

## COMMENT

# Rearranging the bedroom—the ultimate test of a marriage

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### A Ted Bit

I know I'm a bit set in my ways.

The Sidekick describes me as obsessive-compulsive, but I think she exaggerates a bit. Change is hard for me. I just like certain things in their place, and God help anyone who moves them.

Recently my level of acceptance to change was tested. We rearranged our bedroom.

Now, the worst part was that I 'sort of' suggested it. You know when you're 'thinking out loud'?

All I said was 'We could probably move the bed to the other end of the room... it might look good that way.' That wasn't saying I wanted to do it—more it was 'possible to do it'.

The words had hardly cleared my mouth and The Sidekick was on it like a mongoose on a cobra. I was doomed to 'at least' try a different arrangement.

Over the years, I've leaned that if something sits in the same location for an extended period of time, there will be a few dust bunnies under it. As we pulled out the things stored under the bed, well, let's just say there was more than a couple of dust bunnies. I'd say there was an entire army of 'em. All on steroids.

The deal was to move the bed from the west wall, to the east wall. The electric fireplace would then be moved the opposite way—from the east wall to the west wall.

It sounds simple, right? Well, not exactly.

The wall the bed was being moved to wasn't as quite as wide as the former wall.

In fact, my matching bedside tables (which I've had since medieval times) would not fit on either side of the bed. The space was too narrow.

The Sidekick, sensing a reaction, quickly brought two small round tables in and placed the lamps and clock radios on them.

First of all, the table could hardly hold the lamp, let alone the clock radio. And secondly, it was short—the clock radio display is lower than the bed.

"See, it works just fine," she over-exclaimed.

I'm not sure if she was trying to convince me, or herself. On the other hand, the fireplace did look great on the west wall. We placed a cozy swivel rocker on either side of it, giving us a place to sit, read, listen to music, and pile our clothes on...

After several hours and lots of moving, we called it a day. I did have to admit the early morning sun wouldn't be hitting us in the eyes, since we'd be waking up facing west. Of course, I was quick to add that the sun also won't be up that early until next spring.

I've read about various spiritual phenomena where the location of your bed, or the direction it's facing has an effect on sleep—sort of that warm fuzzy 'feng shui' thing.

One Internet website said: "A good feng shui bedroom is a bedroom that promotes a harmonious flow of nourishing and sensual energy—a bedroom that invites you, lures you in, excites and calms at the same time."

As a rule, I don't sleep worth a damn. I'm awake for some reason or another.

The Sidekick? She can curl up and fall asleep faster than a cat. And sleep through a war outside.

Having said all that, I cautiously noted that, since rearranging the bedroom, I have managed to sleep to about 6 a.m. a few times. That's huge for me.

But I'm still having problems accepting the short 'bedside tables'. They can only be 10 inches wide to fit the space available.

The Sidekick loves it, so we'll leave for now.

But when it finally gets to me, I do have a plan to move it back.

The Sidekick wants a new mattress—a queen size. Well, that can't happen where the bed is situated now—a queen won't fit. So it'll go back to the original location.

It's just gonna cost me a queen size bed.

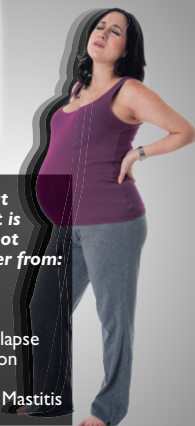
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