

## Lindsey & Ben's Love Story

Lindsey and Ben met outside of the theatre during college. Our bride was stage managing the auditions that Ben, a freshman, had decided to try out for. Lindsey was a friendly sophomore, and began chatting with Ben before the auditions. They argued about bagels - Ben insisted that Montreal had the best bagels. Lindsey said, "That's ridiculous! We're right near New York. They have the best bagels."

During the bagel conversation, Ben realized that Lindsey was not me. His first thought was "I hope she casts me!" But after a few minutes, Ben thought, "Hey, she's really fun... and cute... but way out of my league."

Ben was cast in not one, but two of the five shows that were being auditioned that night. It was an unusual situation, and the directors needed to check with Ben to see if he would agree to it. As soon as contacting Ben was mentioned, Lindsey leapt to her feet and said, "I'll call him!" before zipping out the door to the closest phone. There was definitely a connection between them that had been sparked, though neither had realized it yet.

When the rehearsals began, Lindsey and Ben got to spend a lot of time together. Outside of the theatre, they began taking walks in the woods behind Ben's dorm. Neither knows quite when the transition from friends to something more happened. Because they were working together on the show, they decided to keep the beginning of their relationship a secret. And they did - they "came out" as a couple at the end of October, a few days after the show closed.

Though neither Lindsey nor Ben remember exactly when they fell in love, they both had distinct moments when they knew they would be together for a long time. The Christmas after they met, Lindsey told her mother that she could marry Ben: "I didn't see myself with anyone else - I just knew that Ben was a true partner that I could live my life with," she said. Her mom told her that when she met her dad, she had that same feeling - she knew they would be together forever.

Ben recalls a night early in their relationship when he discovered a stack of books hidden under Lindsey's pillow in her dorm room - books on Judaism and Jewish traditions. He thought that this was an odd thing for Lindsey, who was Lutheran, to have in her bed. This moment is what got Ben thinking - "Hey, maybe she's the one." That feeling was driven home while he watched Lindsey walk across the stage at her college graduation, several years later. At that moment, Ben knew that this was the person he was going to spend his life with.

On a rainy day in June of 2006, Ben took Lindsey up to Scituate, Massachusetts, where he had grown up. The clouds began to clear up as they drove to the Scituate lighthouse, and they walked out to the beach, over the rocks. They sat their together, talking and looking out at the ocean. It started to drizzle again, so Lindsey got up to leave. Ben stood up as well, and turned to her. "There are three main reason that I wanted to take you out here," he began. "One, I have always thought of this as my special place. I used to come out here when I was a kid and thought I was the only one who knew about it. I've never wanted to share this spot with anyone, until now.

"Two, this light house is called Lover's Lighthouse. Each lighthouse has a code to help ships identify their location, and this one blinks out "I Love You."

"Three, this is the site of one of the most important events in my life."

At that, Ben got down on one knee, and took out a ring. "Will you marry me?" he asked.

Lindsey was surprised, and opened her mouth to answer him - but before she could, Ben began to slip on the wet jetty! "Hurry up and say yes before I slip!" he said.

Lindsey answered, "Of course I'll marry you!"

Ben says that he loves Lindsey because she can debate and tickle equally well. He admires her dedication and commitment to what she believes in, and says that Lindsey is one of the smartest people he knows. But the connection that they feel is how he truly knows he loves her - "I feel closest to Lindsey when we share a deep look and don't have to say anything," he says. "Just a deep look filled with love and so many emotions."

Lindsey loves how passionate Ben is about doing good in the world. She loves his silliness, and his ability to bring huge issues down to a personal level. She loves how he calms her and his constant, if annoying, ability to actually know what she's thinking and call her on it. But the thing that she loves the most about him? "Oh!" she exclaims, "I love his nose!" To Lindsey, nothing says "I love you" more than when Ben hangs up his towel in the bathroom and when he makes her a bagel.

As you can see, bagels are an important and central theme in Ben and Lindsey's love story.

Lindsey and Ben, we are overjoyed to share in this celebration with you today. It brings us immense happiness to be here as witnesses to the next chapter in your love story.