



A NEW *smile* & NEW LOVE

Sometimes, great opportunities can arise in the most unexpected ways. Just ask Dublin woman **MARY FLANAGAN**, 52, who could never have imagined that going abroad for treatment to fix the severe dental problem that was ruining her life would lead to her finding a gorgeous husband and a brand-new career.

Mother Teresa once said “every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love”, and looking at her gorgeous smile now, it’s hard to believe that the bright, bubbly Mary’s teeth once embarrassed her so much that she hid herself away from people. Ten years ago she was single, working in insurance, and acutely conscious of the poor condition of her teeth, which were damaged when a problem developed with her bite in her twenties. This resulted in many of her teeth being extracted due to recurrent infections, and Mary suffered dreadful pain, which affected her ability to enjoy food.

“It damaged my self-confidence, right when I should have been embracing life with open arms,” she says. “Eating out was something I dreaded, as I would always have to choose something soft from the menu, and my immune system was becoming affected, due to lack of proper nutrition. I always covered my mouth with my hand when I spoke, and was concerned about my promotion prospects at work. I was afraid that I wouldn’t be assigned projects that required public speaking, due to the unsightly appearance of my teeth.”

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With her confidence already evaporating, Mary was faced with the awful prospect of wearing dentures at only 28, until she heard about dental implants, which replace missing teeth. She began investigating Irish dentists, but the cost was coming in at €60,000 for the extensive work that she required, and it was simply beyond her budget.

Eventually, a kind dentist in Dublin told her that Budapest in Hungary is the centre of excellence for dentistry in Europe, and recommended the Kreativ Dental Clinic. Mary visited the clinic in 2003, and

her smile was restored through implants and porcelain crowns at a fraction of the cost of the same treatment in Ireland. “I was delighted with the service and quality of the work, and was really impressed by the clinic and the dentists there,” she says, showing off her beautiful, pearly white smile.

Three years after having her work done, a national newspaper interviewed Mary for an article on dental tourism, and pharmaceutical recruitment company MD Paul Flanagan read it, and recognised Mary as they had a mutual friend. He was interested in having his own teeth done, and asked to meet her for lunch to get her advice. They were instantly smitten, and three months later, Mary accompanied Paul to Budapest to have his dental work done, as he was slightly nervous.

At that time, Mary was 45 and single, while Paul was a 50-year-old father of three, and had been separated for seven years. Their relationship blossomed, and they were married in December 2011 at Tankardstown House, and are very much in love. Less than a year later, Mary was made redundant from the insurance company she had worked in for 33 years, and she decided to set up her own business as an Irish representative for Kreativ Dental Clinic.

The clinic in Budapest is amazing, and as a testament to its excellence, many well-known Irish people have had treatment there, including snooker player Ken Doherty, socialite Lisa Murphy, stylist Cathy O’Connor and



‘Xposé’ presenter Aisling O’Loughlin. With Kreativ’s other Irish agent, Thomas Dunleavy, Mary organizes the trips, airport pick-ups, and hotel accommodation, and they are delighted to talk through any concerns or questions prospective clients may have. Many people choose to combine the trip with a holiday, but Mary and Thomas also go over every month to beautiful Budapest to accompany those who would prefer this added service.

People contemplating going abroad sometimes worry about what will happen in the rare event of something going wrong, but Kreativ has arrangements in place with Irish clinics to provide aftercare, which is reassuring. It provides free Budapest travel passes for the duration of your stay, and the cost of flights up to €180 are reimbursed on treatments over €1,800.

“I have empathy for people who need dental treatment, because I was once that person on the other end of the phone or email, feeling vulnerable, embarrassed, hopeless and helpless,” says Mary. “I want everybody to have the same great experience that I had. Attending Kreativ

has got to be the best decision I’ve ever made, because it brought me a new smile, a fantastic husband and a great new career. But most importantly of all, it restored my self-esteem and happiness.”

For further information, please visit www.kreativdentalclinic.eu

Words by Andrea Smith

