



*Christian Love
Stories*

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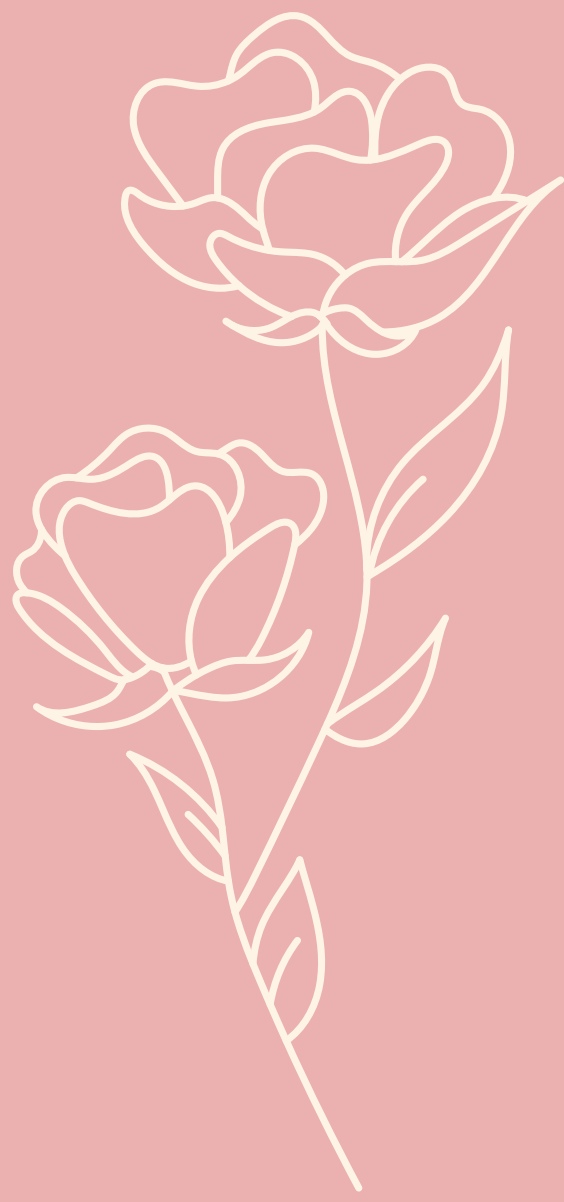
A note from Bec

COMPILER OF LOVE STORIES

I decided to compile the following love stories to bring HOPE to Christian Singles- testimonies truly do raise the level of faith in us.

I pray that the Lord would speak to you through these pages about the nature of true, everlasting love. My hope is that you will encounter the diversity of God's expression of romantic love as you read these stories; the heights, depths and intimacy of each couple and thus be filled with an expectation for your own unique, God-orchestrated love story.

Remember, God's best is better than the best you could ever dream or imagine for yourself!



and the two
shall become
one flesh.' So
they are no
longer two
but one flesh..

MARK 10:8

Andrew and Hannah

McPhee

The Power of Waiting in God

Andrew and I met when we were 20 and 18 years old as students at 'Catch The Fire School of Ministry' in Toronto, Canada. Andrew grew up just a few hours away, and I came to the school all the way from England. (God had whispered the word 'Toronto' to me, asked me to go to the school, **and said I would meet my husband there**). I totally didn't know it was Andrew when I first met him, but we became great friends, and he suddenly started popping up in literally all of my dreams.

“**and he suddenly started popping up in literally all of my dreams**”

I had known him for only a few days, but I would have dreams of stressful situations, and **then Andrew would walk in the room and all the chaos would disappear**. After a few months, I started to like him more and more, and asked God if he was the person for me. I heard God say, 'You're not ready to date yet.' That was different from all the 'no's I'd received in the past, so I took it as a good sign! The School of Ministry had a 'no dating' rule to protect students' hearts and focus for the short time we were there, so we couldn't have started dating anyway, but there was a culture of 'Graduation Day talks' when all of the rules were lifted and people could tell their crushes that they liked them! I worried that I would be letting Andrew down on Graduation Day (as I could tell he liked me too) by telling him what God had said.

Graduation Day came, and I told him that I really liked him, but God had said I wasn't ready to date yet. **He amazingly said that God had told him the same thing!** We decided to stay friends, and both come back for another five-month school. This, of course, meant we couldn't start dating until the end of those five months. We decided we needed some **boundaries** so we wouldn't accidentally slip into 'dating behaviour'. The boundaries we both agreed on **were to not touch at all, not comment on each others' appearance, and not be alone together as much as possible**. These boundaries were actually great, and we got to know each other really well as friends.

Near the beginning of the second school, we attended a conference where the speaker asked the congregation to close their eyes, and said that God wanted to show us something in Heaven. When I closed my eyes, God showed me the doors to a big room, and said that it was my '**Planning Room**'. He said that there were plans in there to do with my future with Andrew, and I could go in there anytime I wanted, but that it was probably best not to go in there right now. I was so excited! Andrew and I had a future! A few months later, God said to me, 'Remember that Planning Room? You can go in there on June 27th.' June 27th was when we were both on a mission trip in Prague, Czech Republic, after we graduated from the second school. At this point, **I was 100% sure I would marry Andrew, and had even had visions of our life together and our future children. I was so in love with him!**

I told Andrew that God was going to show me something in Prague, and we decided to have a talk at the end of the 10-day mission trip. June 27th rolled around, and I went to a park, sat on a rock, and asked God to show me the Planning Room. It was such a weird thing to base a really important life decision on a vision, but it felt so clear and right! I saw the big doors of the Planning Room, and saw myself as a seven year old girl in a white dress. I opened the doors, and Andrew was there, but he was only 2 or 3 years old. I heard the words, 'He has to grow up first.' **My heart sank** as I knew this meant even more waiting, and I was confused, as in my eyes, Andrew was so 'grown-up' and amazing. (It all made sense soon!) I looked at the wall of the Planning Room and there was a calendar, and it said January. (It's June at this point). All the boxes were ticked, and I felt God say to me, 'I know you've already been waiting 10 months, and you can totally start dating Andrew right now if you want to, but my perfect plan for you guys is to wait another 7 months until January.' He gave me a list of things I would learn, and a list of things Andrew would learn, and He said that ultimately, Andrew would be able to love me better.

I was so sad, but also hopeful, because I knew it was God speaking. I decided that of course I would wait, but I was nervous to tell Andrew in our talk at the end of the trip. On the last day, we left the rest of our team and went to a cafe alone together. We sat down, and **Andrew told me he loved me, and was so excited to finally be my boyfriend.**

Hannah McPhee



He had even written me poetry. I cried so much, and told him everything I saw and heard in the vision. He was so disappointed, just as I was, but he said that he couldn't deny this was God speaking, **and of course he would wait for me. He said I was worth waiting for.** We both cried in this little cafe in Prague, and hugged, which was a big deal after not touching at all for five months! The next day, I went back to England, and he went back to Canada, and we didn't know when we would see each other again.

A few weeks later, I was asked to come back to the school in Toronto to be on staff with them for a year. I said yes, and became a 'Small Group Leader', helping to run the school, mentoring women and leading an outreach team. For the first three months of this, God called Andrew to go to a small 'Father Heart' school on an island in New Zealand, where he learned all about who he is as a son of God, who God is as his Father, and he forgave people in his life which led to greater freedom for him. This was the 'growing up' God had in mind!

“ **we didn't know when we would see each other again.** ”

The 16-hour time difference was really hard to manage, **and we felt God asking us to only talk once a week on the phone, and not text at all.** This was very very hard, and I would lock myself in a storage closet in the school every Friday for hours to talk to him with a list of things that happened to me that week that I didn't want to forget to tell him about. He sent me letters, and I would cry every time on the phone, and say 'I love you' after he had hung up, because we weren't in a relationship yet. Waiting and holding back our love for one another while knowing we would get married was the hardest thing both of us have ever had to do.

I had a dream in the night where God told me the specific day in January that we were to start dating - the 27th (there's a pattern with the 27th!). Little did I know, that would be the exact day that I would come back to Toronto from the outreach I was leading, **and Andrew was there waiting for me.** We went on a walk so we could be alone, and we could finally hold hands and tell each other how we felt, and make our relationship official on social media - all our friends were so excited for us! It was so amazing. That night, we made new boundaries for our dating relationship. We decided we would save kissing for when we were engaged, and not lie down together or slow dance together until we were married. (The last one is because dancing is very meaningful and intimate to me, and I wanted to guard my heart.) Two weeks later, **Andrew skyped my parents in England and asked if he could marry me.** They had been updated with this whole story, and said that they loved him, and absolutely yes.

