

Fathers Love story

To bring His children Home...

As a parent today it's difficult to express your love to your children and your spouse adequate to how you truly love them. Well, our Father in heaven has a love story to share that will fill us with his love and help us understand where true love lies, and how to obtain everlasting joy.

As I walked out toward the front lobby I made eye contact with the most gorgeous daughter of God I've ever seen, and I mouthed to her what I was feeling and thinking; "wow you're beautiful." With a smile acknowledging she can read lips we made our first connection; but was it? We had no idea we were soul-mates, married before in a different dispensation. We had no memory of any past mortalities, but what was about to happen to us is absolutely a gift from Father in heaven.

As the desert waiter for Olive Garden in Provo, Utah, I watched closely to see where this beautiful lady was seated. I wanted to make sure to keep an eye on her in case there was a chance to present her the desert tray. To my excitement I was informed the only reason she and her roommate came into the restaurant was to get desert. Of no coincidence I was the only desert waiter at Olive Garden. As I approached her table she looked more beautiful the closer I got. I said, "Hello ladies my name.

is David, I'm your desert waiter." She thought it interestingly unique there was a desert waiter; just what the Doctor ordered, so to speak.

As I displayed the deserts I asked, "So do you ladies attend college?" They both said, "We are seniors at B.Y.U." I then said, "Oh, why aren't you at home coming with your boyfriends." Quickly the beautiful lady I was attracted to said, "We don't have boyfriends." I asked which desert they wanted, and they decided to share a chocolate covered cheesecake, my favorite too. As I brought out the desert I asked if it was o.k. to have their names, Barbi quickly answered her name, then her roommate said Marcy. Barbi and I made a connection that brought joy and great interest for one another. Checking on their status with the cheesecake I handed both of the ladies; Barbi and Marcy a olive garden mint. I wrote on a piece of paper, "I hope the desert was big enough for both of you, David" with my phone number and taped it to the bottom of the mint, hoping Barbi would call me. To my great surprise a week later Barbi did call and we arranged a date the following week. As I picked Barbi up we honestly saw each other at the door and each of us saw the other in a new light; kinda strange. As we drove to Trafalga Family Fun Center she asked

how old I was. I knew she was a Senior at B.Y.U so, I reverted to my high school nickname (silk) and said, "Age is nothing but a number, baby." That didn't work as she said, "no really how old are you?" Dang it, not smooth enough for this very classy, intelligent, beautiful woman. I said, "I'm 18!" with simple humble voice. I don't recall her saying anything quick this time, but soon after I do know she thought I was 23 and a returned missionary. I was a bit mature for my age so, I took that as a compliment.

While at Trafalga waiting to miniature golf there was a waiting room with various basketball hoops. As we shot hoops together our true colors came out: we love our families, we love God & Jesus Christ, we love the gospel of Jesus Christ, both our families are super athletic & into sports and recreation. She told me she is the baby of 7 children; 5 older brothers and one sister who died in an accident when Barb's was 10. Her sister Karen was like a second mother. We spoke about how badly we want to have a family, get married in the Temple, have at least 5 children, and spoke about children's names; can you believe this on a first date! We got right to the most important questions.

Now, I was in hog-heaven at this point, living a dream, getting with a 21 year old Gorgeous blonde, blue eyes, strong chin-line, perfect smile and she had every personality trait of a Godly daughter of God and like a heavenly mother. Of course I couldn't take my eyes off her, probably why she beat me by a point/stroke; or did we tie?? I think we actually tied? Anyways we had a fun time together, and then drove to Blockbuster video to get a funny movie; which was really not that good of a choice. It didn't matter because sooner than half way into the movie I couldn't take my eyes off Barbi; she literally glowed. I asked if I could touch her skin on her face as she had a very attractive profile with her strong chin-line; it was as if it was like a model in every way. She said, "Sure!" Not awkward at all and very comfortable I asked; "May I kiss you?" She said, "Yes." As we kissed some say there is a spark or something special when it's the right person, well as we kissed we couldn't stop, didn't want to stop, and thinking back on it I felt, we felt like we had been together already, heck even felt like we were married. We were so comfortable looking at each other, kissing, and for me feeling I was in a dream come true.

