

## Love Story – Jennifer

I had just purchased a house and was waiting for escrow to close all the while getting all sorts of people trying to sell me something. I had some guys offer to complete my WHOLE back yard for a ridiculously low price. WOW, this is great.... I can get everything done at once I was stoked. Well when my brother found out he was concerned. He recommended that I at least get a quote from a reputable contractor and compare things a bit. He said that I should talk to the guy who did his back yard – Steve. He sent me a text with Steve’s number (I still have it saved on my phone). I called and we set up an appt. I was sitting in Red Robin in Menifee with my mom the day before Thanksgiving and Steve called to say that he was on his way to meet me at my house. I had not even received the keys to my house yet so we were off to the models to pick up a loaner set. I had my two dachshunds (Chester & Samson) who I rarely travel without with me and we were roaming through the house. Low and behold the dogs made a mess, and I was frantically trying to clean things up when my mom yelled from downstairs that “he’s here” I tried and finish up what I’m doing a little frazzled that one of my dogs just had an accident in the master closet - before the house is even truly mine!!!! Still frazzled I rush down stairs and when I reach the bottom there he is – I’m wondering if he can see how frazzled I am??? I instantly notice how striking handsome he is. I quickly forgot about the mess upstairs. We talked briefly about the backyard and Steve said he was going to go measure the yard. He went outside and I remember just admiring him as he passed by the window, but I did not want to have him see me watching him. I joined him outside to see if he had any questions for me and while we were talking he brought up that he appreciated that I was flexible with moving our appt time and then said something about me being “bubbly” on the phone. I really did not know how to take that.... I thought it was some sort of blond joke not realizing that he simply meant that I was energetic on the phone. Steve was initially attracted to my “bubbly” personality and he thought I was very attractive. He also liked the fact that I did not have any children of my own (we could start our own family) as he said “no baggage”. He was trying to concentrate on measuring my back yard and stay calm – little did I know. When he left that day I remember thinking Wow – he made an impression and so did he.

The next day at Thanksgiving I was sitting on the sofa talking to Maria (my sister-in-law) and I was anxious to bring up Steve and was curious to know more. I just assumed that he was in a relationship. Maria said that she did not think so and I was even more intrigued. Throughout the day I caught myself thinking about Steve.

The day after thanksgiving around 4:00 the phone rang. It was Steve and he asked if I wanted to go over the bid. We decided to meet at the Starbucks of Ethanec Road in

Romoland. We sat down and began going over the bid. After reviewing the bid we just began talking and it all seemed so easy and natural. Hours flew by and we moved from indoors to the seating out front. It was 9:00 before I knew it and Steve asked if I would like to go to dinner the following night... absolutely!

The next night we went to La Fogata in Hemet (my favorite Mexican restaurant). All through dinner we talked and laughed. After dinner we sat in my car talking. We did not want the night to end. I was intrigued with all he had to say hanging on every word. I remember taking a leap knowing that I might end things before they started by telling him that I was a Christian and that my faith was very important to me. I did not want to enter into a relationship with someone who did not share the same beliefs. I knew I might end the evening right there but did not want to go down that road, and I was relieved that faith was important to him as well.

We spent every day together since the Friday after Thanksgiving even if it was only for a few minutes. After several weeks Steve said to me that once his heart gets involved he's attached. I knew then that I was falling in love with him. Steve was the one to officially say I love you first though.

We continued to spend every day together except for 2-3 days since we have been together. I knew that Steve was the one when I really got to know his character, who he was beyond the best foot forward and excitement and attraction of dating. He was someone that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with, each and every moment good bad and knowing together we could work through anything. We went to the river with his mom, sister, brother-in-law, and the kids in the middle of June for our first vacation together. We were staying in Laughlin at Harrah's. I could not wait to get out of town on Thursday night June 18 - my last day of work before summer vacation. We took Steve's boat on Lake Mojave on Friday. We had a great day on the water. Yeah, I had no idea he was going to propose that night! I'm worrying about how fast I can get ready....I almost wanted to cancel going to dinner because I thought the restaurant would be closed by the time we got down there. Well low and behold it all worked out and the restaurant did not close before we got there. After dinner we were off to the tables - by the way I do not gamble. If I spend money I want to come home with bags in hand - not willing to take chances on losing it at the tables, but I'll watch Steve play black jack. Steve asked what champagne I drank - and was going to order one the next time a cocktail waitress came by. **Still**, I did not pick up on anything. The waitress came and went. A little while later around 10:00 Steve asked if I wanted to go for a walk. Hey, sounded like a good idea - romantic!!!! We were walking and asked a guard if the beach was open and he said it was closed so we stayed on the path and just strolled along. We came to the area where my hair stylist got married and I pointed that out and we turned around and went the other way. Steve said "lets go sit on the beach", so

