

Nick's Wonderful Life by Natalie Sim

Nick will be laughing because he would always say that I liked to talk, usually at him while he fiddled on his phone which I would then often confiscate because he wasn't paying enough attention to me.

Most people also know that I usually ramble and Nick, Steven and Matthew are usually on the receiving end. Today will be no different judged on how many pages of writing I have in my hand.

Today is a celebration of Nick's extraordinary and amazing life and because he has written a speech to be read by one of his best friends Paul, it is Nick that will have the last say, which he definitely won't be used to being married to me.

Nick is the best Husband I could ever have dreamed of having. Since we met when we were 18 and I tapped him on his shoulder on A Level results night, I must have liked the look of him a lot for being so forward, we have had the most amazing and wonderful time. We have grown up together and are and will always be complete and utter soul mates.

Even long before Nick was diagnosed over 4 years ago we have always valued life and been aware of the true precious gift that life is and how easily it can be taken away. Nick would often said to me "If I ever get hit by a bus I want you to know I am totally satisfied with my life, I have had enough time".

We would always wave and wave to each other right until the other person disappeared just in case anything happened. This would often baffle passers-by when I was hanging out of the door in my pyjamas and dressing gown.

We had many conversations about the importance of time and making the most of every single day, being aware of how lucky we were to have found each other and be together.

It was always our aim to cram as much into our lives as we possibly could and we have certainly crammed more than a whole life time of fun, love and memories into the life we have had together and we will continue to do this each and every day.

Nick always dreamed of going travelling and we decided, rather than going away for 6 months and leaving everything and having little to come back to, we would spend a month every summer going to the places we really

wanted to go to and then have the whole year to plan the next one, so the fun would never end.

We spent hours planning and booking the most amazing holidays and experiences ever. We travelled around Europe including obviously Disneyland Paris to see the legendary Mickey Mouse for the first time. We explored America, Australia, Canada, the UK and Scotland and had the most magical Honeymoon imaginable in Florida. Nick booked us into the Animal Kingdom Lodge which was the most amazing hotel with views of Giraffes and gazelle wandering outside our window. We laughed and screamed our way round every theme park there was. All of the places we dreamed of going to, we went to together and those memories will always be with us.

We love going to the cinema and watching our projector together on our super comfortable electric reclining chairs and I will continue to do these things with Nick always at my side.

Nick always wanted to be a Team Leader at BT which he achieved and I imagine him to be the best Team Leader there was. His biggest dream, however, was to be run his own business. We had so much fun on what we called 'websun days' where we would work on TPT Theme Park Tourist, I would focus on special offers and Nick worked on everything else. Then he would go into work an hour earlier every day and work again.

He had a vision and over the last 8 years and particularly the last 4 since he was diagnosed he has turned it into the best theme park website with over ½ million face book fans and a revenue than would stun us all. I never doubted him, from the first time he asked me "Nat what do you think about me creating a theme park website" I knew it would be brilliant because Nick was and always will be brilliant.

Not only has Nick created a truly amazing website but has written two fantastic books which have 5 star after 5 star reviews on Amazon. His first book was about the history of Alton Towers, somewhere he longed to go when he was growing up and I had the privilege to take him to for the first visit in his first year at Nottingham University. We had amazing trips to Alton Towers and a wonderful holiday doing many days research at Records offices in Staffordshire in June 2013.

His second history book is about Universal Studios which we went to sneakily for 2 weeks when Steven was 9 months old during his chemotherapy treatment. Nothing kept Nick from enjoying his life.

Nick loves history and writing and his books have entertained thousands of people and will continue to entertain just as his website will. Nick's books and website make a difference to people's lives and are an inspiration just as Nick is.

As I said earlier Nick always values life so much and gets very cross when people appear to be wasting theirs. Luckily we didn't argue very much at all but if Nick had done something wrong or had done something that had annoyed me he would quickly resolve things by saying sorry and that everything was his fault so we could be happy again. Nick never had time for sadness because he always said time and life is too precious to be wasted for even a second.

Nick fulfilled all of his dreams and goals and loved speaking to people who had the strength and courage to do the same. He was so proud of his cousin Hannah and her fantastic film making and we are thrilled about the episode of George Gently she is currently writing (a program we absolutely love watching).

He would also talk to me a lot about his friend Adam who is pursuing a career as a radio presenter and hopefully television presenter in the future. He joined Theme Park Tourist as a writer and subsequently became Assistant Editor between 2013-15. This is his touching tribute to Nick.

Tribute to Nick Sim

By Adam Bysouth - Assistant Editor for Theme Park Tourist (2013 - 2015)

When you imagine what the owner of a website that has a following of over 500,000 on social media, tops the Amazon book charts and runs one of the most successful tourist information websites on the internet, what do you think of?