I will refrain from further wonderful details, but after dropping off Barbí at her apartment that evening, the next morning of no coincidence I saw Barbí dropping off Mary at work; which was the restaurant next to Olive Garden. I literally ran to Barbí's car with a big smile on my face and great excitement to see her. I told her my sister Heidi had a date to go to the Joseph Smith building to see the film Legacy. I asked Barbí if she wanted to go on a double date with me & my sister who was a returned missionary.

Oh, my goodness the symbolism of Joseph and Emma going on their second date to their own memorial building to watch a powerful spiritual true story about the restoration and their very own lives or history. How merciful & loving is Father in Heaven to provide such a gift to both of us to reflect upon today. Of course at the time of the date we knew not we were Joseph and Emma, but just writing this fact down makes me have a heart full of love, gratitude and desire to be with Barbí more than ever!

We had a wonderful date. Driving back to Provo the sun was setting on Barbí's face; a light orange tint caused her to glow like an Angel. Our third date was days after playing Taboo with family.

Barbi I went to my sisters house, Jeannette to play games and hang out. We played the game Taboo and were amazing together, we could read each others minds and were so connected. Aside from being both competitive, we love being with family being active and having fun. At this point I wanted to not just go on dates, but be boyfriend and girlfriend. In Barbis car as it was parked and I was in the drivers seat I asked her about "us" and what she thinks regarding being together, I said, "so what what are your thoughts about "us" being together." She responded with comfort and poise on the idea.

As I asked for her to be my girlfriend and being committed to dating each other and nobody else, She was content and happy to do so; it practically seemed as a given or common sense or just perfectly fitting.

we went on another fun date to a B.Y.A football game with family. It was wonderful to share with family our good news of being together as girlfriend boyfriend. Everything felt perfect with Barbi and we wanted to be together every day.

we did have to separate for Thanksgiving as Barbi went to lake Havasu where she is from.

This was so painful or sad that upon her return we made sure we planned to see each other during the Christmas break, even to meet our parents and all family members.

We spoke to each other daily on the phone, especially when she was away for Thanksgiving. Upon her return we went Ice skating, and hung out daily until she left again for Christmas. We planned to meet in Lake Havasu after Christmas. My parents were headed to Phoenix, AZ. to drop off my sister Heidi at a mission reunion; it was perfect timing. My parents dropped me off at Barbi's parent's house in Lake Havasu. It was an honor to have both our parents meet and be united. Barbi had just stepped out of the shower and was an absolute doll; so beautiful, cute, cheery, and a bubble of sunshine or ray of light. She was and is always so attractive inside and out. My parents, especially my mom absolutely fell in love with Barbi; how could anyone not. Truly her personality and all her God-given traits, gifts and talents are so evident; yet later on she would garner the nick-name "Stealth" because she was so humble, yet very thorough or accomplished. She knows how to get things done!! She is a go-getter, active, on top of things and super brilliant. She has an amazing family, with 5 athletic older brothers and wonderful parents.

As my parent left, it was a joy to take family picture with all the Landins and be part of my new family. We did many fun activities in the desert and at the London Bridge down town.

Living or being under the same roof with family during the Holidays was heavenly. Barbi and I were already being treated like a couple that had been together for a long time. Now I know why more in detail the magic and tender mercies of Father in heaven bringing us together in the manner that he did; truly a gift and blessing. We had no idea the power and wonders of God bringing "us" (Joseph & Emma) together in this dispensation. The more I learn about Joseph & Emma the more clear it is who we are and why we are who we are.

We planned to go to Carlsbad, CA. for the New Year. We met up with my parents in Quartzsite, AZ and we layed down together in my Dads motor-home on the upper out-look bunk. It was so nice to travel together arriving into beautiful San Diego, CA; our home on the beach. We both love San Diego & the great memories created there.

We stayed the night New Years Eve in Pasadena, CA. We set up chairs on the road to prepare for the Rose Parade. We had a blast throwing marshmelows, and enjoying the fancy cars drive by. I'm so glad we took a picture of us together at this event. We took a little nap together, until my mom had me hop up to a top bunk, leaving Barbi alone on the couch. My mom was and is always making sure her children are doing right in the site of God.

