Finding “the one” chapter

Scene Six

**Hannah:** I met my wonderful Peter in 1958 at a friend’s birthday party. We liked each other straight away and enjoyed the same sort of things, mainly dancing, which Peter was really good at, and I loved dancing with him.

Peter was at college when I first met him, and he was very clever, and sailed through his exams to get his qualifications as an electrician. He always had a job and worked very hard all his life. I didn’t earn very much money at Boots but he always looked after me. He was so generous and was always buying me things even though I was constantly telling him not to. We knew we were meant for each other and got engaged in 1960.

But then things didn’t go quite as smoothly. I haven’t mentioned but I am a Roman Catholic and went to a very strict Catholic school where I was taught by nuns and it was always thought I would get married in a Catholic church. My Mother and Father were Irish Catholics, very strict. Peter was Church of England. But as he loved me, he was happy to get married in a Catholic church. So we went to see the priest to arrange the marriage but he was not very happy as mixed marriages, as they were called then, were not very acceptable. However, he did say that it would be alright if Peter had six lessons in the Catholic Faith which he agreed to. The priest then said we both had to sign to say we would bring up any children we had in the Catholic Faith and neither of us agreed with that. We thought they should make up their own minds when they were old enough.

So we went home and my Father said he would have to give his blessing once we got married in a church. We went to our local Church of England and I couldn’t have been made more welcome. We had a wonderful wedding on 19th August 1961. Our children followed and they were christened in the Church of England. My Peter and I never talked about religion and it was never an issue. We loved each other too much to let religion get in the way of our happiness.