We talked about maybe going to Bethel School of Ministry at some point in our lives. Andrew then went to Texas for a week to help out at a week-long school. While he was there, he received some prophetic words that confirmed that we should go to Bethel in the fall, just a few months later. Before his trip, he had had a **dream where I turned to him and said, 'What about the weekend of May 10th?'**, and he knew that I was talking about our wedding. **God also gave him the day to propose, and when he counted on the calendar, he saw that it was exactly 100 days after we had started dating! In that moment God said to him, 'And you'll be 100% ready.'**

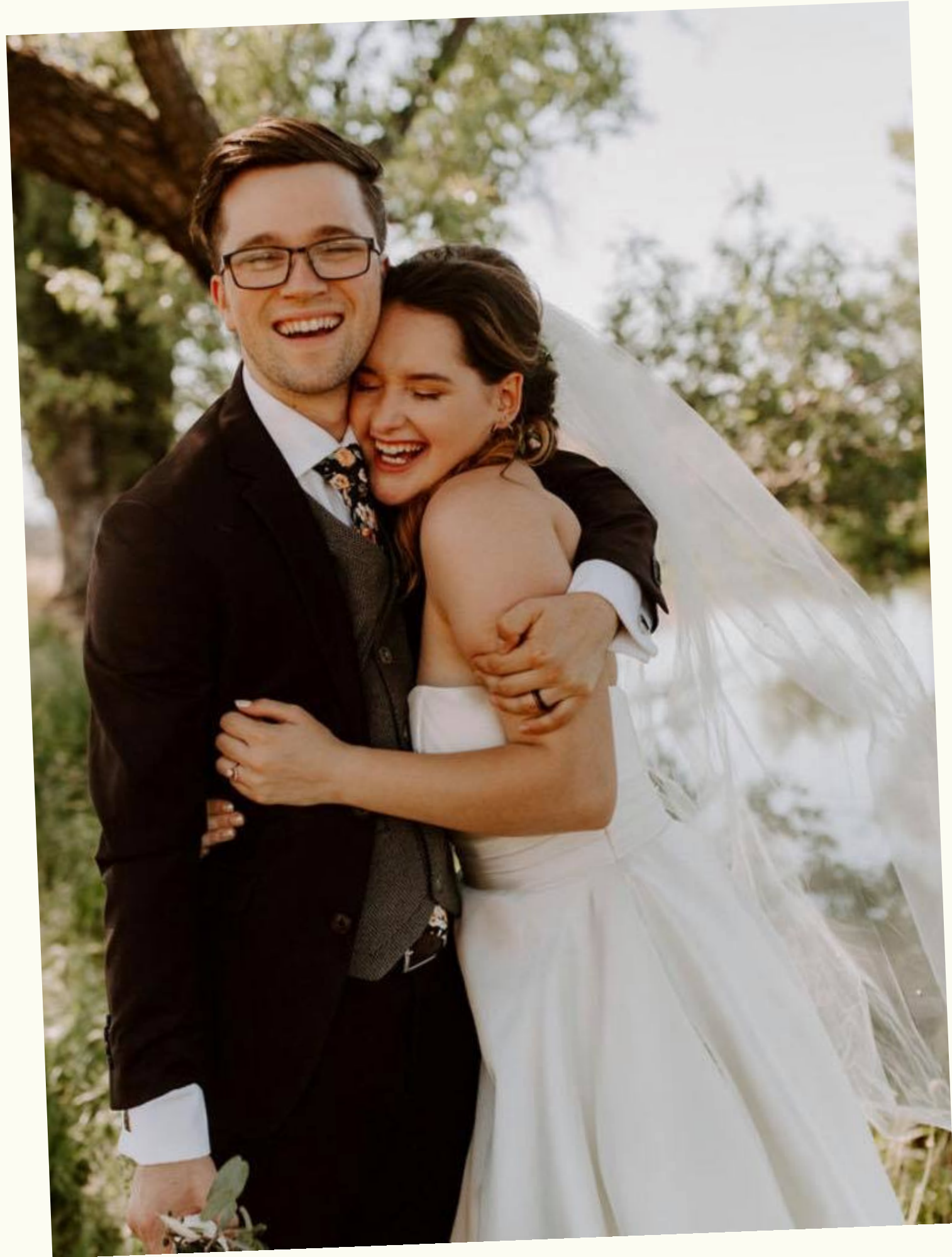
He proposed by taking me out to dinner, then taking me to the Catch The Fire church - in the overflow rooms at the back where I had often gone by myself to dance with Jesus for the past two years. He knew this was a special place for me. He told me that about a year ago he had gone on a walk, and asked God, 'Can I take your daughter for a dance?'. He knew that by this, he was actually asking God if he could marry me.

He told me that God had said yes, and then he got down on one knee and said, **'Hannah, will you join me in the dance of life?'** I cried so much, and said yes. We couldn't dance together yet as we had set that boundary, (saving dance for marriage) but I danced by myself while he watched me and prayed on the floor, thanking God.

After meeting my family in England and Austria over the summer, we moved to California for Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry. It was a big adventure, and **we enjoyed being engaged for that whole year.** It was very challenging at times, and we had lots of very honest and deep conversations in premarital counseling (the DTR course by Danny Silk) while being in school full time and wedding planning. We grew even closer, and talked about our expectations for marriage a lot. The weekend of May 10th that Andrew had dreamed about ended up being the weekend after Graduation Day from Bethel, which we didn't know about at that time! We got married in California, and had the most beautiful wedding (and finally had our first dance). We had our honeymoon in Oregon and stayed in a yurt, a river house and a Portland loft, before moving back to Ontario, Canada to start our life together.

Andrew had a dream that we moved to a little town called Paris, an hour from Toronto, which we had only been to once before, and didn't know anyone there. **We prayed about it, and felt so much peace, and proceeded to look for a place to rent in Paris!** This was very difficult, and we ended up spending our first seven months of marriage in seven different temporary homes (staying with family and friends) until we finally found the perfect first home in a downtown apartment, right on top of one of the shops on the main street. We now have a bunny called Plum who we free-roam around our apartment, and we've been married for a year and a half (as of October 2020). We're very very happy together, and looking back, our story makes perfect sense. **God's timing is perfect, and trusting Him completely, although hard, is so worth it!**

Hannah McPhee



We hope that our story encourages you and illuminates the truth that you are worth waiting for, and that in Christ, you have what it takes to do what He calls you to do in singleness, dating, and marriage.



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Andy and Angie Farrell

A chance encounter in God



It was June 1999. I was in my mid-20s **and not really looking for anyone**. I had a longing to be a wife and mom – one day – but, as I had told the Lord not too long prior, I had zero desire to go to bars in pursuit of love (this was the prehistoric age – before social media or online dating). I had left all of that in the Lord’s hands months before getting a call from my college friend Dan. He said he’d be passing through town and wanted to know if we could meet up at the movies.

And oh – he’d be inviting his best friend Andy, too, if that was OK.

(Our favorite part of this story is that Dan had been, up until this fateful June evening, very intentional to keep his groups of friends segregated – he never mingled childhood friends with college friends, because what if – heaven forbid! – anyone end up together as a result?)

To be sure, this was not a setup. This was Dan on a time crunch, unable to see the movie with Andy and me separately as he’d initially intended.

On June 23, I walked into the movie theater and soon spied a good-looking guy walking in. To my delight, he turned out to be Andy, we connected immediately.

“ **And oh- he’d be inviting his best friend Andy, too, if that was OK** ”

Dan’s visit lasted a few days, so the three of us spent a lot more time together. Then Andy and I stayed in touch after Dan left town.

His similarity in personality and temperament to my dear friend Dan endeared him to me and made it so easy for us to get to know each other and fast become friends

It’s fair to say we were mutually interested in more than friendship from the start, but we spent several months in what we affectionately call “dating denial” before our first date that October. Neither of us felt we had to deliberate over the decision to make it official. In fact, **I think it was the resolve we felt in choosing each other that freed us to embrace the avalanche of God’s goodness** and start making wedding plans after only a few dates.