We woke up early for the Rose parade and the streets were crowded with thousands of people, yet Barbi and I had front row seats; we could practically touch the floats as they went by. We were there with my parents and our little brother, Brock. Everyone loved Barbi and it felt comfortable for us all to be together; who knew we all were together in a previous mortality as family. We bought some shirts with Oregon Duck and Michigan or Wisconsin; who were playing in the 1995 Rose Bowl. We did not attend, but that would have been cool. We drove back to Carlsbad and had a bonfire with smores; truly our uniting just got better and better each day together.

Barbi and I flew back to Utah to attend college, work and be together, and we did not miss a day together. Even though we were in different wards I would drop Barbi off at church and pick her up. One snowy Sunday she stood in a beautiful elegant all white skirt & outfit with white nylons and heels. As I arrived to pick her up she looked like an angel, and one very sexy and attractive angel. Often I would say to myself, "You are one blessed and lucky man to have such a perfect lady!" I felt like placing my jacket over the puddle of water and ice so she wouldn't get her feet wet, she said that wasn't necessary and cordially sat in the car. Barbi has beautiful shapely legs with perfect muscle definition.

Barbi was a very active and athletic girl growing up, playing various sports: Gymnastics, ballet, dance, cheerleading, tennis, water skiing and various recreational activities; there's nothing she can't do! At the time she was heavily involved in a work-out called, Body firm; which was an intense Jazercise type program. As an athlete myself enjoying sports I admired her work ethic, talents and dedication to excellence. I'm a firm believer we can tell what type of person one is by the strength and shape of their legs. Legs can tell a story of a history of hard work, no laziness and commitment to becoming our best selves.

After picking up Barbi from church we headed back to my apartment to enjoy the Sabbath day together. She brought a change of clothes and changed in my room. She changed first and then I went into the room to change. Seeing her church clothes, nylons and heels it made me feel as though we were like a couple living together. I was seeing the joys of being married to her in the future; I love coming home from church with Barbi and spending time together in our bedroom; it's like heaven.

We spent every day together, but Sundays are always special with a wonderful spirit; especially when with family.

I wish I would have kept a journal of everyday we spent together. Sadly, I can't remember each day we spent together during our courtship.

We truly had the most amazing, wonderful, fun, romantic time together every day; We were absolutely in love with each other and best friends. Honestly, we became "As one" in all things and we lived in our own little world.

One evening we went to Park City to ski at night. It seemed we were the only ones on the slopes. It was magical to be in a star lit sky with lights glowing on the snow staring into Barbi's gorgeous blue eyes; She has diamond shaped eyes that match her diamond shaped calves. 😊

Anyways, I can't speak enough positives about Barbi. We went ice skating and did all we could to enjoy the cold winter months together. Often it was best to just snuggle and not go skiing because of bad weather. We snuggled daily it seemed relaxing from work and school. We loved being together, listening to music and sounds of the storms.

Barbi would get ready for work or go to school so I was able to be with her and then drop her off. Each time we came together after being apart it was a joyous feeling and a pleasant surprise. Occasionally I went into her room and closet to get clothes or items; each time it made me want to live with her as a married couple. We even had the exact same dark green and maroon comforter. Everything we did had so much in common.

Writing this and thinking back it's no wonder we were so perfect for each other and always have been; for we had lived together already as a sealed husband and wife with children of our own in other dispensations.

Valentines came around and I started a tradition of buying Barbi one long stem red rose, this symbolized not just my love for her, but reminding her that we are "AS ONE." She "heart attacked" my bed, and we shared gifts and our love for each other through lots of chocolate candy. Barbi loves sweets, especially chocolate.

I picked Barbi up from work one evening where she was a store manager for Hogi-Yogi in Provo. I had a change of clothes for her so we could go directly on date. Simple little things like this brought us together and gave us joy; as though we were a married couple. We trusted each other, loved each other and valued our time together.

On Barbi's birthday, March 15 1995 I made birthday posters and taped them up in her room. My sister Heidi also shares this day of birth so, we kidnapped Heidi and Barbi and brought them to Jeannette's house for a surprise birthday breakfast. I loved going into Barbi's bedroom to wake her up and sing Happy Birthday. She had to work that night so I picked her up with a dozen

roses, card, gifts and a planned special evening. I made her Steak and Fettuccine Alfredo; which I bought noodles from Olive Garden & the Sauce. I loved cooking and buying things for Barbi; most importantly I enjoyed just being together. Fireworks would go off every time we were together. We had a great celebration for her birthday.

