

Wednesday, October 17, 2007



**I**S IT okay to say that you miss the butterflies? Is it okay to say you miss that 'I'm-so-infatuated-with-you-I can't-wait-to-see-you-again' feeling that is the staple of a new relationship? Is it okay to be nostalgic about the fact that you've had your last first kiss?

All relationships inevitably settle into comfortable companionship in lieu of the passion that ignited them in the first place. Whilst it's perfectly possible to be just as much in love with your partner 10 years into a relationship as the day you got together, I wouldn't believe anyone that says their partner still gives them butterflies 10 years on.

This is fine because a long term relationship offers you qualities that nothing else can (warmth, security, understanding) but those thrilling first few months or first year of a relationship are incomparable.

I can almost understand why people break out of long term relationships to be with someone new or even why they choose to have affairs (almost, but not quite). I suspect my partner will be none too pleased to read this (not that he reads my column, which is probably best for the both of us) but I am simply being honest.

I would be lying if I said I didn't miss the stomach-churning anticipation of seeing the person I'm with, after a short absence. I miss the silent wish that the "1 message received" on my mobile phone display is from the man I'm with. I miss wanting to hold hands all the time and talking for hours and just getting to know a new person.

I guess the overriding point is that I wouldn't trade in the really fantastic relationship I have for the butterflies. I just miss them, that's all.

**Kia Abdullah is a 24-year-old author from Limehouse.**

**Her first novel, Life, Love and Assimilation, was a huge success and she has already embarked on her second book, a crime thriller. Send your comments to [kia.abdullah@gmail.com](mailto:kia.abdullah@gmail.com)**

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## And now for something completely different...

**B**UYERS who want to live the high life are being offered their ideal home – a converted 120ft Victorian water tower.

The unusual property has gone on sale in Plumstead, valued at £1.4 million, and has already attracted interest from Wharf workers looking at the high end of the market.

The home boasts all the fine trappings normally associated with an upmarket Docklands pad.

But more than anything it offers unrivalled views over east London and beyond – including Canary Wharf, the Gherkin and even Wembley Stadium.

Richard O'Toole, agent for sellers John Payne, said: "It will probably go to someone who can see it from their office window. I believe it could make the ultimate bachelor pad."

The building was first constructed to bring clean water to the surrounding area, but is now more suited to bring luxury living to the lucky buyer.

There are four bedrooms, with a kitchen and main living space on the ground floor looking out onto a Japanese-style water feature around the property.

Meanwhile, at the peak of the home, the observatory has the finest in pulling power – with a cocktail area, plasma TV and low sofas.

The only problem for an estate agent? How do you put a price on something so unique?

"To be honest it's a terribly difficult house to value, but if you look at the quality of the fixtures and fittings then it's enormously good," added Mr O'Toole.



## Got a spare £12m?

**A**S THE instability of the financial sector sparks fear of mass redundancy the property market continues to defy the odds and maintain its booming business.

With their colossal bonuses around the corner, private equity tycoons and hedge fund managers are usually preparing an assault on the Docklands property markets, as new developments shoot up around the Canary Wharf financial district.

But with the big hitters facing bonus cuts or job loss, the thriving Docklands property market was said to be on the brink of bust after a sustained period of success. Citibank have already begun a wave of redundancies.

However, the suggestion that this is going to continue alongside the collapse of the property market has been dismissed.

Not only does the Docklands property market continue to thrive, but the luxury lifestyle is still very much on the menu. Penthouses at the Pan Peninsula development, due for completion in 2009, will

range from £1.995 to £12 million.

Buyers at luxury development will have as much as 7,000 sq ft of living space and floor-to-ceiling windows looking out across London.

With the interlinking towers standing 40 and 50 storeys high it will be one of the tallest residential buildings in Europe when finished.

With no expense spared on Pan Peninsula's interior, residents will also have use of the Docklands' largest private health and fitness suite, as well as a spa, a private cinema, a restaurant, a sky lounge cocktail bar, valet parking and penthouse residents will have a dedicated concierge service.

The easy access to the Canary Wharf and South Quay tube stations, London's City Airport and the A13 has made the development a popular choice amongst home buyers.

Since its launch in November 2005, 85 per cent of the 800 flats have been sold off-plan.

For more information contact Ballymore Properties on 07000 720 720 or visit [www.ballymore.co.uk](http://www.ballymore.co.uk) or [www.panpeninsula.com](http://www.panpeninsula.com).

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