

Episode 6: Mainland-Hongkong Couples

For those men who fail to find the "Miss Right", feeling the pressure from their parents to marry, being pushed by the traditional concept of having one's offspring, and also to satisfy their own needs, getting a bride in the Mainland is the easy way out. It is often the case that a man gets a good-looking and much younger wife in more remote places in the Mainland by way of matchmaking, and the young wife bears him a son soon afterwards.

Then the child will move to Hong Kong to receive education, and taken care of by other family members; the wife will still be waiting for the one-way permit to reunite with the family, and the family is more often separate than together. Eventually the wife settles in Hong Kong, but more adaptation issues arise: while her maiden family is not rich, her home in her native county is still much more spacious than the home in Hong Kong; differences surface regarding child-rearing, and she also finds out the husband is not particularly well-off. She wants to get a job, but whatever available is low-paid. Her unhappiness is unspeakable, but the husband just never understands.

Mainland-Hongkong couples have to deal with cultural differences and lifestyle changes, and they need more community support such as helping the new-arrival wife to understand the Hong Kong culture, soothing the emotional impact of leaving her hometown, assisting with child-rearing issues and advising on maintaining a sound marriage life, etc.