two, and at 50 I'm hardly likely to be extending my family.' That would seem to be that — but there is a poignancy about her that makes you wonder if, inside that strong, feisty woman, with her slim, well-toned body, there is a frail and vulnerable soul.

'Well, I'm pretty threatening to many men because I'm successful and intelligent, which is challenging because I think that most men of my age who have had my degree of success are looking for an accessory on their arm — they're not looking for someone who is an equal.' So is she saying that, in spite of everything she has achieved, she is lonely?

'Absolutely. What single mother of a certain age, living in a big city without an extended family and a huge support network of friends, is not going to feel lonely?

'I'm saying this because I want to announce that people in my position can be lonely too. I think it's very important that I don't hide away from it and deny it because it's taboo; it's almost as though loneliness is the most heinous thing to admit to. So why shouldn't I admit it? I'm not saying it as a victim; I'm saying it as a warrior.'

And here she laughs at herself to defuse her tendency to get on her high horse, 'because I have to face facts. I have to be very brave about it'. I wonder if she perhaps sends out a subconscious 'Keep Away!' message to men? 'Maybe,' she says. 'There are very few men who actually interest me. Mostly I find them rather dull. It's such a pity. I think that women are far more colourful creatures than men. I'm not gay or anything, but I can honestly say that yes, women are far more interesting. They're more in touch with their emotions, particularly in this country and this culture.'

'I am not denigrating men. There are all kinds of men. We must not have a war, but I think there's a lack of authenticity in communication between the sexes. There's a lot of fear. People are afraid to say who they are; they want to put their best foot forward but they're hiding behind a façade — unbeknown even to themselves.'

She's not looking for a knight on a charger to rescue her, though. 'I hope that myth has been a little bit shattered because it is very, very stupid.' Her marriage to Israeli film producer Uri Fruchtmann broke up five years ago, but she is still in touch with him because of their children, Lola, who is nearly 15, and Tali, who will soon be 13. She has never spoken about Uri — 'because it's just too personal'.

Whatever the pain of her separation, she looks back at her first marriage, in 1984, to German Hare Krishna devotee Radha Raman as a perplexing folly. The marriage was over within a year.

'It was an utter mistake. I was just in a very unstable situation. I was going around the globe from hotel to hotel; very lonely; desperately wanting to be close to somebody. When somebody finally got through, it was completely the wrong person and I just try to forget about it.'

'Loneliness really is a nasty thing. In a big city like London, or any urban sprawl for that matter, it can be very difficult. We're all kind of alienated from ourselves; we don't even know



Love is a  
strang

who we are, what motivates us or what kind of culture we're in.'

The only child of working-class parents in Aberdeen, Annie left home at 17 to study flute at the Royal College of Music, leaving just before she took her exams to join The Tourists, a briefly famous band with her then boyfriend Dave Stewart. The Tourists disbanded in 1980 and a year later Annie and Stewart formed Eurythmics, which went on to sell 75 million records thanks to classic songs — such as Sweet Dreams (Are Made Of This), Here Comes The Rain Again and There Must Be An Angel — that became fixtures on the nation's airwaves.

Annie was portrayed on the cover of Newsweek magazine

in 1983 with Boy George, looking androgynous with her cropped hair. She also made an impression dressed as Elvis for the Grammy Awards. The idea that she is a formidable woman still sticks, although she maintains that this image is not one she recognises.

'If you get to know me, I'm not formidable at all. People know some things about me, but actually you won't know who I am unless you spend time with me. At times I am a very joyous person and at other times I can be quite miserable, just like everybody else. It's just a balance. I try to go through my life with optimism and dignity, and it sometimes isn't easy. I'm not



complaining; that's just how it is. You might see me and then project the idea that everything is fabulous, or you might think, "Oh, she's so dark and tragic". But those things are just part of the story — I think we're all like that. We've got the potential to be happy and we've got the potential to be utterly sad.

I'm Scottish. I've been known to be a bit dour, though it's been exaggerated. I'm not Lady Macbeth. But who knows how much of it is down to the weather? Or in the light that comes through the rain clouds? Or the grey granite of Aberdeen?

Annie's father died of cancer 18 years ago. 'He was quite young; he was only 61. My mum died of cancer two years

ago.' From the time her children were born, Annie tried to end the estrangement she had with her mother when she was young; something she achieved in the last years of her mother's life.

'There was a physical, emotional and cultural distance between my mother and me. But after I had my kids, I wanted her to have the direct experience of knowing them, and for them to have a relationship with her, so I got her a little flat around the corner from where we lived and asked her to move there. So she travelled between Scotland and London and had some good years with my kids; being there at supper time and bonding one-to-one. I think it was very valuable.' She says she's prepared for the possibility of her own children being alienated from her.

'But then again it might be very different with them. My upbringing was so completely different to theirs; it was like another planet.'