Andy proposed in January and we were married on October 7, 2000. Dan told us that he felt like his brother was marrying his sister – and we laughed at the beautiful story that God had used our dear friend’s scheduling mishap to begin writing.



After 20 years of marriage, we're better friends than ever. We've built a life on the foundation of God's gift of covenant. We have to choose - EVERY DAY - to love each other as Jesus loves us. We do it imperfectly, but we're committed to pursue the intimacy and unity that God has designed for us to experience. By His grace, through all of the highs and lows of life together, we know that our love will be alive and thriving.



Jonathan and Marie-Louise

Fiechter

A dream with God



It all started with a dream. Jonathan and I have always dreamt, since our childhood, to have someone to cherish in our lives and call wife and husband, someone with whom we can be vulnerable, deeply known, loved and accepted. I think this is something we all long for.

I grew up in Lebanon, until I was 16, with my big sister and my little brother. I've always known my country as a country in war with lots of political conflicts, but it is also the only Christian country in the middle east, surrounded by Jews and Muslims always fighting since Abraham's time. My parents were Catholics but didn't really know who Jesus was, until that day where a terrible thing happened to my little brother, which lead my dad to seek for God and find Him in the person of Jesus Christ. I was then 11 years old and didn't understand much about it, but seeing my dad change under the grace of God, I knew something was now different in our family .

Before that moment, when I was a child, I have a memory of a time when I was loving Jesus exclusively; not Mary or a Saint could come between us, and since I was told that He was wounded on the cross, I would imagine taking Him to the bathroom where we had our medicine, to take care of Him and mend His wounds. That's all I can remember about my relationship with Jesus, from my childhood.

When my mom was 16 years old, she was given into marriage by her dad and brother to a 15 year older Swiss man.

This marriage was violent and catastrophic and she suffered and went through a lot of emotional and physical hurt, but still, two amazing things came out of that marriage, my two beautiful older sisters and my mom's Swiss nationality.

Because of my two sisters living in Switzerland and my mom's Swiss identity, my family and I were able to leave Lebanon in 2006 to move to Switzerland; when things were getting very bad for the country. This was the first time I passed by Jonathan's village by bus, on our way to live in Geneva. My husband always jokes about it saying that I should've stopped by his village at that time so that we could meet a lot earlier.

“ His heart was searching for this one and only that he would love and make her his own wife. ”

Jonathan grew up in a very calm and peaceful village called Oleyres; he calls it the holy land. Everything there is green, and gracefully beautiful, from one side are the Alps mountains and from the other side the small Jura mountains. He often says that there are more cows than people in his village and it's true. His parents were Christians and he grew up being taught those values that we can find in Church.

Of course his parents had challenges but he describes his childhood as peaceful and fun !

As he started to grow into teenagehood, a rejection thought started to grow within him that said that ' no woman wants to be with me' (a silly thought for me because he is more than perfect). He carried that shame and it followed him throughout adulthood and it unfortunately brought him challenges and hurts that were not made for him.

He also grew to know Jesus in his teenage years, through his Church and youth groups and meetings. He always had that thought that one day he might literally give his life for Jesus and so he went into this life with God at 200%. He started singing in the worship team in the youth group at church with his 3 brothers, two older and one younger, and got baptized at 18 years old. This same year, when he was 18 years old, in 2010, he went on a humanitarian trip to Guadeloupe. On this trip there was a girl he liked, but again, he had to face the rejection of another girl, which brought him one more time into this prayer, asking God "Am I gonna marry some day God ? Is there a wife for me God ?" His heart was searching for this one and only that he would love and make his own wife. But this time something was different, he decided to give that dream, that hope and also that shame and rejection to God and to go to bed knowing God is taking care of him. The next day, he went goggle diving in the sea of Marie Galante Island, he recalls -I was almost out of breath, when i saw something shining in the depth of the waters, so I went diving to pick it up and it was a ring.

Marie-Louise Fiechter



He found a white golden ring, with 11 diamonds on it and was so happy, he remembered his prayer and thought that **it was a sign from God that He was taking care of bringing his wife to him.** While his friends and brothers told him to sell it, he decided he will keep it and give it to his wife.

But let's rewind a bit. Where was I when he made that prayer and found that ring? In 2009, I had just met Jesus in an evangelical church, where I went for the first time, and decided to get baptized. I was 19 when I got baptized and started living for Jesus, but still I did not know anything of Him except that He died on the cross to save me from my sins and give me eternal life with Him, and that was sure enough for me to be convinced that He was the man and God I want to live for. I had made a decision for Christ, but my wounded soul was not renewed yet. Lots of hardships had happened with my family, and I was still living in a hard world where I thought that what I needed to do is find love and everything will be okay for me. I did not understand that the only love I needed is the love of Christ my creator and savior.

One night, I was full of zeal for Christ and I met this man who was drunk next to my home, and started preaching the gospel to him, thinking I will surely save him. He gave his life to Jesus and started going to church, next thing I would know he was asking me out and eventually asking me to marry him. **The broken girl in me longing to be loved said yes, and hell started.** 3 years living with a person that was daily drunk, only made me feel more worthless and abandoned than ever. There was nothing between us but a deep disconnection, I remember spending nights crying and praying for God to save me from this pit that I chose in my brokenness while that man was out partying. That day came where he threw my stuff out and I went back to my parent's house more broken than ever.

The divorce was very quick, in a few months I was free again; free but lost. **One night I told God 'God, I have no idea how to be healed, but I will go anywhere I can find healing'.**

So in 2015, I started going from church to church, conference to conference, my goal was to find just one heavenly godly word that would touch my heart and bring some healing to me. Next thing I know, a known evangelist prayed for me at a youth conference and I received the fire baptism my spirit so longed for! My spirit life radically changed; intimacy with Jesus and prayer life was full of wonder and discovery. I started experiencing miracles, personal healing and the healing of others.

I was more and more thirsty to know this one true God, not the God religion presented to me but the God of life, resurrection, reconciliation, restoration and miracles, the one Jesus shows us throughout the whole bible. So I started bible school in 2016 in Switzerland, I needed teachings and to establish the foundations of the word of God that I never had and was so longing for. I could go on telling you stories of all what God did in my heart during these amazing years, the people I met, the miracles He operated in me and through me, but let's jump back to my husband's twenties.

In his twenties, Jonathan had just finished his carpentry school and decided to go to Kenosha city with his brother and sister in love to do a worship school for a year. There, he was focused on learning, growing and having fun. **He learned to play the piano and to play in a worship setting, and let God transform him into becoming the worshiper he is today.** My husband has a unique anointing- a favor on his life to bring God's people into the Father's heart and ignite the passion in their hearts for His name when he plays the keys and sings inspired songs. Lots of people encourage him by telling him he has that one thing that Jason Upton has. I am so excited to see what God will bring forth in the church through that beautiful obedient heart and that anointing He received. When they came back to Switzerland, Jonathan went to do his army service with his little brother for a year. Being in a place full of men, most of whom were non-christian, and away from home, brought its load of challenges for him and his brother, but luckily they had each other.

A bit after that, Jonathan had to face new deceptions with women. He was 24 and his dream was still very much alive and the ring was still waiting for the woman he would choose to become his wife, but he just couldn't understand why he had to be deceived again that way. **So once again, he made that amazing choice to go back into a season of growth and letting God transform his heart deeply.** This is when he started bible school in Switzerland for 3 years and where we finally met!

“ **his dream was still very much alive and the ring was still waiting for the woman he would choose to become his wife** ”

In 2016, we met in class at Rhema's Bible School. **The first day when I saw him I remember thinking that he looked nice, but hurt. His first thought about me was that I looked charming.**

We sat together at lunch, with another friend of his, and I asked them their age, (funny thing I was just filling the silence but Jonathan thought 'ouh she likes me already').

Months passed by. During these months I had a dream where I saw Jonathan waiting for me at a rail station and I was with my family and running late, so I called him and told him to go but he said 'no I will wait for you'. At that time I did not understand the meaning of that dream at all, both of us were not interested in a relationship, but in building up the foundations we needed.

The school was on weekends. I remember going in on Fridays and receiving teachings that would completely destroy all the lies the enemy had built in my mind through religion. I would go to my room in the evening crying, then on Saturdays God would build up in me all the truths I needed and I would go back home filled with joy, hope and new revelations. It was the same for Jonathan, he was filled with revelation and a new wisdom.