I bet down to earth, a loving father and caring friend are the characteristics that least spring to mind.

Until you met Nick.

As a father to both Matthew and Steven and husband to Natalie, Nick began Theme Park Tourist as a side project just short of a decade ago.

I had the privilege to work for the website that allowed me to share my passion for roller coasters and theme parks to an audience of more than half a million.

He was a boss that cared about nurturing and developing his staff.

But Theme Park Tourist never felt like a job.

I'll always be grateful for the memories and opportunities he gave me and will always remember celebrating 250,000 Facebook fans with a trip to Thorpe Park.

Nick, thank you for allowing me to be part of your business and for your friendship, mentoring and encouragement.

You were not just a boss but someone who always found time for an encouraging word and to listen to the problems of others as well as providing amazing support.

I'll never forget your mentoring and your faith in me will carry me a long way.

Thank you for being my friend.

Adam Bysouth - Assistant Editor of Theme Park Tourist

(2013-2015)

We have never seen ourselves as "unlucky or unfortunate" Nick would quite rightly say "Focus on all the ways we are fortunate- to have been born at all, to be born at a time of peace to lovely parents, to have met each other (the odds must be billions to one), to have had everything we wanted during our time together and to have the best sons ever.

Nick promised me on our Wedding day that he would do everything he could to make me as happy as he possibly could do for the rest of his life and he did this without fail and continues to do this every day.

Nick has filled boxes for Steven, Matthew and me with every single card imaginable for every occasion, he has done videos for us to watch so he will be continually with us physically and in spirit.

Nick created the amazing model railway for the boys which is the love of their lives. He has written a story book for Steven and a story book for Matthew based on his favourite three investigator series, autobiographies and books telling the boys about his life, his life with mummy and his life with them. They have advice sheets for every eventuality for when they are growing up, they have books and music so they will always know who their daddy is and Nick will be physically with them and they will know that their Daddy loves them with all his heart forever and always.

Don't be surprised when you receive cards from us with Nick's name on, and we would love you to do the same. We will always be a family that will never change whatever happens to any of us. It will always be Nat, Nick, Steven and Matthew or as Steven say Mummy, Daddy, Steven and Maff Maff.

Nick was never sad that he may not physically see Steven and Matthew grow up, he was always thrilled that he had got to see so many milestones

in both their lives. Nick fed them each their first bottle which they yummed, saw them smiling, rolling, crawling, walking and heard them laughing and talking. We took Steven to nursery and Nick always loved that he knew which schools they will go to.

Nick always said he could imagine clearly all the fantastic and amazing things they would do and just wanted them to chase their dreams and make the absolute most of their wonderful lives, something we always did whatever challenges we faced.

We can't bear it when people talk about losing a battle with cancer. We only ever talked about winning and having won totally and completely. The countless and continual achievements that Nick made and we made together as a family mean that Nick's life is and will only ever be a huge victory.

At our first meeting we were given a year, 2 at the absolute most and we have been blessed to have had over four truly amazing years which we packed enough fun and dreams into for more than 40. They have been the best of our lives.

Life is about quality not quantity and Nick's life definitely couldn't have been any better in anyway.

Nick will want more than anything for people to have fun and enjoy and make the absolute most of every second, minute, day and year of their precious life just as he did. One of his special sayings from a favourite song is "life is a gift not a given rite".

Everybody will have amazing memories of Nick and we would ask you to remember them and laugh and talk about him always with a smile on your face and love in your hearts because that is what Nick would have wanted.

"Sad" was a word Nick hated and was never uttered and will never be uttered in our little family house where we will always stay on Gladstone Road. Nick was never materialistic and we love the fact that we worked hard to buy our house together and without a mortgage it gave us the freedom to chase our dreams of having Theme Park Tourist and String Star Studio. Nick was always happy with what he had and happy is how he and his family will always stay.

The best way to honour Nick and his memory is to do something fun and have a great time because as he would say "that's the only true thing life is

really about, having the best time you can when it's your turn". A Dok Olympics would be perfect Duff fantastic idea he would love it.

I was always by Nick's side and was lying with him with my head on his pillow holding both his hands when he died. I was telling him we would all be okay and that we were sitting together in our own special carriage on the steam train in Sheringham with Steven and Matthew on our laps and they were smiling and laughing and saying "we love you daddy". I told Nick that I didn't need to say goodbye because he will never be gone to me, Nick will always be my husband and we will always be soul mates and that will never change.

Nick lives in all of us and our hearts and always will and let's be honest we used to laugh and say he has left us with two mini mes in the form of Steven and Matthew which is exactly the truth. A quote from a program we loved watching simply said "He's not gone, he's alive as long as you're alive to remember him, he lives in you".

