

'I knew Suzie would stick by me and take care of me if needed.'

Jason Schechterle,
Burn victim married for five years



COMMITMENT

The wedding is *not* the icing on the cake – it's really just the beginning

BY GERI KOEPEL
TRIBUNE

Jason Schechterle was burned beyond recognition when a taxicab rear-ended his parked Phoenix police cruiser in March 2001, causing the car to explode into a fireball.

Now, his once-handsome face is deformed and his hands are mangled. Jason, 29, is without ears or a nose and will never have hair.

His wife, Suzie, sat by his hospital bed daily to talk to him, although he was in a coma for 2½ months. She's been his pillar of strength throughout his rehabilitation and surgeries.

"I knew if anyone could help him through this, it would be me," she said.

More than a year later, Suzie's commitment to her husband shows no sign of wavering.

"It's amazing she could treat me the way she always has, when I look the way I do," Jason said.

The Avondale couple's inspiring story of love and perseverance has been well-chronicled in the media, prompting other husbands and wives to wonder: What if it happened to us? Could we stay together?



Mind &
Die
help
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BY

Success
doesn't star
fitness guru

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