Marie-Louise Fiechter



One weekend, both of us were serving the school at a youth event. My friends had to go home earlier, so by midnight I was supposed to join another group of people to go with them for the night, but once I got to the meeting point no one was there, so I went back to my school group and told them all about it. **This is when, my brave prince charming stood up and said 'you will come with me!'**. He quickly called his mom who prepared a bed for me for the night. I remember thinking for the first time that this guy is really nice. Funny story, we hadn't slept a lot because of the event, so when I woke up in the morning, I was still sleepy and I thought that he had left without me. I called him all panicked and he just replied 'I'm in the kitchen preparing your coffee' so I went down to the kitchen embarrassed by what just happened, but he said all joyful 'here is your coffee with milk', and just to embarrass myself some more I said 'I drink my coffee black' so he threw it out and made me another one.

From there, we started writing to each other, sharing worship music and encouraging each other. **I remember once at school listening to him worship and feeling so in love with that golden guy!**

One Saturday night, I asked him by text to share with me some stuff to learn on the piano. He was preparing for church because he was leading the next day, so at midnight he made me some videos to teach me how to play the chords on the piano, and I remember thinking, wow, he must really like me.

So the next Saturday, I went and bought a chocolate box to thank him. The funny thing is that the box was a smiley face but what I did not know was that inside the box the chocolates were wrapped in heart eye smiley faces, so when I gave him the box and he opened it, **I realized what was inside, got embarrassed and ran away.**

At school, I often would feel a bit intimidated by him, so I would run from him each time I would see him, while he would wait for me at the door to chat. But one day I put some courage on and invited him to my house thinking it's a perfect opportunity to get to know him. But he said no and I had no clue why.

Later, I came to know that he was a bit mad at me because during a school event, a day earlier in Geneva he had come all the way there, early so he could have a walk with me and chat but I came late when the walk was over **because I was afraid to walk and chat with him.**

A while later, he invited me to his church for an event and I went with my dad and my friend, so then I invited him back to Geneva and he came this time. This is when I decided to tell him my story.

“**You will come with me!**”

While having a walk in the city, he asked me if we could go to my parent's house and I said 'yes, but first I have to tell you something about me'.

We sat in the car and I told him everything and I thought that he will probably judge me and get scared, **but he gave me the most shiny smile and told me 'I don't see you through the eyes of the past but through the eyes of who you are today in Jesus'.** I thought, is this guy for real?! He is so romantic! But if you ask him about it today he would say 'I just didn't know what else to say.'

You need to know something about Jonathan, he is very tall, he has this grace of being able to see things that other people don't see and he looks at me with those grace filled eyes that makes me feel loved by God.

5 months later he took me to the forest, made a fire (he burned the top of his hair while lighting the fire) and told me the story of the ring, then **he asked me to be that one and only woman that gets to love him for eternity! He then gave me the ring he had found 8 years earlier.** I was honored to give my life to such a royal man.

We then got married in 2019 and decided that our intense transformation season was not over and went on an amazing life changing journey to Bethel where we got **pregnant with our beautiful first born and champion, Caleb.** A last fun fact, in 2016, I read Moral Revolution. This book wrecked me and at that time I did not know but that book was a prophetic book for us. If you've read it, you will see, our names, our ring story and our lives are very much alike.



8 years after
finding the
ring he gave
it to me when
he asked me
to marry him





THE FIECHTER FAMILY



Justin and Lauren Brownlee

The Lord Trusts Me



Justin and I met in the middle of 2016. I was taking a year off after high school to wait on the Lord's direction for my next step in life, and Justin was working at the church where my father was Youth Pastoring at the time. We didn't have the same friend group, so we didn't really know each other very well. I was in a relationship with someone else at the time (my first boyfriend - gag!), and Justin was just previously out of a messy breakup.

Later, I'd realize, *Justin had been crushing on me from afar for months until we became better acquainted (which I was completely oblivious to).*

In December, I broke up with my ex and went on a journey of months of getting to know the Lord in a very deep, intimate way. And then, in 2017, both of us became Youth Leaders in the youth group at the same church I mentioned earlier.

Our first real encounter that I can remember was that I complimented him on the skinny jeans he wore (I know right? And I'm still a sucker for him in skinny jeans), and gave him a prophetic word I'm still not 100% sure was accurate at all. I was just so blind to what was right in front of me! But it was actually a good thing, because I had been boy-crazy my whole life up until this point. The months when we first started talking, I had been so enthralled with the Lord and His romance for me, *Justin almost had to come barreling into my life in order for me to notice him as a viable option.* And barreled into my life he did! Literally.

In April of 2017, we got each other's snapchats. Don't look down on sliding into those DMs guys! *It worked for him.* What first started as awkward get-to-know you conversation, ended up in full ridiculous videos of Justin acting like a crazy person and me laughing my head off. I remember going to my mom and saying, "Man, Justin is so funny. I've never met a guy who can make me laugh like him!"

“ *we got each other's Snapchats....I've never met a guy who can make me laugh like him!* ”

In that same month, we went with some leaders in our youth group to an escape room and Justin and I got locked in the same room as my ex and another guy I'd previously had a falling out with romantically. Awkward? Absolutely. But while the other two guys struggled to figure out how to get out, Justin was thinking so outside the box that I remember being so impressed with how his mind worked. I still believe if the other guys would've let him work harder on getting us out of that room, we might have escaped before the time was out, but we didn't. *But what I did leave with was butterflies in my stomach and Justin in the backseat of my car as I gave him a ride home.* My friend was in the passenger seat when Justin left that night, and I remember blurting out to him, "I think I could see myself liking Justin."

My friend replied, "Then why don't you?"

I sighed as I pulled out of his cul-de-sac. "I don't think he'd ever see me that way."

Little did I know, my life was about to change forever!

We continued to Snapchat and finally, he jokingly said he wanted to take me to a fancy restaurant sometime and treat me to some "good food". I remember squealing to my friend who was over at the time, "I think he's hinting at asking me out!"

Soon after, we had a summer water balloon barbecue with our youth group and I remember Justin was playing football with the other guys *and it was like I could only see him in slow-motion - haha.* He was so handsome, and very talented at sports (he whooped everyone's butts!). And then suddenly, I just thought, why don't I ask him to come over and hang with my family?

Once I got the courage to ask him, and he obliged, we spent the whole night laughing and hanging out with my family. I was so in awe of how he treated and played with my younger siblings, as well as how easy it was for him to fit in with my family. I was falling for him. A week later, we had another summer event with our youth group called an All Nighter.



We were locked in for an entire night full of games and fun, but even more exciting, was that Justin had told me at 5am, he'd meet me on the other side of the church, and to slip away when no one was paying attention. When I met him, he had the keys to the church (by the way, I'm not saying what he did was "right", but I am going to say I had a blast), **and he led me onto the roof with a bag full of goodies and a blanket to watch the sunrise together.** It was still, to this day, the prettiest sunrise I'd ever seen.

He had brought my favorite flavors of ice cream (my favorite food), and as we talked and ate in awe of the sunrise, he asked me if he could kiss me.

And I said no.

Before you go "wwhhaattt?", let me just say, he was so sweet for asking and to this day I wished I'd responded better than I did. But to be fair, we'd never DTR'd at this point, and I'd only ever kissed one guy before in my life (again, gag) - I was terrified to kiss him! And I had had no idea he'd liked me as much as he'd been expressing all of a sudden.

To sum it up, our romantic date got cut short and became horribly awkward. He almost left me on the roof he was so hurt (not really). I left the All Nighter early, crying the whole way home from not only my lack of sleep but also from my heart breaking. I'd really liked this guy, and to have it all thrown away because of miscommunication hurt!

After I slept that day, my mom came into my room and sat on my bed. I explained everything to her, and her response was: "You like him, right Lauren?"

"Yes," I said.

She gave me a knowing look and patted my leg. "Then what are you laying in bed moping around for? **Go get him and talk to him.**"

So I did. I drove forty minutes to his house, picked him up, drove all the way back to my house in silence, and finally sat on the swingset in our backyard as I tried to figure out the best way to apologize. **But he beat me to it.**

That fall, I'd be leaving to attend my first year at BSSM, which he'd known for a while now. I'd gotten accepted months prior, and when he'd tried to kiss me, I'd immediately try to push him away out of fear, knowing I'd have to leave him when the summer ended.

