

Happily Ever After

Ryan & Marcie
September 16, 2017

By Kim Wegener
Family Living Editor

TORONTO, IA -- When Ryan Fahn decided the time was right to ask his girlfriend of two years, Marcie Stevenson to be his wife, he knew the Iowa State University campus in Ames was the perfect location.

Ryan created a surprise walk down memory lane scavenger hunt for Marcie around Lake LaVerne and the Campanile at Iowa State University that concluded with his down on one knee marriage proposal.

Ryan is from rural Portsmouth while Marcie grew up across the state in rural Wheatland.

"When I first met Marcie in 2010, I knew that I liked her. We were friends for almost four years before dating. It wasn't too long after we started dating I knew I wanted to marry her, but I held off proposing for two years until Marcie completed her master's degree," said Ryan.

On that particular Friday in July of 2016, Marcie was very relieved to have completed and submitted her master thesis at ISU. She had made plans to go out to celebrate her college accomplishment with a friend. What Marcie didn't know was this friend, Amanda, had already helped Ryan with engagement ring shopping and was now in charge of getting her to the surprise proposal site.

Marcie had no idea that summer evening would end with the beginning of plan-

ning a wedding.

"Ryan had a good friend pick me up to take me out for celebratory drinks. She had 'forgotten' her debit card in her office on ISU's campus and insisted we just walk the two blocks to campus to grab it. Little did I know she was walking me right to Ryan's proposal," said Marcie.

"As we approached Lake LaVerne on ISU's campus, I spotted a sign with my name, some candles, roses (in red and yellow of course), a card, and photo from the first time Ryan and I met at a scholarship reception just a week prior to college beginning."

Memories highlighted

Marcie recalled the card, picture and other pieces were the beginning of a scavenger hunt around the lake with each hiding space reminiscing about memories together including: their first time meeting, becoming friends, college memories, and their first date to her college roommate's wedding.

Ryan said the different spots around the lake hit on particular events in their lives up until the proposal. A close friend, Brandon, who would eventually serve as their best man, helped Ryan get all of the stops along the proposal set up.

"The last card with a clue lead me to the ISU Campanile on central campus, where Ryan had been waiting with a handmade, stained glass jewelry box he made for me with the help of his father a few months before we started dating. He got down on one knee

to pop the question and inside this jewelry box was the engagement ring. It was beyond the most well thought out and thoughtful thing anyone has ever done. I was absolutely surprised and blown away!," said Marcie.

September wedding at childhood church

Marcie selected her wedding gown on a chance shopping trip simply browsing for wedding gown styles with her mother.

"My mother and I popped into the local bridal store in DeWitt, Iowa one August day to just browse with no intention of me trying anything on. About 30 minutes later, I had tried on roughly five dresses and the last one was hands down the one," said Marcie.

Ryan and Marcie chose Marcie's childhood church as their wedding ceremony location. This was also the church where Marcie's parents and her two older sisters had been married. Approximately 350 guests witnessed the couple's vows on September 16, 2017 at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary - St. James Catholic Church in Toronto, IA.

"The wedding colors, as Ryan would describe, were Skittles colors (the entire rainbow...but blue!) They were maroon, burnt orange, eggplant purple, mustard yellow, and olive green - a nice collection of fall colors. The wedding decorations were rather simple as the church is very small. Just a few different floral arrangements on the altar and in the windows of the church," said Marcie.

The bride followed family traditions by including a childhood rosary (something old) in her bouquet and a little lace cover for her bouquet



stem. The lace cover came from a small Bible from her baptism which had included a small note saying to use as the wrap for your wedding bouquet. A bracelet (something borrowed) that has been included in many generations of Fahn family weddings was also wired into her bouquet.

Marcie's accessories included something new (a necklace as a wedding gift from Ryan), and blue (the bottom of her wedding shoes had blue soles with a little heart).