Annie first became pregnant in 1988 while still in Eurythmics, but her son, Daniel, was stillborn. 'I don't really want to talk about it, but it was a turning point.' At the time, she and Fruchtmann left the country to stay out of the glare of publicity. She later acknowledged that this was a mistake, however, and spoke about the tragedy because she felt it was an important subject that needed airing.

Everything came right with the birth of Lola in 1990. 'Her arrival in the world was a great, great moment. It changed everything. Motherhood grounds you. What makes you a proper human being is serving your children; engaging with them. It's tough, though.'

She cannot entirely avoid the limelight and the fascination people still have with her since her first days of superstardom in the 1980s as one half of Eurythmics, and is now determined to use that fame for good causes; she is currently committed to the cause of fighting HIV/Aids in Africa.

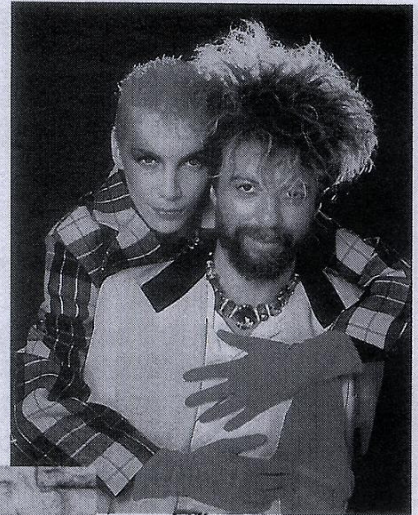
Annie took Lola and Tali with her to Uganda earlier this year to make a film for the Make Poverty History campaign. Part of the footage of that journey was shown to an audience of billions during her emotionally charged performance at Live 8 in Hyde Park, which her friend Sir Bob Geldof described as 'beyond sublime. Her passion mirrored the moment'. She's been a long-time supporter of humanitarian causes and was recently made an ambassador for 46664, Nelson Mandela's campaign to promote global awareness of HIV/Aids, founded by Dave Stewart. 'I feel very passionate about it and it's something I want to lend my support to; I'll continue to do so in years to come because, as a mother, I can't bear the idea of other women giving birth and leaving HIV/Aids orphans behind.'

'It gives me a lot of satisfaction to do these things. It makes me feel like a human being,' she says. But Annie has not abandoned the world of pop altogether. Her first post-Eurythmics solo album, *Diva*, sold seven million copies and her 2003 album, *Bare*, was a critical and commercial success. She has won the Best Female Artist award at the Brits six times, and last year won a best song Oscar for *Into The West* from *The Lord Of The Rings: The Return Of The King*. Now fate has unexpectedly brought her and Dave Stewart together once more, after a brief reunion in 1999 that resulted in the album *Peace*.

When Eurythmics first split, exhausted, in 1990, Dave and Annie's relationship, so close for so long, had become fraught. She still seems a little confused about exactly how it ended, however. 'We fell out. Well, it wasn't really a falling-out. We never had a stand-up argument or anything like that; we just grew apart. Relationships where people have been joined at the hip can be very fraught. It's to do with eclipsing each other's identity; that makes you want to go in different directions, so it was natural. We didn't speak for about three years and then we just met again in another circumstance and we didn't even discuss it; we were just like, "Och, hi." And that's the kind of friendship that we have: it's a given; it's a funny one.'

'It's a loving friendship. He's part of the fabric of my existence, and I am of his. We're a continuous thread, if you like.'

To the outside world it might seem curious that Annie has become best friends with Dave's wife Anoushka. 'I am delighted by it. She's a wonderful person and I adore her. She's very special. Why should it be weird? It's very civilised. Too much of the time one ends up in polarised situations with people you've been very close to.' Dave and Annie had planned a new hits compilation for several years. Then, when Annie and her daughters stayed with Dave and Anoushka and their family in their new home in Los Angeles, a spontaneous



**'My first marriage was an utter mistake. I was very lonely, but when someone finally got through, it was the wrong person'**



Annie Lennox, top, with lover Dave Stewart in their Eurythmics heyday. Annie aged 16, inset, and, above, with her daughters, Tali, left, and Lola, now 12 and 14

recording session in his room-sized studio netted two new songs, including the latest single *I've Got A Life*, a blast of upbeat classic-era Eurythmics.

Annie explains: 'Dave said, "Why don't we try and write a song?" We hadn't done that for about six years. We probably hadn't even been in the same country during that time.' She is wary about committing to a new album or tour. 'The momentum of a project can become so big and overwhelming that it starts to eclipse other things. Balance is the key for me. I want to keep everything in check.' That includes recording another solo album and campaigning to relieve the HIV/Aids pandemic, though she seems more enthusiastic about the latter. She's open to any ideas if it helps the cause. 'I haven't got any plans to stay in a mud hut, but if I thought it would be of interest I would be up for it.'

Eurythmics' single *I've Got A Life* and album *Ultimate Collection* are out now.

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