When I asked him, "Why do you want to be with me? I'm leaving soon, we'd have to do long distance." I remember him looking at me with lots of emotion and saying, "You're worth waiting for, Lauren." And that was the beginning of it all.

We spent the next few months inseparable. And yes, I did let him kiss me about a week after the first incident - haha. **Our summer love was almost directly out of the movies.** We talked about the Lord, our pasts, our deepest secrets. We tried to figure out boundaries, and struggled, and conquered. One week we decided it was best we separate for a week to put some distance between ourselves, and every day Justin wrote me letters about how much he cared for me, and the future he wanted with me. Maybe to some, it felt fast, but for us, it was right. **Justin told me he was in love with me first, and I was soon to follow.**

He was the most fun, childlike, caring man I'd ever met, second to only my dad maybe. He treated me with respect, dated me right, and even serenaded me with my favorite Harry Styles song even when he never considered himself a singer.

Then, he dropped me off in a different state, and left as I went to school for nine months. Long distance was the hardest, but best thing we'd ever done for our relationship. **We both grew, and healed,** and changed in amazing ways in that time.

We made it through multiple almost-breakups and miscommunications, as the fumes of summer love began to fade and **we actually had to fight for what we thought could be the rest of our lives together.**

I remember one night, sitting in the car with him over winter break while I was visiting my hometown and I was asking God: "Is he the guy for me, Lord? Is he my husband? Because I will give you everything, including Him, if it's your will!"

“**and we actually had to fight for what we thought could be the rest of our lives together**”

I remember the Lord, in His kindness, coming near to me and saying, **"I trust you, if you want to marry this man, you can choose, and I will bless it."**

So the August after I graduated, we were engaged. **We went through much pain, and many disagreements.** But we both knew that **if we continued to choose each other, and choose God, we would have a beautiful, romantic, fruitful, blessed life together.**

On March 5th, 2019, we "eloped" and went to the courthouse and signed our names on the dotted line!

And months later, in June, we had a full wedding with friends and family. And we have been happily married ever since!

If I could give any advice or charge to singles who are looking for "the one", it would be this: **The Lord trusts you, and He loves you.** He will give you the desires of your heart. And whenever they come, be sure to kiss them on the roof if they ask ;).

Of course, there's much more to our story, but the bottom line is this: God, in His kindness, brought us together and blessed our choosing of one another because God loves covenant! And marriage is worship to Him, reminding the enemy over and over of what intimacy he will never have and the Most Important covenant of all - Jesus spilling His blood so that we could be seen blameless and have a relationship with Him.

Love God, love people, and always remember, you may not be as right as you think you are in an argument ;).

God, in His kindness, brought us together
and blessed our choosing of
one another because....



God loves covenant!

Darrin and Daphne Clark

Marrying My Best Friend



So how did this journey start?

Lets' start with some great advice given to me in my early 20's by a godly couple. When looking for a spouse..... YES, have the list, but a word of wisdom, **observe his parents as well**. What are their values? What is their relationship like? These 2 people would have been instrumental in the formation of your future spouse's life. I took this advice to heart, fell in love with DARRIN and his family and knew that I was being given **a gift of a man**. His parents are awesome! They have a heart after God and love each in such a warm, honouring way.

We met at college at a Student Christian meeting for young adults. He was 19 and I was 21. Darrin is younger than me by 2 years. I was a "mature" 21-year-old, completing college and he was only 19, starting college. **We were very different**. He was quiet and contemplative, and I was outgoing and an extrovert. Because of our difference in age I did not think twice about him, although I did find him extremely cute. **This is a great way to start a relationship, we were just great friends.**

I did **NOTHING** out of the ordinary to impress him. I did not dress a certain way, wear make-up or try and be extra likeable...I was just me! This meant he knew me as the real me. **This was so freeing!**

“ I did **NOTHING** out of the ordinary to impress him. ”

The student group was so fun and we loved God together. We did early prayer meetings on the beach, worshiped together corporately and created community together as most of us lived on campus. A few nights a week the "guys" would accompany us on a run to make sure we were safe in the streets of South Africa. We had loads of student fun together. Slowly the two of us started to realize that we had feelings for one another, **but these feelings could not be expressed!**

I had the challenge at the time that I was dating someone else long distance.

Besides the long distance, the challenge with this relationship was that I was dating someone I believed I loved, **yet I knew in my heart he was NOT the one for me.**

I was dating him because I wanted to feel loved. So many were always commenting- "why don't you have a boyfriend?" This was hard to hear so many times. You start to believe that something must be wrong with you so I wanted to be with someone.

Many ask us what happened next..... ☺ It was a Friday morning; I was a student teacher doing my practicum and had a wedding to attend on the Saturday. With no one to go with I called my present boyfriend - he was doing military service and asked him if he would be ok if I asked Darrin to the wedding as a "Christian brother". **With his permission I went looking for Darrin** on campus to see if he had plans. He did! Bummer! He was leaving that night for a weekend with his parents, a one-hour flight away.



I was so disappointed until he turned to me and said he would fly at midnight and early the next morning drive the 6 hours back on his motorbike to go to the wedding with me; my heart was bursting on the one hand and so anxious on the other. I wanted to walk in honour with my present relationship but was struggling with the feelings that were growing for Darrin.

I loved his passion for God, His passion for people and he had the most generous heart. He would truly go the extra mile for anyone. I was thrilled to have the time with Darrin at the wedding.

Darrin and I soon realized that we were attracted to one another, but in order to move forward I needed to do something that truly broke my heart-break someone else's heart. Facing a breakup with someone I cared for was one of the hardest things I have ever done.

Not 5 minutes after this break up, Darrin was outside my apartment door asking me to be his girlfriend. Through the tears I said yes but continued crying for 3 days. Hurting others is not my intention ever. When we started dating our commitment was to marriage from the start, even though we really did not know one another fully. God was in this from the beginning, even though we weren't fully seeking HIM to lead us. BUT HOLY SPIRIT WAS! For this I am so grateful. We were married 2 years later, and our journey together has been a fun and wild adventure. We have taken so many risks, walked in faith and done many things other families would only dream of. We left South Africa with 3 little kids and went to Dallas to Bible school. We worked as Children's pastors at a church in revival for 14 years in Toronto.

We have church planted; we are missionaries at the core. We love Africa! We support each other's dreams and passions even when we don't fully understand one another. We love life, our front door is always open. We feel so blessed and pray that our marriage can be an example and a blessing to others.

Darrin and I have an incredible marriage. Married for 32 years – married young and blessed with 4 kids (27,25,23, 19). We are best friends, but are OH SO different, yet we complement each other incredibly. We love being together, we love life, we love God! We often look at each other and wonder what we did to get it so good, when many relationships struggle. We both believe our godly heritage has a lot to do with it. Our families honored God and did their best to instill godly values in us.



"WE HAVE
WORKED HARD
AND STAYED
COMMITTED
RIGHT FROM
THE FIRST DAY
WE SAID 'YES!'!"

Daniel and Jay

Veluswamy

A longing fulfilled in God



When we first met:

It was a Saturday morning, and I was so nervous and excited to meet the man of my dreams, **in person**. I ended up wearing a traditional Indian saree, skipping the new clothes I bought for that day. Does the first impression matter? I wanted it all to be right that day! We were going to get married in 2 days. Yes, it's true. **We met in person that Saturday and got married Monday, the 5th March 2012.**

I plucked up all the courage needed and entered the restaurant. There he was. I could see him as I entered. AHH!! That same sweet smile that was torturing me in my dreams. Trying not to fall or faint, I think I walked or somehow moved to where he was, trying to hide all the emotions that were going on inside me.

His shirt looked perfect on him; it had travelled all the way from India to Australia and back to India. We did a sort of side hug. I still remember how attractive his clean and crisp scent was. Hugs and kisses in public are a big NO NO in South Indian culture.

I can't remember what we spoke about but I remember looking at his sleepless, but so full of love, eyes. I could tell he hadn't slept in days. **I guess it wasn't just me who was losing sleep from excitement.**

“ **I guess it wasn't just me who was losing sleep from excitement.** ”

“... a longing fulfilled is a tree of life”

Let's start from the beginning: A few months before this meeting, my rebellious, religious heart turned towards God, crying out for help while my mom was sick. Though I ended up losing her to cancer, God became so personal in my life, comforting and mending the broken parts of my heart. I gave my life to the Lord and decided to walk in full surrender to Jesus Christ since that time. I was passionately in love with the Lord; I wanted to give up everything that was not of God in my life — that included ungodly distracting relationships.