I remember standing here just over 4 years ago at our vow renewal. Nick read his vows and promised he would fight for every day and he did this without fail and his achievements have been unbelievable. We have had a lifetime of fun and as well as going to Florida, taking the boys to Thomas Land, writing 4 books, an autobiography, creating his amazing website, and building a fantastic model railway, the miracle of Matthew happened, something we would never of thought imaginable.

We always wanted more than anything for Steven to have a brother or sister to grow up with and although Nick was having treatment we had planned to do anything we could to make it a reality. One morning, before I was actually pregnant Nick woke up and said to me "Nat I had a dream last night that I was handed our second son Matthew after he had been born" to which I replied "I so wish that could happen more than anything".

Nick wanted so much to be at Matthew's birth and when I became pregnant his countdown of 242 days seemed like a lot, but he did it, he was there holding my hand and we then had 22 months all together after that as a completed family mummy, daddy, Steven and Matthew. It is truly remarkable.

This church is such a special place to us it is where our dream wedding took place, we renewed our vows, Nick was christened, and both Steven

and Matthew were christened. We are thrilled that it is where Nick's body will be buried along with me when my time comes.

We are totally at peace with our lives because we have no regrets. We fought for every day together hand in hand, side by side and without a doubt I know we couldn't have possibly done anymore. We always had hope and never ever gave up and that will never change.

We couldn't have had a better 16 years together and Nick couldn't have asked for a more amazing 34 years. We are and will always consider ourselves to be extremely lucky.

I will leave you with the poem I wrote for Nick for our Vow renewal. It is just as relevant today and it is my promise to you babe, just as it was 4 years ago. The only thing you will notice is the fact I only refer to 'little one' who turned into Steven 2 months later when he was born. Having Matthew was an unimaginable dream at that point and it still baffles us that such a miracle could occur.

My poem will be followed by the special song I wrote for Nick for our 6 year anniversary. It sums up in a nutshell our complete perspective on life.

Here is my poem and song, these are for you Tunsun. We love you Nick and Daddy with all our hearts always and forever.

"Make the most of every day" by Natalie Sim

When we planned to renew our vows together,

I instantly knew,

That I wanted to say these special words,

Straight from me to you.

I love you with all my heart, and I always always will,

My soul just bursts with joy, each single second still,

You are my true soul mate, and I thank my lucky stars every day,

That God led me to you, and together we will always stay.

Every second I am with you, is a true blessing and true joy,

You really are my most special, kind and caring boy.

We have so many exciting times to look forward to, with little one arriving any day,

I know every minute we are all together, will be the best in every way.

When I look into your eyes, my heart just melts with love,

It makes me know deep down inside, that we have been blessed from God above.

When you said your vows on our wedding day, I knew they came straight from the heart,

I am so excited and can not wait, for all our coming adventures to start.

I know I say I love you so much, but I really just can't stop,

There is so much love inside me, that I often think I will just pop.

So all I want you to know that together, we will continue to have the bestest time,

Every single second minute and day, we will always be so closely entwined.

We've always said that we will make the most, of every single day,

And today I promise that we will do that, through the good and bad times come what may,

All that is left for me to say is I love you again, in every possible way,

And I want you to know that you are in my heart, and that is where always and forever you will stay.

My Tribute to Nick by Natalie Sim

Nick grew up in Grundisburgh with his two siblings, David and Kate. He had a wonderful and happy childhood playing computer games, football, running in cross country, reading and looking after his loved guinea pigs and cat 'Puss'. He also enjoyed village activities such as cubs, GADS, tennis, and junior football.

Nick's love of computer games and theme parks shaped his whole life and after obtaining a First Class Honours degree in Computer Science from Nottingham University started a job at BT. Due to Nick's hard work and ambitious nature he was soon promoted and became a highly respected Head of Connected Homes Research. He not only focussed on his own job but on helping his team to develop and move forward with their own careers.

Nick met his wife Nat when they were eighteen and had sixteen amazing years together. They travelled the world, including visiting all of the top theme parks, and loved going to the cinema (sometimes three times a week). They were blessed to have two perfect sons, Steven and Matthew who Nick absolutely adored.

Nick's love of history and reading saw him write two fantastic books about Alton Towers and Universal Studios with 5* after 5* reviews on Amazon. Nick also loved running and ran in several Woodbridge 10k events and also twice in the Great North Run raising money for the MS Trust.

It was always Nick's dream to run his own business and after four years developing it launched Theme Park Tourist which has been read by hundreds of thousands of people and continues to bring happiness to all who read it and completely supports his family financially.

Nick's selflessness, bravery, humour, kind and caring nature alongside his incessant and unmoving love of life meant he made the absolute most of every single day of his wonderful life and has been an inspiration to all who met him.

Nick's family and friends will love him with all their hearts always and forever.