

Elaine: Of all the countries in all of the world, why Brittany? Fanny, over to you first.

Fanny: That's a long story. We came to Brittany because years and years ago Larry and I came here on our honeymoon, and we were in southern France; actually we went all the way down through France and we had such a lovely time in France that we always decided that one day we would like to live here - so we put it in motion and it's actually been a long, long journey to actually get here. It started off a few years ago. I would meet my sister in Paris. My sister lives in England and I would meet her. We'd rent a car and we'd zoom around the French countryside and the first time we went to the Pays de la Loire and then the second time we met up, which was a few years ago, we came to Brittany and, uh, we just loved it and I went back to The States and I said to Larry, "Brittany is beautiful" and that's what started it really.

Elaine: It's amazing isn't it? Larry can you corroborate that?

Larry: Er, yes, we were truly on our honeymoon, and er she's that same woman and er it's a little embarrassing I suppose that it took us 37 years to, to er fulfil a promise we made to each other to live here one day, but we've managed to do it, and the main excitement, I got when I came over, 'cause Franny had houses for me to look at and er when I got to Brittany I was so impressed with, it was autumn and it seemed like the temperature was perfect and I knew enough, 'cause I'd looked at it and stuff, I knew they had four seasons and then when I saw the beautiful countryside. I went, 'yeah, this is the place,' and then, of course, there was always one more angle, er, it was also affordable.

Elaine: Obviously, if you're coming from another part of Europe, particularly Great Britain, um into France there are certain things you have to sort out on the paperwork front. But you've come from much further afield, right 'across the pond.' What hoops did you have to jump through?

Larry: Well we certainly made it a challenge because we were bringing a dog and two cats. We don't do anything simple, OK, we always make it as complicated as it can possibly be. We had to do as many things for our animals as we did for ourselves to qualify us to come. We had to go to San Fransisco to the French Embassy. We had to bring 117 pounds of paper work but once you're committed to something you're not gonna turn back.

Elaine: You, you keep on that track then, don't you?

Larry: That's right, that's right. I have a saying that I've used all of my adult life and that is if you push anything hard enough it will fall over. And the end of that preparation thing that we had to do, which was much more difficult for an American coming here was, once we got to the airport, to er CDG, and we were prepared for the rigors of customs that we were oh so warned about, we walked right through, stamped our things and away we go with 3 dogs and with, with a dog and two cats and the two of us and we fly right through and we went through faster than other people with one suitcase and we were on the other side and if I was English I might say 'bloody hell' right now. So it was really quite simple. er we were prepared for the worst and they made it very easy for us.

Elaine: So it's lived largely up to your expectations in terms of weather and people and scenery has it?

Larry: The weather was very important for both of us, we don't like to be hot anymore, we don't like to be cold anymore, but we like four seasons, so the weather is perfect. I like put'n a sweater on in the winter and I like put'n shorts on in the summer, so that part has been er absolutely perfect.

Elaine: So is there anything

Larry: How large was the question?

Elaine: Well it was basically, if you could, let's say, if you could change anything here what would it be?

Larry: Well I got one

Elaine: You've got one, OK Larry, over to you

Larry: We have this wonderful garden, if we had one less pear tree it would be nice. We have so many pears we could start our own packing plant.

Fanny: I'm not sure I'd change anything actually, because that's why we like it here, er, it's so different from America. Er, it's so different and I really love it here.

Larry: Ya, the pace

Fanny: I don't think I'd change anything

Larry: The pace of life finally suits us. We Fanny and I, spent lots of years in America with our 'I'm gonna make it shoes on,' if you know what I mean. We don't wear those shoes any more. I think we talked about it before maybe, but the horizon, I grew up in Oregon with, all these

majestic mountains, which are beautiful, but what you don't kinda realise is that they're hiding something, and when we got here and we could see that horizon and it's always there now. We're going to start our third year and it still takes my breath away.

Fanny: The countryside around here in Brittany really reminds me so much of England. The beautiful rolling hills, it's so gorgeous. You just come around the corner, honestly, it's just like er running through an artists' pallet. There's colours everywhere. It's beautiful. I just love it.

Elaine: To me, the fact that you've made the commitment of actually buying a house here shows that you have some long term plans. Is that right?

Larry: Oh, er, we have no choice 'cause it's gonna take a long time for us to be fluent in the language. So, so, yeah, we're, we're in for the long haul because we're gonna learn this language.

Elaine: Dang it - won't get the better of you

Fanny. No, no, and I don't think our cats would forgive us if we put them in their little boxes and said had to sit in front of the seat in front of us and go back to America, so we're definitely staying here.

Elaine: And they certainly look very settled here

Fanny: They're very settled, they love it, yes.

Elaine: Well, thank you very much er for your warm hospitality today and er

Larry: But, but I have to add one more thing. I really can't have this interview end er talking about things like love without mentioning the wine and the cheese

All: Yes

Elaine: Best of luck and may you continue to enjoy er your life in beautiful Brittany.

Larry: Thank you Elaine

Fanny: Thank you very much.