he pulled out a lounge chair and was going to sit down but walked around instead, I thought to get another lounge chair and then said “I’m just going to do this.....” he got down on one knee and said “will you marry me?” **I was completely surprised!** I said “YES” and hugged him. We then got caught by the guard who said the beach is closed.

When we returned inside it seemed everyone knew! His sister had been telling everyone at the tables about Steve and I. It was so exciting. It was a perfect intimate moment between the two of us that I’ll never forget.

After six months of dating we were now engaged. Let the wedding planning begin! We set the date for December 20<sup>th</sup>. I was excited to start planning our wedding, and glad that I had all summer to prepare. I am a planner at heart and wanted to be finished with all the details before I went back to work. Everything just seemed to fall into place. We set a target budget was willing to cut in other areas but that was my area of concern. Steve said “I just want you be happy”. We found the perfect venue – Steve wanted to book right then and there. Monteleone Meadows was perfect, and Henny (the owner) who is fabulous recommended several vendors she has worked with in the past – that was very nice. Everything just continued to fall into place. We discovered Imagery Concepts and from the start we were impressed. It was evident that they were able to capture the moment, emotion, and all while keeping the couples true nature. Exactly what we were looking for! All else just seemed to continue to fall into place and summer was not even over yet. We started to get concerned when adding up the numbers and they had exceeded our original budget. It began to get stressful and we were not sure if we could afford everything. It was time to make some serious decisions. The **hardest** decision we had to make was that we could not afford this wedding, and we knew we were in over our head. I felt as if my arms and legs had been cut off. I was in mourning! All we could do is pray.... We decided to cut the guest list, and change the venue (some day we will have an event at our dream location Monteleone Meadows).

The venue was Heritage Lake Club. We ended up loving the location because of all the photo opportunities it provided. I was able to get the room for next to nothing because I live in Heritage Lakes. Score! We just had to do everything ourselves. I let the planner in me take over. It was so nice to have the venue right around the corner from my house (1.5 miles nice). This allowed us to have a horse drawn carriage pick my father and I up at my house and deliver us to the ceremony. It was a dream come true to have a horse drawn carriage!

I wanted an elegant Christmas wedding so the colors were deep red, gold, and ivory. Our monogram was a constant theme. The flowers were a deep red with a touch of green and some bling of course. I was able to use the center pieces from our florist and spread candles and rose petals on the tables. We rented tables and linens and now all was falling into place once again. I am so glad we made the decision to STOP and not get in over our heads! We kept the vendors that were important to us and were creative and saved where we could.

The most exciting part of planning our special day is that I was able to do everything. I was the wedding planner and I LOVE to plan. For Steve it was that I was happy creating our “special day”. We both could not wait until we were Mr. & Mrs. Currie. The most memorable part of the day for me was after the ceremony when we took a carriage ride and had a few minutes as a married couple to just relax and enjoy each other. For Steve the most memorable moment was...”when I saw my beautiful bride to be step off the carriage and walk down the aisle.” Even though he still has his sun glasses on : ).

What can I say our vendors were amazing! ! ! !

Imagery Concepts – Perfect from start to finish. They made it FUN taking pictures. I can’t wait for them to capture the future phases of our lives!

Godfather Video – Having a video takes me right back to the moment! I would not recommend anyone else.

Main Event DJ – Wow, he was a true master of ceremony!

Jodee’s Bakery - Ahhh, the cake : ) Exactly what we wanted and so decadent. Fabulous!

Designer Dinners Catering– Everyone raved about how good the food was!

If I can give any advice to future couples it is to “Enjoy Every Moment” and to not let the stress take the fun away from the TRUE reason you decided to get married. Together chose what vendors are most important. Set a budget and stick to it!!!! Most of all have fun because it will be over before you know it.

No matter where we live, what we have, as long as we have each other we will be OK, and that is what truly matters most. I know I love Steve and he loves me and that the Lord will guide and direct us as long as we put Him first in our relationship. I am proud and consider it an honor to be Mrs. Steve Currie.