In my culture, marriages are usually pre-arranged by parents based on their religion, caste, geographical location, social status etc. It's completely normal to marry someone who you hardly know and learn to live with them in marriage for the rest of your life. Peer pressure from friends and family makes it almost a rarity for someone to stay single in their late 20's. Another thing about my culture is that the bride's family has to pay a dowry (a lot of money) to the groom's family. The dowry is based on the status of the groom, his education, work, family, socioeconomic status etc. The better his status is, the higher the dowry will be!

Soon after my salvation, I remember praying in the midst of all my family pressures, "God, I only want to be married to someone who loves you the most. I will wait until you send him to me. Please help me and my family with patience." **My phone rang immediately after that prayer.** God didn't want me to wait any longer.



One of my Christian friends wanted to introduce me to Daniel (my now husband), knowing that my dad was looking for a groom for me. Daniel is NOT from my district, not of my birth religion, caste, social status, family culture or even my food style. But still, in his first phone call with Daniel, my dad was totally impressed! At this time, Daniel was in Australia and I was in India.

With my dad's permission, Daniel and I started emailing back and forth leading to frequent phone calls. I was blown away by his genuine love and passion for Christ; he was totally sold out for Jesus. His apologetic knowledge was breaking off my religious doctrines and assumptions. To say I was totally impressed, would be an understatement.

“ I was blown away by his genuine love and passion for Christ; he was totally sold out for Jesus. ”

Despite our decision to get to know each other well, before discussing the topic of marriage, within a few days I could sense that we were a bit more attracted to each other than just as acquaintances. In my heart, I was so convinced that he was the one God had sent for me! Just when we were getting into the topic of expressing our interest towards each other more, Daniel asked if we could fast and pray that weekend and ask for a verse from God to confirm His will for the next stage in our relationship.

I thought this would have been an easy thing to do because I already had the peace of God in our relationship. However, doubt, fear, shame and anger filled my mind instantly. I felt so inferior in my faith walk compared to Daniel's years of passionate strong faith and conviction. I thought my family wouldn't be able to afford the dowry if Daniel's family expected us to. But ultimately, I didn't feel holy enough for God to speak to me in an obvious verse like Daniel expected. While battling the chaos in my mind, I still agreed to fast and pray. We had a women's fasting prayer scheduled that weekend, which made it easier for me.

There was a vivid moment during the fast where I tasted an unexplainable peace. All the chaos in my mind was completely cast out during that fellowship and prayer.

I also got a word from the leader: Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. I had no idea how valuable this verse was until I shared it with Daniel. He got ecstatic as it was the exact verse he was holding onto for the woman of his life. It could have been any verse but it made it all the more special being the same verse. I felt so loved by God for his explicit approval of our marriage.

One day in our casual conversation, I learned that Daniel was in America a few years earlier, the same time as me. On my American trip, one night, before falling asleep, I asked God who I was going to marry.



That same night, I had a dream that felt so special and real. I saw this particularly good-looking stranger on a bus, in a desert kind of dusk setting that resembled the Grand Canyon.

While Daniel shared about what he did in America, he mentioned a bus journey to the Grand Canyon. I was filled with excitement to know that his journey matched my dream.

This was another moment where I felt so intimately loved by God. He cared to answer my desire by showing me the man of my dreams.

The big day of our lives:
 We figured our marriage was going to be a challenging one as Daniel and I were from totally different religions, caste, location, socioeconomic status etc. We wanted to honour our parents in our marriage and decided to wait as long as it takes for them to approve of us.

“...he mentioned a bus journey to the Grand Canyon”

As per Indian tradition, Daniel’s family visited me and my family to check us out. It was purely divine favour. Surprisingly, both our families were more than happy with us getting married. Also, Daniel’s family did not expect any form of dowry from my family.

Our marriage preparation moved so quickly, much faster than our original plan of getting married in a year's time. God and our parents were on it.

It was the day of our longing fulfilled. Without much effort, our marriage was performed by three pastors, in the presence of both our families and extended families. Even though our immediate families were absolutely happy for us, it was a bit challenging for our extended families as they are not yet Christians and have their own strong religious belief systems.

But now, they witness the hand of God in our eight plus years of a happy married life with our three beautiful daughters Sophia, Sonia and Samantha.



A LONGING
FULFILLED BY
GOD'S DIVINE
FAVOR

Ariel and Kariely

Cruz

The Power of Listening to God



My wife Kariely and I met when I was 17 and she was 14. I was rapping in a youth service and **that's what she said caught her attention.**

We didn't interact much with each other for the next following years because she didn't come to church frequently until she recommitted her life to God at the age of 17.

At that time I was the director of the youth ministry and she would come all the time. I eventually found out through someone **that she liked me.**

To be honest **I wasn't interested at first** because I had been praying for almost a year and half constantly for the person that would be my wife and even though I found her very attractive I didn't think it was her.

“ **I didn't think it was her.** ”

I thought I was so spiritual that I thought I would just instantly know who “the one” would be. One day in a Sunday service one of my friends randomly said to me “I think you would look good with that girl right there ” (pointing at Kariely)

and I looked at him like he was crazy because here I am as the youth director and why would I try to date someone who just recommitted their life to God. What a religious mind!

Anyhow, I didn't pay much mind to that but one of my prayers was that God would set me up with my wife.

God sneakily did! One night I received a missed call from a number I didn't have saved on my phone. I called back and it was a girl's voice. She was confused and nervous to tell me who it was so she hung up.



I soon found out it was Kariely; what happened is that she lost all her contacts on her phone so she wrote to her uncle on Facebook and told him to send her his number.

What he actually did was purposely send her my number and said “call me”. So she ended up calling me thinking it was her uncle but when she heard my voice she got nervous and hung up.

It was a set up. We both now had each other’s numbers but I still wasn’t interested in making a move and somehow *didn’t realize God had answered my prayer.* Over the next month we both texted each other as friends and something I did discover was that I really enjoyed the conversations we had and that she was a really fun girl.

But my stubborn mind still thought the one I’ve been praying for is another.

That same month, within the same week, 3 people told me things concerning my wife. A friend of mine had a dream that I introduced him to my girlfriend, another friend who I spoke to on the phone randomly told me “Ariel your wife is already there all you have to do is notice her.”

Ariel your wife is already there all you have to do is notice her.

He didn’t even say hello or greet me, those were his literal first words on the phone. Then on that weekend another friend told me that he felt Kariely was my wife. *This was all just too much for me!* I just thought to myself maybe God is trying to get my attention and say “hey hardhead! I’m trying to answer your prayer!”

So I decided to text Kariely and not put a lid on it like I did before, meaning text her without stopping and show her that I’m interested in talking to her. The following week we went out on our first date for some ice cream and billiards and I will admit that she beat me twice! But both times were just luck haha.

I quickly fell in love with Kariely after discovering how wonderful she is. We ended up getting married 7 months later at the age of 18 and 21. Today we have been married for 6 years and have 2 kids, A.J. & Avianna.

“Hey
hardhead! I’m
trying to
answer your
prayer!”



Kent and Hanna

Green

"Do it for me too Lord!"



In February of 2001 my girlfriend at the time ended a 5 year relationship with me. I was heartbroken. That Sunday I returned to a church where I had attended a youth group many years prior. I was a mentally ill, drug addict with a pile of hurt people behind me. That night I got born again and was instantly set free from drug addiction. I never used drugs again. After the service a congregation member came over and randomly told me how God had told him who he was going to marry and that he was now in a relationship with this girl.

As he walked away I said "God, whatever you did for that guy, do it for me". Immediately after the service the church offered me a place in their rehabilitation program next door.

In the 2 weeks that followed I was introduced to the Holy Spirit and began to pray in tongues.

One night as I was concluding a prayer time I said "alright God, I'm off to get some food for dinner". Immediately I heard a voice from inside me say "don't get food". I was stunned and said "God, did you just tell me not to get food?" to which I heard "yes, don't get food".

Then I said "say it again" and God replied "don't get food". A half hour later a man showed up at my house with fresh hot pizza and I yelled "OH MY GOODNESS , GOD JUST SPOKE TO ME BEFORE!!!!!!". My friend said "yeah God speaks".

