

Happily Ever After

Renae and Derick
August 11, 2018



By Kim Wegener
Family Living Editor

PORTSMOUTH -- Encouragement from her mom and his college friends to not give up looking for that special someone ultimately brought Renae Arkfeld of Portsmouth and Derick Frederick of Randolph, NE together. Before Derick came into her life, Renae admits there were

days she wondered if she would meet the right person to spend the rest of her life with.

"There were days I wondered if I would ever meet a guy that I would fall in love with or would I be single the rest of my life. It takes a strong person to face what I have faced and have become what I am and where I stand today. I was very young when I was diagnosed with cancer. Ever since treatment I have

faced many obstacles from the side effect of treatment. I never thought I would find a man willing to care for me and to help me fight my battles," said Renae.

"Many people say their love story began in school, in a restaurant, through a friend or on the baseball field. Our love story is one of my favorites. It took encouragement from my mom and his took encouragement through college friends. If it was not for my mom or his college friends, we would not be telling our story."

Met for first date in July

Renae was on an online dating site and had talked with different guys but had not found a connection. Her mother encouraged her to continue hoping she would find that special guy. Derick was on the site also but only had a trial subscription.

"I kept telling myself the right man was out there looking for me as well," said Renae.

They met online in March 2016 after Renae sent him the first message. After writing back and forth, texting and talking on the phone to each other for two months, they agreed to meet in person.

Renae and Derick met for their first date on July 2, 2016 at a restaurant in Sioux City. Renae said after that first face to face meeting where they had shared great conversation and laughs, she knew she would marry him. Derick agrees he also knew after that first date that he wanted to spend the rest of his life with Renae.

"That night something deep down inside of me told me that he was the one. Some people say a girl marries someone like her father. I can say that I have. Derick is very similar to my father, just by the way he cares for me and teases me," said Renae.

Nearly a year after they first started talking online, Derick took Renae back to the same restaurant where they had their first date for the proposal. Derick had originally thought of proposing inside the restaurant but nerves kicked in and he waited to propose outside the restaurant after dinner on March 19, 2017.

Surprise wedding gown reveal

With wedding plans and thoughts beginning to materialize, Renae and her mother went to a bridal store just to get ideas for colors for the wedding not intending to look for her bridal gown that day.

"Just for the fun of it my mother asked if I wanted to try on wedding dresses. I said yes to the dress, the dress my mother had picked out for me. When my sisters, best friend, mother and my future mother-in-law and I went shopping for bridesmaid's dresses they thought we were looking for my dress as well. I surprised them by putting my dress on as they tried on bridesmaid's dresses," said Renae.

Derick and Renae chose August 11, 2018 as their wedding date. They exchanged

Frederick please see page 2



The bride and her sisters Teresa, Jennifer, Renae and Stephanie.

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marriage vows at Renae's childhood church, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth. The wedding date was chosen because her older sister as well as her parents were married in August and the date was a week before the groom's birthday.

The location was selected because it is the bride's hometown. Renae said her grandma holds a special place in her heart and is not able to travel far so they wanted the location to be convenient for her.

The reception and dance were held at St. Mary's Parish Hall also in Portsmouth. They chose a rustic western decorating theme for the celebration. A special dance at the reception was dedicated to their grandfathers.

Their wedding colors were purple, royal blue, oasis and begonia. Each bridesmaid dress was one of the chosen colors.

"The original color blue I had chosen for one of the dresses got discontinued after having the bridesmaids try on dresses. I had to decide on a new blue that would look best with the other colors that I had already picked out," said Renae.

The groomsmen wore tan pants, brown checkered vests, white long sleeve shirts and cowboy boots. The groom wore a charcoal gray suit accented with a purple tie.

Their wedding party consisted of family members, college friends, former roommates and a co-worker. Renae said having three sisters made it a tough choice to chose a maid of honor so she asked all three of her sisters

to be her matrons and maid of honor. Derick's younger brother served as best man.

Matrons of honor were Stephanie McDonald and Jennifer Sellner. Maid of honor was Teresa Arkfeld. Attending as a bridesmaid was Rachel Gustafson. Flower girl was Maya McDonald. Best man was Levi Frederick. Serving as groomsmen were Paul Jaixen and Jim Oelrich. Ringbearer was Gage Riley.

A sentimental touch at the wedding included the lace from her mother's dress wrapped around her bouquet. Renae wore the veil her grandmother had made for her older sisters' (Stephanie and Jennifer) weddings.

Jennifer made all of the flower arrangements. The wedding cake was made by the groom's aunt, Kathy. The groom's cake was made by his mother.

"For our get-way (vehicle) after the ceremony we used my dad's tractor. That was the highlight of my wedding, the joy of climbing up into a tractor in a wedding dress," said Renae.

Lots of help from family, friends make day special

Derick said communication is key in the wedding planning process and take time to relax. Renae's advice is to let others help and talk to people who are married for their ideas for the wedding planning.

"Create a day that you will remember and to be able to tell others your story down the road. Your wedding day is something that you will be able to cherish the rest of your life, so live it the fullest...it's your wedding create it how you want

it to be, don't let someone tell you how it should be. Allow advice and ideas from others. I was told by my sister "don't sweat the small stuff" and I want to pass that on," said Renae.

"Family and friends are important when planning a wedding. They are the ones you allow to sweat the small stuff and fight those battles. Talk to friends or family that have been married to find out how they went about planning their wedding. Having two sisters and my mother that had gone through wedding planning really helped me in planning mine. A fairy tale is a dream come true, so find that man or woman of your dreams that is willing to go the distance with you. The man I have married is my dream come true and more. He is always there to catch me when I fall and takes the time to lend an ear. Our wedding day is one of our special days that we will cherish forever. Make your day a special day in your own way that you will not forget. Your wedding should be a happily ever after. I know ours was."

The newlyweds went on a small trip to South Dakota shortly after the wedding. They later went on a honeymoon trip to Orlando, FL.

Renae is employed in social services for Colonial Manor in Randolph. Derick is engaged in farming. He is also employed with North-east Nebraska Feeders. They

are at home in Randolph.

Parents of the couple are Bill and Brenda Arkfeld, Portsmouth; and Konnie Frederick, Randolph, NE; and Eric Frederick also of Randolph.



Newlyweds pose at Mount Rushmore. (All photos contributed)



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