For Easter we celebrated with Jeannette & Mike & their family. We also started to go to church together. It was silly for me not to go to church with Barbi all dressed up in her Sunday best. I couldn't think of any other guy seeing her alone. No such amazing women should ever be without her man, right!!

We did so many fun dates: went to State Capital in S.L.C., Wendover, Park City, Sundance, Brighton, country dancing, roller-skating, Ice Skating, played games, went to performances and always ate together.

Spring Semester ended and I was heading back to Carlsbad, CA. Barbi was headed to Lake Havasu. We talked for hours on the phone daily. We were suffering being apart. Had we been returned missionaries we would have probably gotten married weeks after meeting or uniting again. However, Serving the Lord on a mission was not only a life long goal, but a commandment of the Lord. I would never risk not doing the Father's will lest I lose my blessings.

My greatest gift and blessing from Father is Barbi. Jesus Christ is the greatest gift from Father to all the world, but Barbi was given to me by God, even to help me become the son of God I ought to be into the Eternities.

For my 19th Birthday Barbi gave me the greatest gift of joy by flying from Arizona to celebrate my birthday. I rented a nice car and picked her up at the airport in San Diego. Oh, my gosh we had the most wonderful time together.

We went to Coronado Island Hotel and walked barefoot on the soft sand. I got a camera and couldn't take enough pictures of us together.

We went to the San Diego Temple where we spoke about getting married there one day.

We went to "Jake's" restaurant in Del Mar where we ate a romantic dinner as waves crashed on the window by our table. People thought we were a beautiful married couple.

We spent my birthday going out to dinner with my parents and Brock at Mykonos; a Greek restaurant in Oceanside Harbor. My mother being Greek arranged a belly-dancer to dance in celebration of my birthday. This was to be fun spirited, but Barbi I found out later was not having it and did not like another woman dancing on my birthday. A little jealousy. She told me later on; which was understanding.

Barbi and I walked the Harbor together as we all were dressed nicely. I was having the best birthday ever, and Barbi made my life wonderful. We went back to our home & spent time together in the living room. I cherished being with Barbi every second I could.

The next day we drove to Magic Mountain and had a blast. We ended one of our evenings at the Sea-wall on the beach Snuggling. Our car was the only car in the parking lot when we left.

Sleeping under the same roof, cooking, eating, living together seemed so natural and normal; like we have been doing it for years. We dressed up and went to church together, I loved showing off Barbi to all my friends, ward members and neighbors. It truly felt like royalty was in town.

When it came time to have Barbi fly home it was tearing our hearts apart. We cried tears at the airport and took pictures and we just didn't want to separate from each other. I could have pulled the plane down out of the sky if I had the power or ability. It was crazy to be apart and made no sense. This force keeping us apart didn't last. Barbi drove back out to Carlsbad in her parents safe luxurious Suburban. We were back together sometime in June. We went to Padres baseball games, beach bone-fires, out to eat, so much fun. I loved being with Barbi!

It's exciting to see Barbi dress up for occasions; whatever they may be. What she wears to events, how she presents herself is entertaining. Her hair, her clothes, her shoes, everything about her I would pay attention to and appreciate. The best part is her smile, her eyes, her laugh, her fun spirit, her perfectly structured face; truly a Goddess the Greeks would cherish and adore. And this Greek man did every day.

One morning Barbi woke me up so we could be together; it felt wrong to not be together. We were in different rooms sleeping, but we so badly wanted to be as the married couples.

I started my process to serve a mission, even with paperwork. Barbi safely made it back to Lake Havasu. Soon after we planned to have me live in Lake Havasu and work to save money for my mission. My parents were moving to Provo so I helped my mom with the motorhome. We met the Landins in Vegas where I then went to Havasu. I started to work & live with Barbi & her parents. Her brother Bruce worked with me at London Bridge resort remodeling. I was living the dream! We were living the dream. Our first Sunday together Barbi wore a beautiful skirt with black tights & black heels. Looking at her sitting down she looked like a glamorous model who was married with children, she always carried herself with elegance & maturity.