I went to my room and said "God, now I know you speak, I'm heartbroken, I'm alone, I make the worst choices when it comes to women, please tell me who I am going to marry?". In an instant I heard the words "Hanna Agnew" and saw a flash in my mind of a girl that was reading the church news



(which I had seen on the screen in the service).

I had a vague idea who she was so I went to try and find her and see if she was real or if I was insane. **The good news is she was real!** I had told a friend and he gave me some great wisdom about proceeding carefully but staying in faith.

“**The good news is she was real!**”

For 9 months I watched from afar. I was in need of healing and the more I got to understand her story (she had shared her testimony) I realized she needed healing too. We had a grand total of 2 awkward conversations over that 9 month period. It wasn't looking like anything would happen. In that time I began confessing “thank you Lord that I will begin a relationship with the woman I will marry by November”.

I honestly felt like I was meant to do that. I also prayed that she would marry the man God had for her. I heard a sermon about faith and how at some stage you have to step out so **I sent her roses on her birthday in October.** She loved them. We were both invited to the wedding of the couple I mentioned at the beginning of this story. She suggested we split costs and buy them a present. So we went shopping. This was the first time we had ever done anything together.

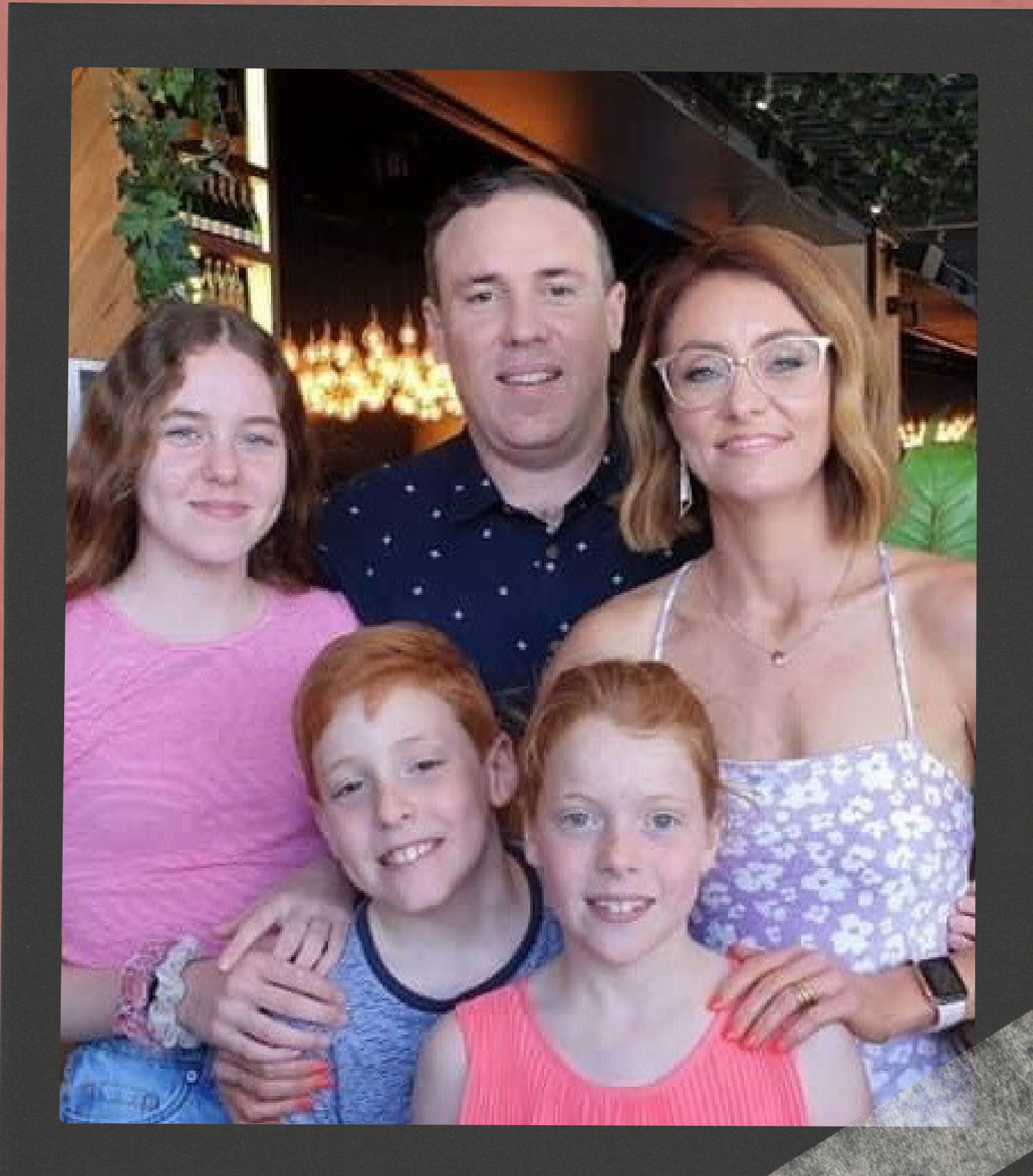
While wandering around the shops I remembered I had to put a reminder in my phone calendar. As I opened the phone screen, I nearly fell over. **It was the 1st of November. Here I was walking around with Hanna Agnew.**

50 weeks after I sent flowers we stood in a wedding Chapel and got married.

We have 4 children and we've been married since 2002. Hanna told me that **God had been talking to her through that waiting period** and when we got together it just all made sense to her.

Throughout that whole time I was completely submitted to my pastor's guidance. I honored every boundary he gave me regarding navigating what God had told me. I got better than I deserved.

God answered my simple prayer in church that night. “God, whatever you did for that guy, do it for me”.



Fitz and Rae

Fitzgerald

“The only man with a key to my heart”

.....

Before I go into the story of how I met Fitz I really want to talk a little about my journey before. I realise now how important my time of singleness was, and I'm so glad I had that time. I remember the moment where I felt **Father God call me into a season of singleness.**

When I felt the Holy Spirit call me into this you can imagine how I fought against that. I broke up with someone at the end of my first year at BSSM and then I had an encounter with God; I saw Jesus standing in front of me, the Holy Spirit surrounding me, and the Father's hand blocking a locked gate.

Behind this gate I could see boyfriends I'd had in the past. I knew in my spirit I was going into a season where there was no grace to date. God wanted to work on my heart, just me and Him, without anyone else to get in the way of what He wanted to do. **Hosea 2:14**

'Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her.'

Despite this encounter feeling very inspiring at the time, surely enough I had pain in my heart come to the surface which God wanted to heal. After all, there wasn't a boyfriend to cover up how I really felt about myself any more.

I started to encounter God's love in the spaces where I had no self worth, **and it's a time I'll always treasure.** I'm not saying it looks like this for everyone.

Every person's journey is unique, and this is simply my own story. I remember feeling invisible in this process, and seeing happy couples around me, I found myself deeply wanting to meet my man as well. It just wasn't the right time, and I knew that. It was hard to trust God with it, and I couldn't really imagine meeting someone who was totally right for me.



One day in worship in second year near Christmas time I found myself so wanting to meet my future hubby, and as that thought came to my mind a friendly face walked towards me (no guys, it wasn't my future man, I know you might have thought it!) It was Mumma Deb. A wonderful lady from my city service who became like a Mother in my life, she said: *“Rae, God has got such a wild man for you! Seriously, your future husband is going to be so wild, and so perfect for you”.*

I laughed, because I just knew that was Papa God talking to me, it didn't make the wait any easier though but what He was doing was so deep, I needed to just trust Him.

At the end of second year, a few days before flying back home to the UK, I felt the Holy Spirit whisper clearly “you’re going to go into a season of dating, and then you will meet your husband”.

“and then you will meet your husband”

It was only two weeks later I got asked out by someone, after being in a hidden season there was suddenly the grace from God to be dating; I love how He hides us in Him sometimes, He wants to be our number one. *Over the course of the next year, for the first time I experienced a really healthy side of dating.*

These men loved Jesus, they were attractive, they pursued me, treated me so lovely, they were talented, but I didn't have romantic feelings towards any of them.

One day, my sister told me about a trendy new Christian app that was coming out in the UK that her friends had created called ‘Salt’.