Matrons of honor were

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the bride's sisters, Marla Meyers and Marissa Sunderman. Maid of honor was Karolyn Kruse. Marcie selected as her bridesmaids: Amanda Blair, and the groom's sister, Megan Kroneman. Flower girls were Peyton Kroneman and Caydence Kroneman, nieces of groom; Eva Meyers and Adaline Sunderman, nieces of bride.

Members of Ryan's wedding party included best man Brandon Niebuhr and groomsmen Dillon Kramer, Ben Reinig, Michael Klein and the bride's brother, Trevor Stevenson. Ringbearer was Aaron Meyers, nephew of bride.

Traditions followed

Marcie also wanted to carry out a family tradition of making the wedding invitations.

"Somewhat of an odd tradition, but my sisters had been known for many handmade touches for their weddings, which included the invitations. I chose to continue that tradition and was glad to do it as I wasn't finding an invitation that I liked and handmade all of our wedding invitations by hand cranking each one, stamping it, stuffing, and wrapping it with ribbon," said Marcie.

The bride and groom spent about a year growing many of the succulents for the wedding which were used in such items as the bouquets, corsages and table arrangements. These succulents served as favors for the guests and those with bouquets and corsages got to keep theirs also.

"I have also served as the resident florist for my sisters' weddings so I carried this on and produced many of the bouquets, corsages and table arrangements for the wedding after ordering some flowers from a local florist and family friend while also taking some greenery straight from my parents and other family and friends' gardens," said Marcie.

The wedding theme and decorations centered around both the bride and groom's farming backgrounds.

Marcie explained, "The theme for the wedding got coined as rustic industrial which essentially was lots of old farm "junk" (gears, implement parts, odds and ends, etc. found between our two family farms) reinvented into decor pieces softened by lots of succulents and fresh floral arrangements...table decorations containing "junk" came straight from the farm. I think the dads as well as my uncles and other farmer attendees honestly got the greatest kick out of this theme and decor. My dad had stories for folks all night - like that our head table backdrop was the top off an old grain bin my dad had lying around still!"

Groom's extended family hosts mock wedding fun!

The reception venue, Clinton County Fairgrounds Auditorium in DeWitt, was special to Marcie because growing up she had shown livestock and other exhibits there. Her mother also serves as the Clinton County Fair Board Secretary.

In addition to the traditional dance, the groom's family carried out a mock wedding family tradition.

"The Wingert and Fahn families with the help of other attendees introduced Eastern Iowa folks and other attendees to a mock wedding - where wedding guests dress up in random costumes and perform a mock wedding with marriage ceremony script and all. Our's happened to be ISU themed. It was a blast and definitely a new thing for some attendees - even those from the Harlan area," said Marcie.

Stay calm is best advice

Marcie's best advice in wedding planning is to keep stress levels low and personalize your wedding as much as possible.

"Don't stress too much. It will eventually all come together. Also, do what you want and don't fear doing something a little different or unique. Make it your own - sometimes this can be one of the most fun parts of planning! I hands down had moments where I was stressed, but I also think that is part of what gets you through the planning," said Marcie.

"A little stress can be really positive - like mine was mostly to get invites out on time knowing I was hand making them or getting decorations made or found out on the farm. I helped two sisters with wedding planning so I kind of knew what to expect and due to that I think I took on a lot, but ultimately, the day was perfect whether I really got my whole list finished or not."

When asked if there were special problems that occurred that made she and

Ryan have to alter any of their wedding plans, Marcie noted just a couple of minor issues.

"Nothing too major. I did have an issue with miscommunication on the hair appointment for the bridal party a few weeks out, but it turned out for the better! Otherwise, many of the problems were self-inflicted as I took on the task of trying to go junking for 80 percent of the wedding decor and turning it into something more chic or wedding like. This was just a bit time consuming and difficult to do when we live two plus hours from either farm," she concluded.

In December the newlyweds went on a 12 day honeymoon trip to Belize. Marcie and Ryan reside in Grimes.

Marcie's parents are Terry and Mary Stevenson, Wheatland, IA. Ryan is the son of Jamie and Mary Fahn, Portsmouth. Marcie is employed as a program assistant for Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Ryan is an engineer for DuPont Pioneer.



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