

LOVE

Tracy Miller & Adam Tierney

November 7, 2009, in Berwyn

By Kellie Patrick Gates
Inquirer Love Columnist

Hello there

On a Saturday in April 2008, Tracy stopped by Starbucks in Conshohocken for some post-workout refreshment. She was still in her sweaty T-shirt and sweatpants, her hair was in a ponytail, and her mascara had smeared a bit beneath her eyes. The guy behind her in line - Adam - started talking to her. "I don't even remember what about," she said.

It must have been interesting. She paid for Adam's coffee. And then one of them suggested they enjoy their beverages in the store and continue talking. An hour later, "I was thinking he's really nice, and I liked him," said Tracy, now 27. "But I was also really hungry." Tracy said she needed to go to her house, which was just a few blocks away, and get something to eat. Adam, who also lived nearby, suggested they relocate their conversation to the pizza shop in the same plaza.

Their slices eaten, Tracy said she needed to pick up some notebooks for school. She attends the Art Institute of Philadelphia's baking and pastry program. Adam offered to drive her to Staples in his convertible. "We're not going anywhere private, so you know I won't hurt you," he offered. After Staples came a trip to the grocery and liquor stores. They split up to go to their respective apartments so Tracy could shower and Adam could cook. He made chicken Parmesan for her that night.

After dinner, they saw a commercial for Sonic, the fast-food joint, and Tracy jokingly complained that she always saw the ads, but had not once seen a restaurant.

As if you couldn't tell by now, Adam is not one to let an opportunity pass. "There's one in Lancaster," he said. They met at 10 a.m. the next day and drove to the Sonic.

"We saw each other every single day for the first three weeks we knew each other," Tracy said.

How does forever sound?

In February 2009, Adam and Tracy went to Tennessee for a friend's wedding and made a long weekend out of the trip. The day after the wedding, they traveled to Nashville. While walking on the riverfront, Adam dropped to one knee.

At work

In addition to taking classes at night, Tracy works as a project accountant for a construction-management company in Bala Cynwyd. Adam works for the federal government.

At home

Tracy, who grew up in Bellmawr, and Adam, originally from Olney, Md., live in East Norriton.

It was so them

Adam's cousin, retired Methodist pastor DeForest Hillyer, performed the ceremony. Tracy asked her bridesmaids to wear black dresses of their own choosing, so they could be worn again. Adam and Tracy were introduced as a married couple as the *Superman* theme song played. This made perfect sense to many of the 180 guests.

"I'm obsessed with Superman," Tracy said. She collects memorabilia and has a Superman tattoo.

This didn't happen at rehearsal

Tracy paid close attention while Adam said his vows. "I was thinking about all that it meant," she said. But then, as her turn got closer, Tracy got nervous. "I started laughing," she said. And that was before he hit the "in sadness and in laughter" part. "By then, I was hysterical. And even through my vows, I couldn't shake the giggles."

Discretionary spending

A bargain: Tracy had DJ promotional material on her desk at work. A coworker saw the information from Schaffer Sound and said they had been around since the 1970s and were quite good. They were also the least expensive of the DJs she was considering. "Good and cheap? I'll take them!" Tracy thought. She paid about half as much for a DJ as did her brother, who was married in the Baltimore area.

The splurge: The photography. The couple chose national

firm Bella Pictures, based on its portfolio and the fact that the couple could purchase their negatives, digitally remastered, and make copies. The cost was about \$1,000 more than other photographers they considered.

The getaway

A week in St. Lucia.



Tracy Miller & Adam Tierney were married November 7, 2009 in Berwyn. (Bella Pictures)

Love: BEHIND THE SCENES

Officiant

DeForest Hillyer, cousin of the groom, who is a retired Methodist pastor from North Carolina

Venue

Ceremony: Berwyn United Methodist Church, Berwyn; Reception: Dolce Valley Forge, King of Prussia, with help from Dolce's wedding coordinator, Katie Kinele

Catering

Dolce Valley Forge

Photography

Bella Pictures, www.bellapictures.com

Music

Schaffer Sound Productions, Media

Dress

Jay West, Haddonfield

Invitations

Renee Tucci, Plaza Flowers, Norristown