I naturally thought “I’m in a season of dating, why not try this new app! What have I got to lose?” I signed up to ‘Salt’ with one of my girl pals, and started matching with some people. I came across this one guy, and I could tell that we would get on as friends.. “But I'm not here to make friends” I thought to myself. I clicked the heart to show I was interested in him, but I immediately felt guilty because I didn't want to lead anyone on, so when he messaged I just didn't reply. Then he messaged again, and I didn't reply.



Then a week later he messaged again and he said *“I’m sad you didn’t reply, I would have taken you to so many festivals”*.

Anyone who knows me knows that I feel most myself when I’m at a festival, it is completely my happy place. In fact I think heaven will be like a festival. This message captured my attention, it was the only thing he could have said to me to get me to reply. I was so intrigued as to why he said that, *“how would he know how special festivals are to me”* I wondered. We got chatting over text and he made me laugh.

I found myself checking my phone constantly to see if he had texted. He asked me out on a date, and I was so keen to hang out with him to see if I would fancy him in real life. We met up, and I saw his warm smile as he walked towards me, with such confidence! I immediately knew I fancied him.

But this time it was different. There was something about this guy that *made me feel so calm and at home.*

“ *I saw his warm smile as he walked towards me, with such confidence!* ”

We walked around Marwell Zoo and then found a cafe there and went inside for coffee. We sat down and as we chatted *I knew I had met my husband.* It was a very overwhelming feeling, I felt quite scared actually. I didn't feel how I thought I would, I thought it would be a firework moment like ‘Romeo and Juliet’; nothing in the world but us and our love (like in the chickflicks!) but it wasn't like that. I didn't feel the moment we were in together, *I felt the magnitude of our future together.* I felt our future family, ministry, joys, hardships, everything we were going to build together.

I never had this with anyone else before.

It’s a pretty overwhelming feeling to have with a perfect stranger when you’re not actually in love with them yet! Over the next few months, he kept doing things and saying things that were almost like keys to unlock my heart. He did things for me and said things to me *only the Lord could have put in His heart in order for me to open up to him.* Little things like sending me a picture he made of a ferris wheel with quotes of his thoughts about me.

Fair rides is something God has spoken to me through for years, which has been between me and the Lord and no one else. *It was like God was whispering to Fitz exactly how to pursue me.* One of my favorite things Fitz did was get me into a Chase and Status rave with me and my friends.



His friend was the Stage Manager and they were in Bournemouth so Fitz got me and my girls free tickets. Chase and Status is drum and bass music, their events are crazy raves until 5am.

I love going to those places to carry Jesus' light by being myself in God without needing to take drugs or get drunk, to dance to music, and make memories with my friends. I thought the man I married would be separate to that, a lot of people don't understand why I go to those places. And here I am, dating a dude who knows the guy at the top to get me and my friends in there for free in the VIP section!

What the heck. **That word was true, this man was wild!** God knew what he was doing the whole time. It was over Christmas after Fitz and I made it official I realised I was in love with him.

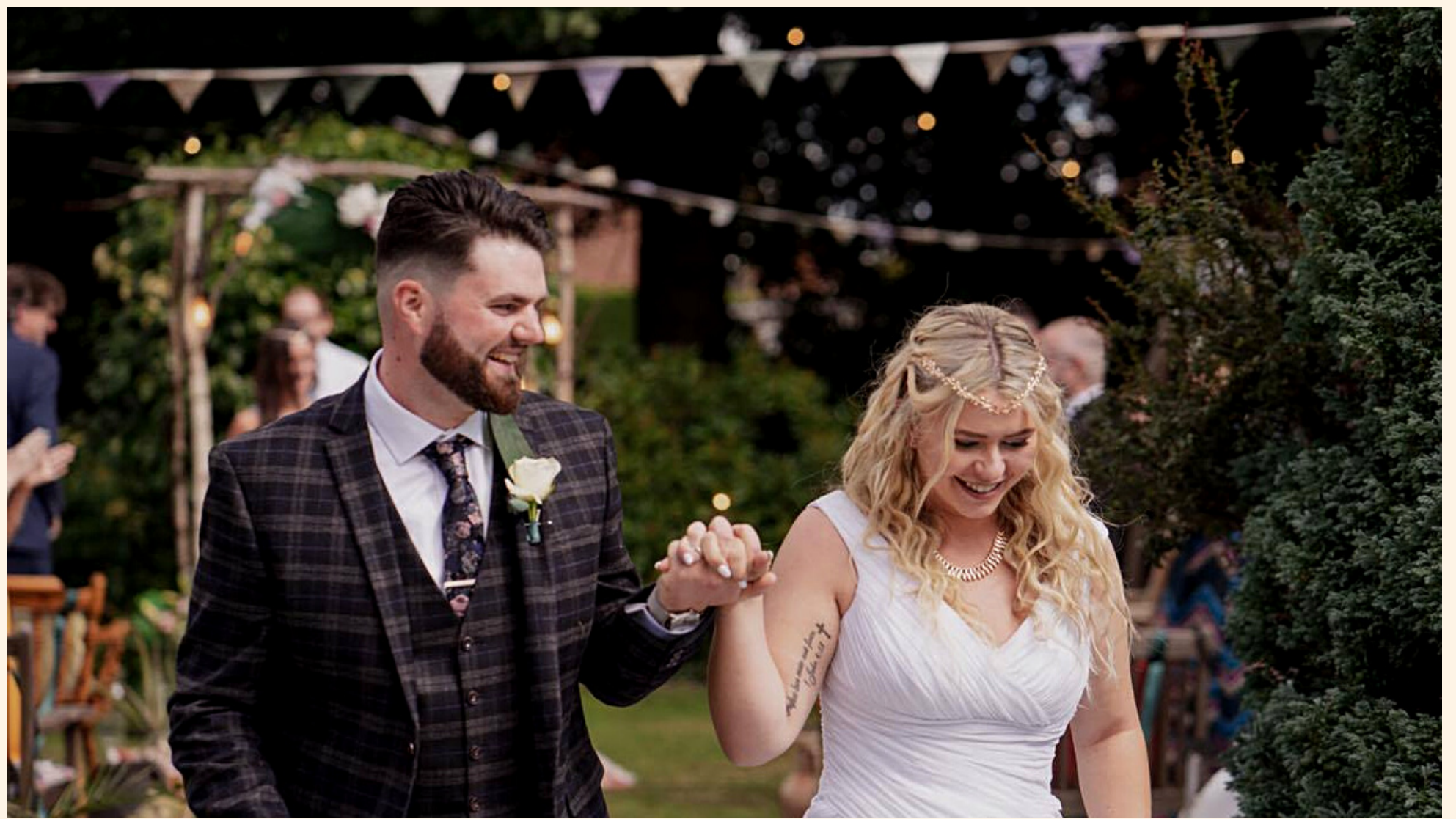
A year later, he proposed to me in Iceland! We have a pretty cool video about the engagement on my YouTube 'Raesworld' if you want to hear the fun story behind that.

I didn't actually know he was in the country at the same time as me! It was the surprise of my life.

Another year later, we are married! We are very content and know we are supposed to be together, but that doesn't mean it's always easy in case this story comes across as perfect!

I'll be honest, I didn't enjoy engagement so much. I found it all very overwhelming. Our wedding day was in the middle of the pandemic, which was stressful but in the end the wedding day was so wonderful and God's presence was so tangible.

I was surprised how marriage didn't fulfill me in the way I thought it would in the past, which I knew already but it was very interesting to actually experience that. I always thought it would be perfect to be married to 'the one', it must always be such a heavenly dream! But it's actually very human and just normal life. If that makes sense. And there is no one or nothing that can complete you in the way God does. Marriage is a wonderful blessing, but it's not the source of life that my soul needs. I wish I knew that one way earlier! Like Debbie's word, God had a wild man perfect for me and it is a match made in heaven. I'm so glad I said no to relationships in the past that could have gone somewhere but they wouldn't have been God's best for me. And I'm glad I took the risk with Fitz, even though I was unsure at first.



A WORD FROM RAE:

You might be reading this, in your 20's, 30's, 40's, 60s, with a desire in your heart to meet your special person. I believe you will meet them. I pray that God will show/guide you in the ways to go. Rest in him, rest in you, put yourself out there (if it's the right time to), and keep receiving His love for you. There is so much hope! I forgot to tell you, when I was going through my season of singleness, Fitz was also going through exactly the same process. Maybe your person is too.

THIS PAGE IS
RESERVED FOR YOUR
STORY...

